



## BUCS Head of the River Race 18/19 February 2023

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR CREWS AND COACHES **SATURDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2023**

Please ensure that all coxes, crews and coaches read and understand these instructions. Read the instructions in conjunction with Course Map, Pre-race Circulation Plan, Start Marshalling and Start Area Plan and Finish Area Plan.

- Clubs will be allocated to boat from one of the three boat clubs at the finish, Newcastle University, Tyne United RC or Tyne ARC. Registration, race numbers and race information will be available at Newcastle University Boat Club from 08:00 on race day.
- Division 1 race starts at 10:15 and Division 2 at 14:30
- Crews will be allocated boating times. Crews not ready to boat at their allocated time (this means having passed the safety inspection as well) risk not being allowed to boat and will miss their race – **so make sure your boat is safe before you go to boat – heel restraints, bow balls, numbers etc.**
- **There will be a briefing for all coxes and steers at each boating venue 40 min before first scheduled boating time from that venue – this is not mandatory but it is strongly recommended that you attend.**
- The Tyne can be very cold during winter and you can expect to be on the water for a long time. We also have steps and mud! **Wellington boots are strongly recommended for boating.** Ensure you have warm clothing with you in the boat and a waterproof bag to put spare kit into. Crews with insufficient clothing may be stopped from boating. The trailer parks can be very muddy - we recommend that you wear wellington boots in these areas as well.
- Ensure you have your oars/sculls on the landing steps as you reach the water and get into your boats as quickly as possible, adjusting your feet etc. once you have pushed off from the landing. If not taking wellies with you, please have someone collect them for you (and have them there for you when you return). Move away from the landing stage promptly so as not to obstruct others behind.
- Crews boating early may wish to warm up on the Newburn straight as per the circulation pattern shown in the separate pre-race circulation plan. **Crews will NOT be allowed to warm up downriver of the marshalling area.**
- You are responsible for making your own way down to the start and for taking up position within the marshalling area as shown on the **course and start/finish maps**. Copies of these will be given out with numbers and spares will be available at Race Control. Launch marshals will assist in getting you in the right place.



- When proceeding to the start for the morning and afternoon divisions you should proceed along the north or south bank sides of the river but do not get too close to the bank as the water will be shallow and there may be posts and other obstructions close to the bank. On the way to the start crews should pass through the centre arches of the Blaydon Bridge and Scotswood Railway Bridge and Scotswood Bridge. Once past Scotswood Bridge move towards the middle of the river and marshalling launches will get you into your marshalling position.
- Now the tricky bit – look at the Marshalling and Start Area Plan:

All crews must be in position 10 minutes before each division start time.

For the **morning division** crews **1-72** (group 1) marshal on the south side of the river with bows pointing away from the start (towards the city) with crew 1 closest to the start. Crews **73 to 127** (group 2) marshal on the north side of the river also with bows pointing away from the start.

Take care that you do not get too close to the banks and be careful you do not run aground whilst waiting for the start.

3 minutes before the race start the marshals will advise Group 1 “tops off” – you must be ready to race 1 min before race start time.

At race start time the marshal by crew 1 will move up between the line of marshalling crews and the bank instructing them to turn. You should turn out to the middle of the river and then proceed to the start where the starter will call “Go”.

As Group 1 gets close to all having started the marshals for Group 2 will advise “tops off” and the same process as for Group 1 is followed by Group 2.

When racing all crews must pass through the centre arch of Scotswood Bridge, the middle two arches of the Railway Bridge and the centre arch of the Blaydon Bridge. **Any crews not following this instruction will be disqualified.**

Marshalling for the **afternoon division** has crews marshalling facing towards the start (away from the city) with the lowest number in each group closest to the start, crews **201 – 277** (Group 1) on the south side, crews **278 to 327** (Group 2) on the north side.

3 minutes before the race start the marshals will advise Group 1 “tops off” – you must be ready to race 1 min before race start time.

Again, when racing all crews must pass through the middle two arches of Scotswood Bridge, the Railway Bridge and the centre arch of the Blaydon Bridge. **Any crews not following this instruction will be disqualified.**



We may introduce some gaps in the start order so **please do what the marshals ask you to** and don't decide what to do yourselves!

**Note that should the prevailing wind and tide at the start require it, for safety reasons the marshals and umpires may agree variations on these instructions so please be prepared to listen to instructions issued in the marshalling area.**

- During the race, crews being overtaken must avoid impeding those behind; allow faster crews the shortest line on corners. Crews in front loading boats must keep their cox informed if they are being overtaken.
- Marshalling and safety boats will be on the course. If you do have an accident, stay with your boat until help arrives. Do not attempt to swim to the bank without your boat.
- At the finish and during the return to the steps at your boathouse crews must obey the instructions of the marshals.
  - Those crews returning to Newcastle University should keep close to the bank and line up facing upriver (the direction you raced) before going to the landing stage facing upriver. No Overtaking!
  - Crews going to Tyne United RC should proceed upstream through the south centre arch of Newburn Bridge and then proceed directly to the landing stage facing upriver.
  - Crews going to Tyne ARC should proceed upstream through the north centre arch of Newburn Bridge and then proceed directly towards the landing stage with bows facing upriver.
- Once crews have landed please clear the landing stages as quickly as possible. It is essential that crews have helpers on the bank to deliver wellies / shoes and clear the oars from the landing stages.

**SPECTATORS:** Could we ask please that all spectators and supporters watch the race and crews from the towpath or from the boathouses and **not** from the footpath crossing Newburn Bridge. Marshals will ask any spectators watching from here to move on. Thank you.

**FIRST AID:** Paramedics will be located at Newcastle University BC all day. Mobile First aid can be called at any time by asking race officials / marshals.

**PARKING:** Only trailers and towing vehicles can be parked at Newcastle University BC, Tyne ARC and Tyne United RC (as allocated). Car parking for Tyne ARC is available further along Grange Rd across the road north of Newburn Activity Centre (10-minute walk to Tyne ARC). For Newcastle University BC and Tyne United RC you can use Newburn Approach Road alongside the club (but do not block the



entrance, please). There will be limited car parking at NUBC for crews boating there only. See Coach (buses!) instructions for details of bus drop off and parking.

**Important telephone numbers:**

Chief Umpire/Racing (on day only):	Andy Crawford	07969 889779
Race Control and Entries	James Lee	07813 097794
Welfare Officer	Katy Young	07856 908539
Venue Specific matters	Alex Leigh	07871 351053

For 999 calls in relation to incidents on land ask for police, fire, ambulance, for incidents on water ask for Coastguard.

We would ask that you notify Race Control as soon and safely possible after making a call to the Emergency Services regarding the event/venues.