



Royal Chester

North of England Head of the River

Sunday
17th March 2024

Competitors' Information



1.0 Race organisation

This race is run by Royal Chester Rowing Club's events committee under British Rowing rules of racing and RowSafe guidance. Both documents are available on the British Rowing website www.britishrowing.org and the rules can be downloaded

Chair of the event committee:	Paul Crudge
Entries secretary:	Liz Coady
Race safety advisor:	Nic Cerulis
Welfare officer:	Steph Loach
Chair of the race committee:	Paul Coady

1.1 Race control

Race control is at: Royal Chester Rowing Club, The Groves, Chester, CH1 1SD
What3words location: plan.zips.glory, telephone : 01244 326575

1.2 Race Times

Morning division: 10:00 am. Afternoon division: 2:30 pm
Boating times as per the draw

1.3 Safety, conduct and Local Rules

Safety is the responsibility of each competitor and club. All competitors and boats must conform with British Rowing's RowSafe guidance and rules of racing.

- Backstays are mandatory on the forward most riggers port and starboard on all craft except singles are mandatory. You will not be permitted to boat without them.
- All craft without sealed buoyancy compartments must have inflated buoyancy aids fitted. You will not be permitted to boat without them.
- Dry Robes and Hoodies are not permitted to be worn on the water (See Rowsafe)
- Long hair must be tied back so as not to obscure competitor numbers or cause a hazard in the event of a capsize.
- We have a zero tolerance policy for unsportsman like behaviour from any member, coach or supporter of visiting clubs. We hope that we do not need to enforce this but in the event of an incident we shall follow guidance in British Rowing Rules of Racing 2023.

2.0 Registration

Registration for **all competitors** is in the main Royal Chester Rowing Club's clubhouse. One representative from each club should register with the entries secretary, confirm any substitutions with evidence of the associated British Rowing membership and collect their folder of race numbers.

2.1 Competitors' briefing

- The main briefing will be provided as an online video, available through the event's website at www.royalchester.org
- Club representatives will be informed of any late updates on conditions or changes when they attend registration.

3.0 Safety & Welfare

St John's Ambulance will be stationed at the Royal Chester Rowing Club's Clubhouse and will provide cover for The Groves and Queen's Park areas.

Please read our safety and welfare documents on our website which contain key contact details.

- Competitors should be suitably dressed including for the row to the start, a wait of up to 90 minutes at the start and racing. When considering what to wear please take into account conditions including sun, wind, rain, temperature, combined chill factor to hypothermia. Competitors deemed unsuitably dressed will not be allowed to boat and / or race.
- Dry Robes and Hoodies are not permitted on the water.
- Visiting crews are not permitted to practise outside the published boating times as safety boat cover will not be in place.
- The river is not closed to other users. Commercial pleasure craft (tourist boats) will be operating and other rivers users e.g. paddle boarders, canoeists may also be afloat.

4.0 On the Water and Boating

The draw will include details of crews' allocated boating location and times to boat. Competitors must boat at their allocated times. Anyone attempting to boat late may be refused permission to proceed to the start.

4.1 Proceeding to the start

Competitors should proceed to the start on the Meadows side of the river i.e. should keep to the sculler's left / cox's right. Boats may overtake on the way up to the start, using the centre of the river. **The river will not be closed to other craft.** Competitors must keep a good lookout and take action to avoid collisions.

4.2 Boating Check Points

There are two cut off points when proceeding to the start:

- The cut off to the Red House, about 3.5 km from the start, is 35 minutes before division start time.
- The cut off to the Road Bridge, about 1.2 km from the start, is 25 minutes before start time.

Crews who do not reach the cut off points in time may be turned back to ensure a division is not delayed.

4.3 Marshalling

Competitors will marshal above the start at Eccleston Ferry. Crews must follow the boating times given on the draw to ensure they arrive at the start on time.

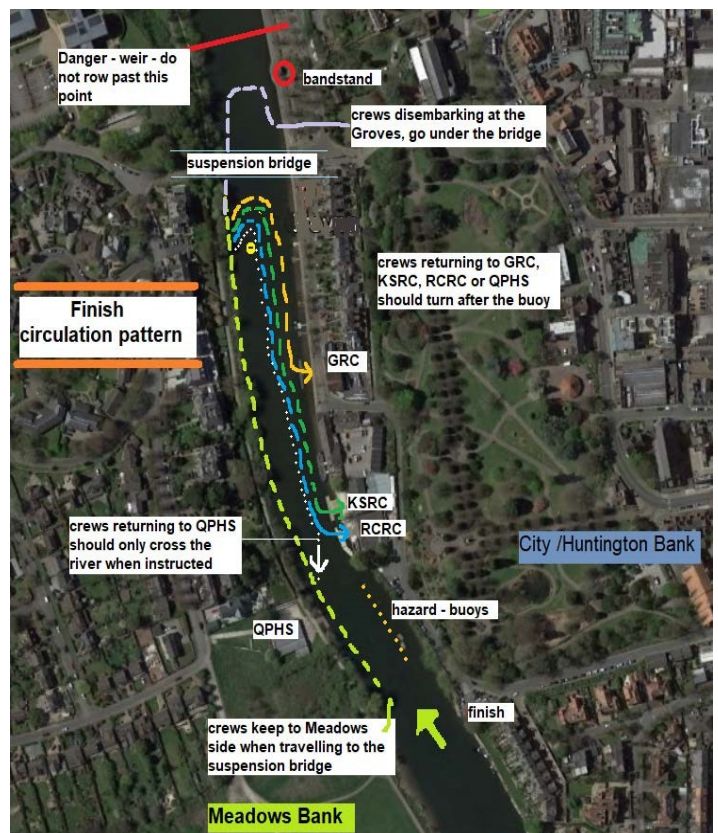
4.4 Finish Circulation Pattern

The **finish circulation pattern** to be followed by all competitors is given below.

After the finish, boats must continue on The Meadows (cox's left / scullers right) side of the river towards the suspension bridge. Marshals in launches will instruct crews.

Hazard warning

There is a large weir just beyond the suspension bridge. The weir is clearly marked by large yellow warning signs. Crews are advised not to paddle past the bandstand towards the weir.



5.0 Parking

You'll be notified of your assigned boating location in advance – see draft below. Please do not change to a different boating location without first obtaining agreement from the event organisers.

5.1 For trailers carrying boats to the Groves boating location:

Use the A51 or A41 roads from the East M53 / A55 outer ring road.

The Groves Bandstand area – Dee Lane route

- Follow the Dee Lane route. This will take you along The Groves and under the suspension bridge.
- Park on the road (not pavement) in line from the café at the mini roundabout back to the suspension bridge.
- Towing vehicles may stay at the Groves, decoupled and in line with trailers.

The Groves Hickory's – Souters Lane route (remainder of Groves trailers)

- Follow the Souters Lane route.
- Follow marshals' instructions at roundabout
- Trailers should be reversed into the Handbridge end of the Groves. Towing vehicles may remain at the Groves, in line with trailers or on the City side of the road.
- Please follow instructions from marshals when parking vehicles and assembling / moving boats.

5.2 For trailers and cars carrying boats to (QPHS)

Follow the A483 Wrexham Road, Overleigh Road then Queens' Park Road. You should avoid cutting through the city as you will face delays/congestion. Trailer parking is provided onsite at QPHS.

5.3 Parking at RCRC

Parking adjacent to Royal Chester Rowing Club's clubhouse is reserved for safety support, umpires and other race officials only. On race day there is no car parking at Royal Chester Rowing Club or on The Groves for competitors, spectators or club members.

5.4 Parking For competitors, spectators, and Royal Chester members

The two main car parks recommended, both within a short walking distance, are:

- Queens Park High School Queen's Park View, Handbridge, Chester, CH4 7AE
- Little Roodee Car Park Grosvenor Rd, Chester CH1 1SL