

Monkton Bluefriars Small Boats Head Race – Boat Launching

This note should be read in conjunction with the site plan

Introduction

Year after year, crews have been told to launch on time. While most crews have boated promptly, racing has often been held up by a small number of competitors who launch late, either because they are inefficient, or because they deliberately hold back in order to reduce their own waiting time on the water. This is not fair on those who launch on time.

Whilst we would not claim to be an event of the same status as a Henley race, or an Olympic final (!), it is surely right that crews should aim at the highest standards of efficiency and respect for other competitors. You wouldn't be late for a Henley Qualifier, so why should you be late for any other race?

Boating Times

Perhaps it has not been clear precisely what the boating time means. Hands on the boat? Boat in the queue? Boat on the water? This is now clarified. To be on time, the boat must join the **GREEN** queue on time .

Boating Sequence

- Blades to the oar racks near the rafts in good time. Make sure that your boat is fit for racing BEFORE joining the queue.
- Crews should get hands on the boat sufficiently early to reach the area shown with **GREEN** 'boats' on
- the site diagram, where they must obey Marshals' instructions.
- They should sort themselves into number order (high numbers FIRST).
- Control commission (i.e. boat safety check) operates in the **BLUE** area. Umpires' instructions must be obeyed here.
- After the boat has been inspected, crews proceed to the rafts, where they must follow the instructions of the raft marshal.

AUTOMATIC TIME PENALTY

Crews arriving in the green area late will receive automatic time penalties at the rate of three seconds per minute late.

To be on time, boats arriving from the trailer park must be through the tunnel T under the railway line; those coming from the riverside field F must be out of the field; crews boating from any of the boathouses must be ready to slot into their correct position in the queue.

If a crew has a valid reason for being late, a representative of the crew should report at the event headquarters at the Avon County balcony. **This is the only way that a time penalty may be reconsidered.**

It may be that the event is running early or late. An announcement will be made and Boating times will be adjusted.