

SRC Annual Regatta – 3rd August 2024 – Thunderstorm Safety Plan

INSTRUCTIONS TO OFFICIALS and COMPETITORS

During periods of thunder and lightning, the safety goal is to move as quickly as possible from a high-risk to a low-risk situation. It is understood, however, that for boats on the water there may not be enough time to seek 'proper shelter', resulting in a 'choice of evils' decision.

The Race Committee and Event Safety Officer will regularly check a range of forecasts in the week, and on the day, before the Regatta and monitor weather forecasts during the event.

All officials and competitors are asked to familiarise themselves with the details below, so that they can be actioned promptly and effectively should a thunderstorm occur.

In the event of a storm arising during the Regatta Race Control will:

- apply the 30:30 criterion to instigate suspension and resumption of activity - <https://www.britishrowing.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Safety-Alert-Lightning-August-2020.pdf>
- use the public address system to warn both competitors and spectators of actions to be taken (this includes identification of 'proper shelter' – see below)
- direct the Control Commission and Boat Marshals to stop crews boating until resumption of racing is signalled.
- direct the Start Team, Umpires and Marshals to instruct crews on the water to return to the landing stages with all speed and seek proper shelter **IF** circumstances permit.
- For boats waiting behind the start line, where possible, races will continue to be started as the most effective way of getting crews up the course. If not possible, crews will be instructed to de-boat and take shelter.
- Direct the Control Commission and Boat Marshals to ensure that de-boating is executed as fast as possible (both these teams will leave one member on the landing stages)

Specific measures and identified 'proper shelter' include:

- Start team to shelter away from the river edge, in vehicles, Race Control tent or a Marquee.
- Boat Marshals and Control Commission instructed to shelter in Race Control tent.
- Bend and Pillbox Umpires instructed to shelter in the closest accessible Marquee.
- Competitors asked to return to their vehicles or, if unable to do so, to shelter in one of the Marquees.
- Members of the public asked to shelter in one of the Marquees.
- De-boating competitors asked to take their boat to the nearest suitable site on land. Blades are to be left on grass near landing stages.

SRC Regatta Thunderstorm Safety Plan V2
V1 – Compiled May 2023 – Alex Elmon
V2 – Reviewed and Updated May 2024 – Dominique Young

- The Stake Boat crews will be evacuated by the Safety Launch and take shelter as per the Bend and Pillbox Umpires.
- The Safety Launch crew instructed to de-boat and shelter in Race Control control once the Stake Boat crews are evacuated.