

# Briefing Notes

- All boats may be checked by the Control Commission before being allowed to go afloat
  - Please make sure before approaching the stages that all boats:
    - Have an approved ball securely attached to the bow
    - Have secure hatches/bungs for all buoyancy compartments
    - Have no holes in the canvases
    - Have secure heel restraints for all rowing/sculling shoes
- All Coxwains should wear an appropriate lifejacket or buoyancy aid.
- Coxwains in front loaders must wear a lifejacket which will not inflate or provide buoyancy until the wearer is clear of the boat.
- All members of the crew must be adequately dressed for cold conditions.
- Any crew not meeting these criteria will not be allowed afloat.
- Please get on the water in good time so crew are not left exposed at the start.
- During the race the whole course will be within sight of a number of Race Officials who are in radio contact with safety launches. Should you be unfortunate enough to fall in or get into difficulties, please make every effort to get your boat to the side whilst awaiting the arrival of a launch.
- Remember that your boat will float even when capsized so STAY WITH IT and be prepared to shout to warn oncoming crews.
- The launch will tow you to the bank where you can get into it and be taken quickly to the boathouse.
- Hazards
  - Bridges
    - Crew in front 100m before a bridge has priority
    - No lights should be shown at bridge – if it is red then stop – Bridge Keeper will advise / Marshal
    - If bridge opens do not go through
    - Pilot ( Sellers), Rea, Sims and Netheridge – 4 Bridges
  - Swans – Reeds on right hand side 50 m south of Pilot (Sellers Bridge) – Keep clear
  - Vegetation – has been cut back but bank collapsing into canal at points,
  - Flotsam and jetsam
  - Moored Craft
  - Turning Bay
  - Bends
  - Canal Traffic – rules of the canal are keep to the right (looking forward)
  - Fishermen
- Marshalling before the race is above Broken Bridge away from Gloucester – listen to the Marshals for instructions.
- On instruction of the Marshals move towards Broken Bridge, go firm just before reaching the bridge remains as this is the start of the race.
- To ensure fair racing there will be no coaching from the bank during the races. However, steering advice may be given to coxless boats to avoid accidents.
- Crews being overtaken must give way to overtaking crews and if necessary give audible warning as to which way they are moving. Overtaking crews may do so on either side.
- All competitors must comply with the requests of the race monitors. Failure to do so could risk lives and may lead to disqualification.
- Keep moving through Sims bridge and do not stop until you are round the corner near the old cut, in view of the new bridge, as other boats will need the water to wind down. If you must stop go into the old cut for a breather.