

Sudbury Rowing Club

REGATTA THUNDERSTORM SAFETY PLAN

INSTRUCTIONS TO OFFICIALS and COMPETITORS

At times of thunder and lightning, safety is about recognising a high-risk situation and moving to a low-risk situation. However, it is recognised that on the water difficult situations may arise where there is not enough time to seek 'proper shelter', resulting in a 'choice of evils' decision.

As a general rule, the Event Safety Adviser and Race Committee will:

- Consult forecasts from the day before and monitor the weather during the event
- Constitute the chain of command and, in the event of a storm, use the public address system to warn both competitors and spectators of actions to be taken (this includes identification of 'proper shelter' – see below)
- Use 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>
- Direct the Control Commission and Boat Marshalls to stop crews boating until resumption of racing is signalled
- Direct the Start Team, Umpires and Marshalls to instruct crews on the water, where circumstances permit, to return to the landing stages with all speed and seek proper shelter. 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 Boating Marshall to ensure that de-boating is executed as fast as possible (both these teams will leave one member on the landing stages)

Specific measures include:

- Start team to shelter away from the River edge
- Boat Marshalls and Control Commission to shelter in Race Control
- Bend and Pillbox Umpires to shelter in Marquee
- Competitors will be asked to return to their vehicles. If unable to do so, to shelter in Marquee
- Blades to be left on grass near landing stages
- Safety Launch to de-boat and shelter in Race Control

All officials and competitors are asked to familiarise themselves with this general plan, so that it can be actioned promptly and effectively should a thunderstorm occur

(reviewed 18/04/2023)

A Elmon
SRC Safety Officer