

## **REGATTA SAFETY PROCEDURES**

1.     **Conditions.** If the Chief Referee finds that either the requirements of safety or of fairness cannot be met under existing conditions, he or she shall stop or suspend all racing until safe and fair conditions are restored.

2.     **Pre-Regatta Meeting.** No later than one hour before the first race in a regatta, a meeting for all competitors and coaches shall be held, which shall be conducted by the Chief Referee or his or her delegate to review race course, traffic patterns and safety information. All crews and teams shall be responsible for any information disseminated at the meeting.

3.     **Traffic Patterns and Safety Information.**

(a)     A site diagram showing all traffic patterns and safety regulations shall be posted in a conspicuous place. The diagram shall show the race course itself, the route to be taken by crews from the launching area to the start, the “warm up” area, any “cool down” area and the route to be taken by any crews returning from the finish line. The diagram shall show all known obstacles that may interfere with a crew’s progress on or near the course.

(b)     The local organizing committee shall post at the same location as the site diagram the location of a first-aid station and the method to summon medical assistance in the case of an emergency.

4. **Rowing Near the Course While Race in Progress.** Whenever a race is approaching, a non-competing crew at or near the perimeter of the course shall stop rowing, come to a complete rest and make sure that it does not interfere with the race, either by obstructing the path of competing crews or accompanying launches or by causing a wake.

5. **Safety Launches.** Launches shall be provided by the local organizing committee for use by the Referees and by safety personnel. Each launch shall carry personal flotation devices for each occupant of the launch and at least two extra, at least one launch shall follow each race. In addition to the Referee launch, there shall be a safety launch immediately accessible to crews in the case of an emergency. The safety launch shall carry a first-aid kit, cell phone, ladder, stretcher, body board or other means of immobilizing an accident victim, throw line, drinking water, air horn and such other safety equipment as may be appropriate for the conditions.

6. **First-Aid Station.** There shall be maintained in a conspicuous location a first-aid station and a certified EMT available at all times during competition. A cell phone or land line shall be available at all times at the first-aid station.

7. **Access for Emergency Vehicles.** An emergency access lane from the launching area to a public road shall be maintained free of obstructions at all times during competition.

8. **Hydration.** Water stations shall be maintained in conspicuous locations at all times during competition.

9. **Accident Procedures.** Steps to follow under the following circumstances:

(a) **Rower or Coxswain in the Water.** Boat must stop when the coxswain or a rower becomes separated from the boat and stay with the ejected person until he or she is safely out of the water.

(b) **Collision.**

(i) Coxswain or bow person in each boat shall carry a boat whistle and must account for each member of the crew and signal launch for medical or other assistance as necessary.

(ii) Referee shall stop the race if involved boats cause a hazard or unfairly affect other boats in contention.

(c) **Exhaustion.** If a crew member passes out in a boat or appears to be suffering from heat stroke, heart condition or other excessive exhaustion, the coxswain or bow person shall stop the boat and signal the safety launch for assistance.

(d) **Cuts and Punctures from Foreign Objects.** All individuals sustaining cuts or punctures from fishhooks, glass or other submerged hazards shall be escorted, if necessary, to the first-aid station for treatment.