



# Home International Regatta Lough Rinn Safety Plan



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**Comhairle Chontae Liatroma  
Leitrim County Council**



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Chair – Rowing Ireland Safety Advisory  
Committee

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## 1. Introduction

Welcome to the **Home International Regatta Lough Rinn 2023**. We hope that you have an enjoyable, safe and successful regatta. This will be the first time that the Home International regatta will be held at the Lough Rinn Regatta Park, with your support and cooperation we will ensure that the regatta is safe and enjoyable for all participants, volunteers and spectators.

We are requesting your help and co-operation, so that we can manage the foreseeable challenges that may emerge. If we can work together, we aim to provide a competitive and safe regatta on the day .

This Safety Plan incorporates the key aim that all competitors, officials and visitors will uphold the Good Practice that exist in Rowing. Our intention is to make the safety of the competitors, spectators and regatta officials our highest priority in the organization and running of this regatta.

A copy of this Safety Plan is to be shared in advance with Rowing Ireland, the local Garda Síochána in Mohill, Leitrim County Council, our volunteers and first aiders and all competing clubs.

Ambulance personnel from the Civil Defence will be on site during the Regatta.

Safety and umpire launches crewed by experienced volunteers will be patrolling the course throughout the regatta.

Umpires are equipped with loudhailers and basic safety equipment in rescue bags; throw-bags and emergency blankets, etc.

Safety boats, umpires and other regatta officials are provided with two-way radios operating on the Umpires' channel for communication.

The continued use of Lough Rinn is conditional on its proper care and use as a shared amenity. Please treat it with respect and leave the toilets and shore tidy for others. Use the bin stations provided.



Figure 1: Bin Station Signage

## 2. Safety Procedures & Preventive Measures

### 2.1 Safety Instructions & Information for Competitors

#### Equipment:

It is the responsibility of each crew to ensure that the equipment that they are using is safe and compliant with the requirements of World Rowing, Home International and Rowing Ireland's rules. All boats must have secure bow balls, heel restraints and watertight buoyancy chambers. All boat will be inspected prior to launch

#### Coxes

Coxes presenting at the slip without life jackets on will not be allowed on the water. Coxes of front-loading boats should ensure that their life jackets do not impede a quick escape from their boat.

Coxswains must wear a life jacket or buoyancy aid in the correct manner and be familiar with the method of operation. In “front-loader” boats coxswains must wear manually operated gas inflation life jackets. Inspections will be conducted, and omissions may lead to disqualification.

All coxes should be familiar with the method of operation of their life jacket.

### **Swimming Ability:**

Every competitor and volunteer in or near water is expected to be in good health and able to swim. If operating in and around the water and you are unable to swim, please use a life jacket. Although the lake is wide access from the bank is relatively good. Any competitor or volunteer who is not a competent swimmer or has any other concern should make themselves known to their team manager or regatta committee who should then take appropriate account of any risk arising.

### **Competitors'/Attendees' Responsibility**

While we endeavour to provide a safe regatta competition system, each competitor and attendee also has a duty of care to themselves and others. They must follow the advice set out below as appropriate.

- Manage their own safety, remembering that they have a duty of care to themselves and any third party both on the water and on land.
- Check all equipment (e.g., boats, blades, buoyancy aids, etc.) is safe and prepared to the standards as required. In particular, check bow ball, heel restraints or other quick release mechanisms and coxes' life jackets.
- Ensure their boats comply with the buoyancy requirements.
- Strictly follow any 'local rule' or traffic/circulation pattern along with any competition specific safe' provisions.
- Decide in advance whether or not they are competent to use the lake in the prevailing weather conditions; this decision may be taken by the individual or with their coach/crew/Captain. If in any doubt, do not take to the lake.
- Wear adequate clothing and weather protection including sun-cream to suit conditions
- In the event of warm weather conditions rowers, marshals, stake-boat holders and all involved should ensure they are adequately hydrated.

## **2.2 Lake Hazards**

Beware of areas beyond the start line and avoid the clearly marked hazards near the course in the holding and warm up area. Please observe the correct circulation pattern that is in place for the conditions on each day (See circulation plan section). Crews are advised to keep clear of the course on the way to the start and to pay attention when launches are approaching/passing.

If water levels or weather conditions warrant a change of circulation pattern this will be communicated to all participating crews and will be discussed at the team managers/coxes meeting prior to racing. It is the responsibility of the team management to pass on this information to their crews.

Please note that the lake has permanent infrastructure in place in terms of start and finish pontoons, slipping areas, cables, buoys, and ancillary equipment. All of these present hazards of entanglement and should be considered appropriately for avoidance by launch drivers and competitors.

Additional hazards for this regatta are the stakeboats at the 1500-meter mark in lanes 0, 1, 2, 3. These lanes will be used for the sprint competition to be held in the afternoon. Team managers will be briefed on this hazard and are expected to pass on this information to their crews.

**Due to the exceptional dry weather, lake level conditions are currently at drought level and are currently below the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile level for Lough Rinn. Care should be taken during boat operations on Lough Rinn due to current drought levels. On the morning of the regatta the umpire and launch driver meeting will be presented with a traffic pattern for all boats.**

## **2.3 Launch Plan**

### **Slipway**

There will be one outbound and one inbound slip near the boat trailer area for the duration of the regatta including training days. Both the crews and coaches are asked to help with the flow of incoming and outgoing crews by ensuring boats are ready to launch and all adjustments are made before approaching the slipway.

Crews are advised to wear appropriate footwear when using the slipway. There will be two slip marshals in place during the regatta.

As you observe the course from the trailer area (see schematic plan below)

- Outbound crews will be using the right-hand slipway
- Inbound crews will be using the left-hand slipway.

Oars should be removed from the slipway as quickly as possible.

Crews once finished their races should proceed to the warm down area or return to the slip.

Crews should ensure they do not drift into the racing lanes when returning to the slip.

## **2.4 Circulation Plan**

Marshals and rescue boats will be on the water during the regatta

The warm up area is towards the start and just behind the start on the right-hand side of the course as indicated in the schematic below.

### **Racing**

**In normal water level conditions** crews should make their way to the start staying off the course and following marshal's instructions.

Once into the holding area behind the start - crews should pay attention to other boats in the area.

When the marshals call the crews forward to the stake boats they should proceed as directed and follow instructions from the starter.

The whole course is visible by umpires and marshals. Umpires' positions are equipped with throwing lines and safety and marshal boats monitor the course. In the event of a capsized boat on the course please stay with your boat and listen to Umpires instructions.

### **Know the rules:**

**World Rowing rules** will be used. The marshalling rules are straightforward – see the Regatta circulation plan - Give yourself plenty of time to boat before your race time, as it may take you some time to get to the start (allow at least 30 minutes) to get to the start from the main boating area. All boats must launch from the 'Outgoing Pontoon' (Lane 1 right side). All boats must return using the 'Incoming pontoon' (Lane 7 side) when looking down the lake

- Marshals will be positioned at nominated points on the course and at the start and the finish and will

- (a) ensure the safe passage of crews to the start zone, and

- (b) keep the course clear for races in progress.

Listen for start marshals' instructions - they are all experienced in the job and know the event and the lake well.

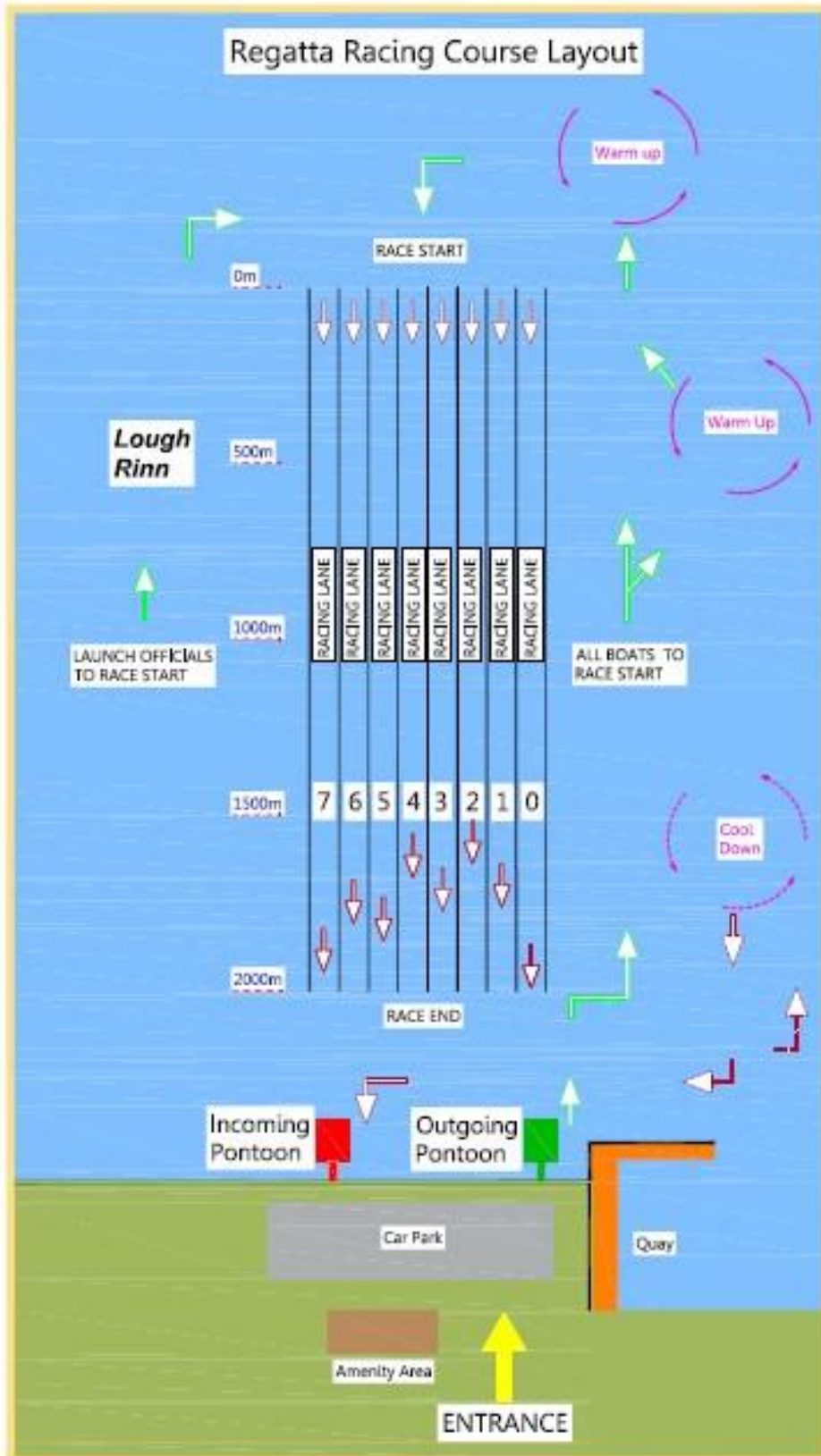


Figure 2: Circulation pattern

**If you see an accident:**

Please report to the nearest official immediately, who will act or alert the rescue services by radio as necessary.

All accident and near miss incidents should be reported to the regatta safety advisor and the appropriate Rowing Ireland documentation filled and submitted by the parties involved. (Rowing Ireland 'iROWsafe online reporting system should be used), [iROWsafe Link Here](#)

Umpires, marshals and officials will be the initial public contact points for reporting of emergencies. Marshals will wear a high visibility jacket for identification at all times.

This Safety Plan is distributed to umpires and other regatta officials by the Regatta Committee.

### **Safety Boats**

At least one Safety Boat will be available at all times, positioned in the middle of the course normally but may be positioned near the Start or Finish dependant on conditions or specific needs at that time. This vessel shall be equipped with competent people, radios, throw lines, safety blankets and first aid equipment.

### **Appropriate Footwear**

Competitors, coaches, helpers, spectators and marshals should wear appropriate footwear to help avoid foot injury where crews may launch or return. Do not leave footwear on the slips.

### **First Aid**

During the regatta First Aid cover is provided at the secretary's location near the entrance of the park and a doctor will be accessible via Nowdoc as above.

## **3. Key Contacts**

### **3.1 Emergency Key Contacts**

***Emergency: Fire, Police, Ambulance: 112 or 999 from any telephone.***

Carrick on Shannon Gardai: 071 9650510

Mohill Gardaí 071 9620021

Sligo General Hospital 071 9171111

Local doctor: Now Doc, 1850 400911

Person in charge on the day:	Match Director Richard Lyons contact via office or mobile: 087 6384776
Safety Advisor:	contact via office or mobile: Pat Kiely 0876381512
Chief Umpire	contact via regatta office or mobile: Ciaran Hayes +44 7792 835785
Regatta First Aiders:	contact via regatta office or hand portable radio:
Traffic queries/ site access/ parking	Contact Traffic manager

All positions are in radio contact with control, the rescue services and the Chief Umpire.

**Contact numbers:**                      **Match Director Mobile:**                      **087 6184411**



<b>Safety Officer Mobile</b>	<b>087 6381512</b>
<b>Traffic Manager Mobile</b>	<b>087 6384776</b>
<b>Regatta Secretary Mobile</b>	<b>087 4158407</b>

**All car parking will be in the field opposite the regatta park.**

**Please obey traffic Marshalls at all times.**

**Please do not impede access for an ambulance** to the car park(s) or the trailer park.

Your vehicle may be towed without warning in both cases above.

### **3.2 Incidents – Collisions & Capsizes**

Above the start/below the finish: Get any boat that is damaged and unable to proceed to the side.

On the course: Get any boat that is damaged and unable to proceed to the side, either side is ok with the castle side preferred

Umpires and marshals: Shall pay particular attention to any incident on the river. Should a crew be involved in a collision or suffer any injury that requires assistance, or a crew member falls out of a boat, the official shall summon a safety launch by radio. The rescue launch will only be called if assistance is required, if the marshal/umpire can deal with the situation themselves the safety launch should not be requested. If the course is blocked, the official shall also advise the start that no further races shall be started. This should happen automatically when the start tower hears the “Rescue, Rescue, Rescue” call on the radio.

Capsize: The whole course is visible to marshals. Every marshalling position is equipped with a radio to inform Race Control. **STAY WITH THE BOAT!**

Please note that the lake has permanent infrastructure in place in terms of start and finish pontoons, slipping areas, cables, buoys, and ancillary equipment. All of these present hazards of entanglement and should be considered appropriately for avoidance by launch drivers and competitors.

**Safety Launch;** Can be any launch on the water that can assist in an emergency situation (Umpires/Coaches/Media)

**Rescue launch:** Launch’s specifically crewed and designed to affect a rescue if required. For the Home International Regatta, the main rescue launch will be provided by the Leitrim Co. Co. Civil Defence boat, crewed by the Civil defence crew. A secondary rescue launch will be provided by Rowing Ireland and will be manned by trained and certified Rowing Ireland safety crews.

### **3.3 Incidents – Extreme weather conditions & other threats**

Clubs should consider the suitability and capability of those being volunteered as stake boat holders. The clubs should consider the forecast weather conditions when recruiting stake-boat volunteers, who must be physically strong enough to carry out the duties of a stake boat holder in any raceable weather conditions. The regatta organising committee has a duty of care to all volunteers including the stake boat holders.

Start control shall arrange for sun-protection, water and relief stake-boat volunteers in excessively hot or cold weather.

Where extreme weather conditions or other situations that could require the cancellation or postponement of racing, either for the day or until the conditions change, the decision will be the responsibility of the Race Director under advice from the racing committee which includes the safety Advisor, Chief Umpire and Secretary. The Race Director or the Safety Advisor also reserve the right to amend this plan if weather or competition conditions on the day make this necessary. Amendments, postponement or cancellation will be published at Race Control and announced over the public-address system.

In the case of lightning, a risk warning will be broadcast advising participants already on land to avoid moving boats and oars during the period of the storm. The message shall make clear whether racing could be resumed if conditions improve and whether crews already on the water should return immediately or complete their race first. As soon as the decision is made, every effort will be made to get all competitors, umpires, volunteers and Safety boat crews ashore and safe as quickly as possible.

As for determining when things are safe, the Regatta will use the 30-30 rule. After you see lightning flash, count the number of seconds it takes until you can hear thunder crack. If the time is less than 30 seconds, you are still in danger and should stay in a safe place. Similarly, a person should wait 30 minutes after seeing the last flash of lightning as it may linger after a storm.

### **3.4 Pre-inspection**

Approximately 1 hour before the start of the race the Safety Advisor along with, if possible, the Chief Umpire or Race Director will inspect the course and surroundings for any obstructions or likely problems and assess the weather conditions. A Checklist shall be completed by the Safety Advisor at this time. Decisions on postponement or cancellation will be considered.

### **3.5 Instructions**

Marshals, Safety Boats and other officials will be issued with all relevant safety documentation prior to the event. Specific safety information may be issued on the day verbally if required.

Competitors will receive details of the arrangements and instructions prior to the event.

## **4. Communications**

For clarity Regatta organisers, Marshals, Rescue, Control & Umpires shall be on the same channel. Because of this, strict radio discipline should always be maintained.

The PA system shall also be used to make emergency and public announcements if necessary. Back up is provided via megaphones/loudhailers.

**Club and Volunteer Communications:** The Home International Regatta Lough Rinn organising Committee may use online meetings to substitute for physical team managers/cox meetings.

## **5. Traffic & Road Access**

This section advises all attendees of the regatta on the Road Traffic Plan and access arrangements.

Lough Rinn Park Eircode N41 KH22

All teams are advised to use main roads to get to Mohill and from there to access the regatta location (Lough Rinn Caravan Park) as follows

- from Mohill, Main Street Lower (signposted Carrigallen and Lough Rinn Hotel)
- Continue to “Y” junction signposted Carrigallen (left turn) and Drumlish (right turn)
- Turn right onto Drumlish Road signposted Lough Rinn Caravan Park
- Continue on this road for approximately 3.5 km

Please see the schematics below for proposed trailer parking and car parking.

**Trailer drivers/ officials should contact the traffic manager (see 3.1 above) to arrange advance access**



Figure 3: Proposed car parking and access on road from Mohill (L1053)

**Please note the new entrance across from the regatta park. Pedestrians should enter and exit from this point**



Figure 4: New access gate, pedestrian entrance and exit. Car parking access on road from Mohill (L1053)

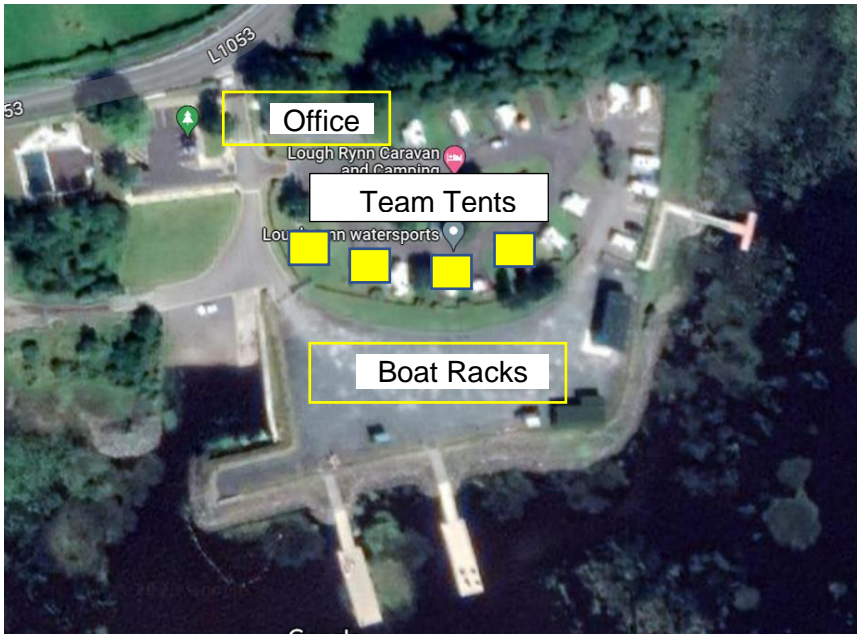


Figure 5: Proposed trailer parking adjacent slipways

## 6. Emergency Action Plan

This Emergency Action Plan sets out mitigation and procedures in relation to an emergency which represents a general threat to Regatta participants.

### 6.1 Responsibility

Responsibility for actions in the event of an emergency rests with the Race Committee. These individuals will carry radios at all times.

### 6.2 Actions in the event of a medical emergency

For all emergency not involving crews on the water the following procedures should be observed. The nearest radio equipped Race official on the scene will take initial control and will assess the situation. (If necessary, he/she will call emergency services.) As soon as immediate life saving measures are in hand Race Control (if not aware) will be notified. If emergency assistance is required, the Official will call **Code-Red** (urgent medical issue) and **Code-Blue** (non-urgent) on his radio and all other radio users will observe radio silence and follow instructions given by that official. For any other situation (obstacles, debris etc) normal radio protocol should be used.

The initial incident report for a **Code-Red** should briefly include;

- What is needed (first aid or higher or safety boat).
- Location on lake or shoreside that the service is needed.
- What has happened.
- The number of casualties.
- The severity of injuries or illness. • If racing needs to be suspended.

As soon as an incident is reported, all stations on radio are to minimise their communications. Absolute priority is to be given to Race Control and those responding directly to the incident.

In the event of any accident or emergency beyond that detailed in the safety plan and outside the capabilities of the regatta first aid and safety facilities, the emergency services will be called using 999 or 112 by mobile phone.

Emergency services not familiar with the location and requiring detailed information about an incident location can contact Regatta Control for grid references & post codes. The Traffic Manager and security/access control team should be informed of the emergency and notified that the emergency services are on route. The Traffic and security personnel should have the exact location and directions to incident site. All traffic movement should cease when emergency services arrive on scene.

***For water-based emergencies involving crews on the water during practice or races the following message should be used.***

### **6. 3 Emergency Radio Messages**

Emergency radio messages should be given slowly, clearly and repeated once. When other radio users hear the words **“ALL USERS, RESCUE, RESCUE, RESCUE”** radio silence **MUST** be adhered to. Start with the words **“ALL USERS, RESCUE, RESCUE, RESCUE”** followed by location, type of incident, numbers in the water, if any crew are trapped or are all crew clear. Followed by responding launches and required assistance. The message should be repeated and ended with the word **“OVER”**, **only the emergency assistance required to attend the location should reply and then the Safety Adviser should acknowledge the emergency call.**

**It is important not to overwhelm the responding crews with messages as they will have their hands full with the actual rescue.**

#### **Emergency Radio Message for on the water emergencies “Example Message”**

**“All Users”**

**“RESCUE, RESCUE, RESCUE”, FOLLOWED BY LOCATION AND SITUATION**

**Example**

***All Users***

***“RESCUE, RESCUE, RESCUE, 500 METER MARK, COXED QUAD OVERTURNED, ROWERS IN THE WATER, ALL ROWERS CLEAR, SPARE UMPIRE RESPONDING RESCUE LAUNCH REQUIRED.***

***I repeat***

***“RESCUE, RESCUE, RESCUE, 500 METER MARK, COXED QUAD OVERTURNED, ROWERS IN THE WATER, ALL ROWERS CLEAR, SPARE UMPIRE RESPONDING RESCUE LAUNCH REQUIRED. OVER***

### **6.4 Fire**

If anybody discovers a fire in the area of, the caravan park or surrounding forest park they should raise the alarm and he/she will assess the situation and tackle the fire **ONLY** if they are confident to do so and initially order local evacuation. If the emergency may require the stopping of racing or general evacuation, he/she will inform the Regatta Chair through the nearest marshal, and they will agree appropriate action.

## **6.5 Equipment failure**

Should there be a Radio failure during the event, Safety Boats and marshals etc shall use mobile phones & loudhailers to raise alarm, providing the radio is to be replaced hastily. If this is not possible Race Control shall be informed and racing shall be halted.

In the event of Safety Boat failure during the event then this must be reported to Race Control straight away to consider if racing should be halted.

## **6.6 Capsize**

Capsize

In the event of a capsize during a race the umpire will call "Rescue, Rescue, Rescue" and state where the incident has occurred and whether additional assistance is required. New races should not start until the all clear has been given by the onsite assistance dealing with the incident. All unnecessary radio traffic should be discontinued until the event is declared over by the designated person.

## **6.7 Floating Hazard**

Any significant floating debris or "hazard" seen on the water shall be reported to Race Control immediately. A Safety Boat, (or if more expedient a Marshal or Umpires launch) may be deployed to clear the water and racing shall be suspended.

## **6.8 Anti-Social Behaviour**

A serious public disorder or violent behaviour shall be reported to Race Control immediately. If necessary, racing shall be suspended, and the Gardai shall be called. Disruptive individuals may be asked to leave or barred from the event by the Regatta Committee.

## **6.9 Terrorist Threat**

Any news that could be deemed a serious threat to life should be reported to the Gardai immediately. Evacuation of any area believed to be in threat shall be organised in the first instance by Regatta officials.

## **7. Reporting of incidents**

Any witnessed incidents should be reported to Race Control for recording purposes.

## **8. Emergency Services Access**

Emergency vehicle access to the caravan park is via the main gates, the emergency services will be met by the Traffic Manager or Security Person at the gate and directed to the location of the incident. An incident at the starting area will be managed by the Traffic Manager.

It is very important that the access road from this main gate is kept clear and free of obstructions at all times from two hours before the regatta, during the regatta and for a reasonable time after the regatta.

If parked vehicles are causing an obstruction, it will be announced once over the public PA system and if the vehicle causing the obstruction is not moved in a reasonable amount of time, the vehicle will be removed by the regatta organisers or by the Gardaí or Leitrim County Council on request. The regatta organisers will use a local car removal service to remove the vehicle and all cost incurred will have to be paid by the vehicle owner.

Rowing Ireland, Leitrim County Council and the Lough Rinn Regatta Committee accept no responsibility for damage caused to vehicles parked in such a way as to cause an obstruction to emergency vehicle access.

Similarly, Rowing Ireland, Leitrim County Council and the Lough Rinn Regatta Committee accept no responsibility for damage caused to vehicles or equipment used: travelling to/from; in attendance at; or, participation in, the regatta.

## **9. Feedback**

If you have any comments that may help us improve the plan for future events, then please let us know via Rowing Ireland. Further information that makes up the full Regatta safety plan is contained in separate documents sent to all clubs competing and available on the Rowing Ireland tracker website, namely circulation plan, access and parking arrangements.