

# Tyne Regatta at Tyne Amateur Rowing Club

**2 August 2025**

## **Event & Safety Plan** - as at 28-06-25

This document should be read in conjunction with the competition's rowing risk assessment and *the Instructions to Clubs and Crews*, all available on the competition web site page here: [www.tynerowingclub.org/pages/tyne\\_regatta\\_274001.cfm](http://www.tynerowingclub.org/pages/tyne_regatta_274001.cfm) .

### **1 Introduction**

Tyne Regatta is organised by Tyne Amateur Rowing Club (TARC), with the help of Tyne United Rowing Club (TURC) and Newcastle University Boat Club (NUBC) as necessary depending on the number of entries.

The competition has an Organising Committee based on Tyne ARC's ongoing Events Committee and will have a Race Committee working on the day. See Appendix 1 for details of these two committees. Contact names for race day (officials, marshalls, launch drivers, etc) will be given in Appendix 2, to be produced in the week before race day when all are known. A pre-race contact name is given in Section 9.

The competition will be run from the TARC club house, Water Row, Newburn, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 8NL with boats also embarking at TURC and possibly NUBC, both at Newburn Bridge Road, Blaydon, NE15 8NR.

Division 1 will be run no earlier than 10.00am and other divisions as notified on the day. The first boats (in Div 1) will be on the water from about 9.45am and the last boats (in Div 3) off the water by 4.00pm at the latest.

The course for the competition is about 700 metres (with about 200 metres further needed at each end for marshalling) and is shown on the accompanying course map. The waters are within the jurisdiction of the Port of Tyne and authorisation is necessary and is being sought on the basis of this and other documents.

The competition is for eights, quads and fours (coxed and uncoxed), doubles and singles. Races will be for both adults and juniors. There will be no rowers with major disabilities.

The competition will be run under British Rowing's Rules of Racing and its RowSafe guidance, with in addition one local rule relating to which arch of Newburn Bridge crews should use during racing. The precise wording will be in the *Instructions to Clubs and Crews* issued alongside this document and reference should also be made to the separate Boat Circulation Plan. Insurance is provided through the club's National Governing Body, British Rowing.

### **2 Planning and preparation**

Authorisation is required from the Port of Tyne (PoT) and is being obtained. Newcastle City Council (Events Team, Directorate of Operations and Regulatory Services) has been consulted. Both organisations have been given key safety documents and details of

insurance. Emergency services are informed as appropriate to the scale of the competition. River closure is not being requested from PoT, as commercial traffic is minimal, but other potential users on this stretch of the Tyne will be informed in advance, with particular emphasis on other rowing clubs.

Public Rights of Way pass through the various club sites at Newburn and warning notices will be put out on the day warning of activity and land marshalls will be asked to watch out for possible conflicts between rowers and walkers/cyclists.

Careful management of entries is important in minimising the risk of having too many crews both on site in general and on the water, and in finishing late with low water. There will be a safety limit of 50 entries per division on average. If fully taken up this would equate to a maximum of 400 competitors being on the sites taken together during each Division.

The Organising Committee will ensure provision of either internally or externally provided safety launch and first aid cover. Communications equipment is booked as necessary well in advance and all provision is confirmed a week before. Other resources relating to safety are available in-house, all to be checked as working prior to race day. The Organising Committee will prepare task rotas for volunteer helpers and fully fill them a week in advance, subject to later minor changes. Priority will be given as necessary to tasks directly related to safety.

Assistance will be sought from neighbouring clubs in good time if there are insufficient resources at the home club. Volunteers named for key roles, notably launch drivers and water-based marshalls, will be assessed for experience and competence. Written instructions for all volunteer roles and bought in services will be prepared and circulated in advance.

The clubs physically hosting on the day will ensure buildings, sites and boating steps are in a clean and safe condition, that toilet facilities are available, and that arrangements have been made to receive any crews that are wet and/or cold.

This *Event & Safety Plan*, plus the *Course Map*, *Boat Circulation* plan and *Instructions to Clubs and Crews* plus a map with showing locations and advice on car parking will be issued to participating clubs and published on the competition web page online and on social media no later than one week before the event, preferably earlier. The competition poster published earlier will draw attention to key issues.

### **3 Numbers attending**

This event is one of the smaller formal events we run. The total number of rowers present on the day will be of the order of 400 but not all at once and spread out over at least two sites. There may be about another 40 people present as non-rowing officials and crew helpers and maybe the same number of spectators with no particular role. Unlike, for example, Durham Regatta this event is not publicised as a major spectator attraction in its own right nor does it have any activities other than the rowing.

## **4 Vehicle parking**

Other than host club and race officials, only trailers and towing vehicles can park at TARC and TURC. Car parking for crews boating at TARC is available at a public car park further along Grange Road opposite (but not at) Newburn Activity Centre. For those boating from TURC on the south bank competitors can use Newburn Bridge Approach Road alongside the club but not blocking the entrance. Parking for cars will also be available at NUBC on a first come first served basis.

The Highway Authorities asks that no vehicles should be parked in an obstructive manner on road, footpath or verge and must observe all signed restrictions. Consideration must be made with regards to access for others on roads and footpaths when parking. Those attending will be asked to give especial consideration close to the residential areas bordering Grange Road near TARC.

The *Instructions to Clubs and Crews* mentioned above and issued a week before the competition to participating clubs will include these requirements and requests. A map showing all the relevant locations will also be issued. There will be no special direction signs (though this is being considered for larger events in the autumn and winter).

## **5 Weather and water conditions**

Tides times are known well in advance, but detailed weather forecasts will not be available until about a week before. During the week preceding the race, the competition Water Safety Adviser will monitor weather forecasts each day and inform the rest of the Organising Committees of concerns as necessary, noting not just the weather, but also the likely inter-action of wind and tidal/top-water flow, plus the related issue of debris in the water

The Organising Committee will ensure that entering clubs are kept informed of the weather prospects for the day via emails from the Competition Secretary (who does the administration of entries via the British Rowing Online Entry system - BROE) direct to entering clubs, the club web site and social media. The Organising Committee will review the need to cancel the competitions in advance throughout the week if prospects are poor.

Conditions along the whole course will be assessed early on race day and Chair of the Race Committee (the chief umpire) in consultation with the Organising Committee shall decide if the competition can proceed as planned, or with the course shortened or with restrictions on who rows.

The Water Safety Adviser in conjunction with the Chair of the Race Committee can at any time on the day suspend or cancel racing, either as a whole or for particular classes of entry for safety reasons. Where it is thought still possible to run a reduced number of races, particular note will be taken of the possible young age or lack of experience of some crews and exclude these first.

Should a risk of thunderstorms and lightning be identified in advance, the organising committee will consider this information and decide whether to cancel early. If lightning

occurs on the day, then the 30/30 rule will apply: rowing shall stop when the flash-to-bang count is 30 seconds (or less), and shall not resume until at least 30 minutes after the last lightning. If crews are on the water, they will all be instructed to return to the club where they boated and land there. If circumstances demand they can also land at the emergency landing spots in the start area.

## **6 Pre start on race day**

The Race Control location will be set up early in the day at TARC and remain staffed until completion of the competition and all boats off the water and loaded on trailers. A delegated official (to be named no later than a week before) will take on the role of overall Race Control coordinator on the day, though he/she may further delegate to others, with clear reporting lines.

A pre-race safety briefing for participating club coaches and individual rowers is not normally held. The Instructions to Clubs and Crews issued to clubs and published on the web page will contain adequate information to inform clubs and crews on what to expect. Late changes and/or adverse weather reports will be notified by email, on the web site and via social media if necessary.

The Water Safety Adviser must confirm to the coordinator at Race Control that all safety provisions are in place before the coordinator advises step marshalls that boating can take place. Competitors will have been issued before race day with the order of racing (the 'draw') with boating times and locations. Land marshalls will ensure that these times are kept to.

Control Commission (an umpire and volunteer helpers under supervision) will undertake spot checks on key safety aspects of boats in accordance with the British Rowing's Rules of Racing, with an emphasis on younger juniors and novices. The club is not required to inspect every boat (see Section 8 re competitor and club responsibilities).

## **7 Communication including with Port of Tyne and emergency services**

The main means of communication will be by short range UHF radios. For this competition on a straight 700 metre course there is good line of sight to/from all parts of the course and these should be adequate. Mobile phones will be a back-up. Appendix 2 with its mobile phone number list and a clear communication protocol will be established by the Wednesday before race day and issued on the day to those who need it in full and key numbers will be available to all on the host club web site on the day.

Port of Tyne's Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) unit monitors and controls all commercial shipping, fishing and leisure movements on the River Tyne. Tyne VTS is operated on a 24 hour basis, using the call sign 'Tyne VTS', with Channel 12 as the primary maritime VHF radio frequency. Telephone number is 0191 257 2080 and email [TyneVTS@portoftyne.co.uk](mailto:TyneVTS@portoftyne.co.uk).

The Race Control coordinator will ensure that Tyne VTS on VHF channel 12 or via the phone number above is contacted (a) immediately before the events starts, (b) on completion of the event and (c) in the event of a serious on water incident. Depending on the nature of the incident and whether rescue or just medical aid is required fire,

ambulance or police may be called. Given the short length of course and the good visibility of it all from the club, the services can all be given the club house post code (NE15 8NL) as the location.

## **8 Standard procedures on the water**

For each Division the start marshalling launches will precede the first crews down the river to the start marshalling areas. Other marshalling and safety cover launches will be deployed along the river in accordance with the Course Map accompanying this document. All will report to the coordinator at Race Control when in place. All launches will check for debris en route and clear or ask the coordinator to allocate another crew to clear.

The coordinator will check with all marshalling and safety launches, umpires, race monitors and finish officials that they are in place before asking the start marshalls and start umpire to initiate the first race.

Should a commercial craft, powered pleasure boat or other river user appear and be likely to interfere with the racing (most likely from downstream), the nearest water-based marshall or safety launch shall approach the craft and request it to turn around or wait. If the boat master refuses to do so and proceeds, then advice should be given that doing so may contravene Port of Tyne byelaws by endangering others. The coordinator and the starter should be informed immediately and, if necessary, racing should be suspended.

## **9 Emergency procedures on the water**

In the event of an incident occurring, it will be within sight of a marshalling or safety launch and the launch will respond immediately. All races are followed down the course by an umpiring launch, which is very well placed to spot racing incidents, and can help. The launch crew/s should deal with the incident as necessary. They can summon help from other launches on the course. The Race Control coordinator and the starter should be informed immediately and if necessary racing should be suspended. Evacuation of crew members if necessary should be to the club from which the boat set off or to TARC if first aid is needed. The coordinator will call the emergency services should this be advised by the safety launch. Racing will recommence when it is safe to do so.

## **10 Entering club and individual crew responsibilities**

The responsibilities of and precautions taken by the organising committee and the host clubs more generally are outlined above and in more detail in the Risk Assessments. But visiting clubs and crews must take significant responsibility for their own actions in accordance with British Rowing guidance. Club coaches or other officials should ensure individual rowers are aware of this. Coaches of juniors in particular must ensure that all competitors are fully briefed before the competitions on the *Instructions to Clubs and Crews* and on any further late information issued.

Club volunteers under the direction of an umpire will undertake Control Commission checks of key safety aspects of boats about to go on the river, but this will not necessarily be on a 100% basis; British Rowing does not require this and lays primary responsibility

on participating clubs and crews to check. Participating clubs will be asked via the *Instructions to Clubs and Crews* to check all standard safety items on every boat before race day and again *before* proceeding to the steps to boat.

Competitors and coaches should have made themselves familiar with the national Rules of Racing as they apply to a regatta and to any local rules published, most notably the need to use the correct arch of Newburn Bridge during racing, as to be advised in the *Instructions*.

## **11 Pre-race contact for the competition:**

Entries Secretary: Lyn Goldsmith                      Email: [entries@tynearc.com](mailto:entries@tynearc.com)

Address:

Tyne Amateur Rowing Club, Water Row, Newburn, Newcastle upon Tyne NE15 8NL

N.B. Should urgent pre-race discussion by phone be needed, Colin Percy, who is the Chair of the Organising Committee (and also the pre-race Water Safety Adviser), is willing to take calls on 07985 003304.

## **Appendix 1**

### ***Event organisation structure***

All the following is under the overall umbrella of Tyne Amateur Rowing Club and its Management Committee.

#### **Organising Committee** (as at 28-06-25)

Chair Organising Committee	Colin Percy	colinwpercy@gmail.com
Chair Race Committee	John Mulholland	john.rrsa@jdmulholland.plus.com
Entries Secretary	Lyn Goldsmith	entries@tynearc.com
Water Safety Adviser	Colin Percy	colinwpercy@gmail.com
Land Facilities Officer	David Squirrell	clubmanager@tynearc.com
Equipment Officer	TBC	

#### **Race Committee (umpires)** (as at 28-06-25)

Chair Race Committee	John Mulholland	john.rrsa@jdmulholland.plus.com
At least two Umpires	TBC	

## **Appendix 2**

### ***Contact names and phone numbers for the day***

[To be completed in week before race day – see Section 5]

CP

As at 28-06-25