



Maidenhead Junior Regatta

Maidenhead Rowing Club, River Road, Taplow, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 0AT

A Spectator's and Parent's Guide to Maidenhead Junior Regatta

Your child's coach is responsible for telling them when and where they need to be, what to bring with them, and going through the Safety Briefing with them.

Getting there

The regatta takes place just downstream from Brunel's historic Sounding Arch, on the Taplow side of the River Thames in Maidenhead.

[Directions.](#)

Car parking for the event will be clearly signed. It costs £3.00 with a free program. Please do not park on the roads near the club as it upsets our neighbours. This is a residential area.

Beware of boats being manoeuvred on land and please keep close watch on younger children at all times.

Please take a look at the Boating and Circulation plan on page 3 of the [Safety Briefing](#) which will show you the relevant facility locations as well as the course layout

Competitors will probably meet their crew mates and coaches in the club car park which serves as parking for trailers and safety vehicles only.

Spectators should continue on along the river road (about 5 mins), through the Sounding Arch, to the grassy bank which is the best place to watch the racing. The grass may well be damp if it's been raining, but is very well drained.

There is no shelter available for spectators; you may need umbrellas, water and wind proofs, or sun lotion and sunglasses. If it's warm enough you might want to bring a ground sheet or camping chair to sit on, the day can feel quite long.

There will be toilets at the bridge end of this grass area. All other facilities are to be found on the first floor of the clubhouse - accessed through the front door or balcony steps.

Safety

We take safety very seriously. Our safety plans and risk assessments have to be approved by British Rowing before the Regatta is allowed to take place.

We have a South Regional Ambulances Medical Officer in attendance, plus Regatta Safety Services on the water. These are in addition to our own marshals and safety boats.

It is a condition of racing that all coaches must go through the published Safety Briefing with every crew - and especially their coxes - before boating.

All drinks sold at the club must be in plastic containers to avoid the risk of broken glass, particularly underneath the balcony.

Refreshments

There will be lots of cakes, sandwiches (rolls) and drinks for sale from early on in the main room on the first floor of the clubhouse.

There will also be burgers and hotdogs available from about 12 noon at the barbeque on the balcony.

The club bar will be open from 12.00pm.

Toilets

Portable loos in the spectators' area

Ladies and gentlemen in the changing rooms, 1st floor of the clubhouse

Disabled Access

Just inside the front door of the club you will find a lift for use by those who need it to access 1st floor facilities.

The disabled loo is near the lift door on the 1st floor of the clubhouse.

Registration and Results

In Maidenhead Rowing Club boathouse (ground floor)

All enquiries dealt with, Safety and rescue between the road bridge and the railway bridge coordinated here.

Crews boating are monitored and any delays are radioed to the start umpires and Race Committee. Race results are forwarded here from the finish and logged. The draw sheets posted outside and the race program are updated.

Delays or problems with racing crews should be notified to Registration and Results as early as possible.

Race Committee

The Race Committee and the umpires are based in the Finish tent at the finish line. Safety and rescue on the regatta course and areas downstream of the railway bridge are coordinated here.

The draw sheets posted outside will be regularly updated with results.

The Races Explained

This is a Regatta for beginners and inexperienced crews. Although keen to promote best practice we can accommodate lower standards in terms of dress code, skill and time keeping than you might see at an ordinary event. We do everything we can think of to ensure these young athletes have a positive first/early experience of racing, and are encouraged to continue.

When racing, junior rowers and scullers are classified by their age according to the school year. Boys are 'J' (junior) or sometimes MJ, and girls are 'WJ' (women - junior). The age is that achieved during the current school year, so J14s are boys (in Year 9 in state schools) who will be 14 this academic year. WJ12s are girls in Year 7.

'Beginner' and 'club' classes are unique to Maidenhead Junior Regatta. In order that crews are as closely matched as possible coaches are requested to enter according to the following criteria:

'Beginner': Less than one year or less than approximately 40 sessions on the water. Any juniors entering will not have achieved any wins and this will probably be their first regatta.

'Club': Can include crews with some racing experience but not those who are capable of success at National level events.

We only have quad racing, and are keen that all who want to race have an opportunity. The entry secretary helps those athletes who do not make up a complete crew to form scratch composites with those from other clubs in a similar position. There have been winning composite crews in the Regatta each year.

The program of racing is complicated by the 'repechage' system. There are two crews in each race. Instead of a straightforward knockout, after the first round of each event both winner and loser go on to compete a second time. This ensures that each crew goes on to race again. From there on the event is a knockout competition. Crews may have between 2 and 5 races over the day depending on the number of entries in their category.

The exception is if there are just 2 entries in a category, which can only lead to a straight final.

Unfortunately, withdrawal of another crew may also mean that a crew only gets one opportunity to race.

This system, combined with the fact that most crews will be sharing a boat with at least one other crew, means that the program cannot accommodate athletes competing as scullers in more than one crew. Coxes may be in more than one crew, or may be scullers as well. They may also have to be substituted if they find they should be in more than one race at the same time. We do it this way to try to give as many athletes as possible opportunity to compete.

The Start

Umpires are in charge of the racing. The start is a 'free' start so there are no stake boats. The crews will be lined up and then started. Two crews race at a time, one on the Bucks station (i.e. the Buckinghamshire side nearest the spectators), and the other on the Berks station (the Berkshire or Maidenhead side). As the navigation channel is on the Berks side the Berks station is actually in the centre of the river where the stream is flowing fastest. The umpires will make the racing fairer by staggering the start, if necessary, to compensate for the strength of the stream.

The finish

The finish umpire is in the Finish tent directly aligned with the finish post on the opposite bank. If it's a close race other umpires will also keep close watch. If the racing is very close, the race may be declared a dead heat and the crews will return to the start to race again straight away.

You may hear the announcer talk about a 'canvas' length between boats, this is the distance from the bow ball to the front of the cockpit where the crew sit (covered in canvas in traditional boats).

Racing may be suspended in the event of an accident on the water, or of adverse weather or water conditions jeopardising safety.

Competitors Instructions from the Umpires – Race Procedure

At the start

The marshals will hand crews over to an BR licensed umpire; his job is to enforce the rules during the race, as follows;

Role Call

As a final check to ensure the correct crews are presented for the race, the umpire will call the race number, the event, the competitors and if time allows the outcome, for example "Race 29 a heat of the J14 beginner quads between Maidenhead and Guildford, the winner goes through to the semi-final and the other crew to the repechage."

The Start

The umpire will raise a red flag and shout "ATTENTION" then pause between 1-3 seconds then shout "GO" as he lowers the red flag.

False Start

If any crew jumps the start the umpire will stop the race by shouting "Stop Rowing", waving a red flag and ringing a bell, he may restart the race, give an official warning to the offending crew (two of these leads to automatic disqualification) or disqualify the offending crew.

Keeping on station

Any crew wandering off station will be directed back to station by the umpire calling the name of the crew, giving an instruction in which direction to move and pointing in that direction with a white flag. If both crews merge together he will call for them to move apart and hold the flag above his head. Failure to obey can lead to disqualification.

Clashing

If boats and blades contact each other, the umpire will stop the race and may restart it either from the start or a suitable point, or decide the winner there and then

The finish

If the race has been in order and the finish is not disputed, the umpire in the launch will raise a white flag which will be acknowledged by a white flag from the finish tent.

Disputes

If the crew disagrees with a decision, they must raise their hands and call to the umpire immediately the race has finished, he will go and talk to them about it.

If they are still not happy with the decision or revised decision, they may make an appeal to the Chairman of the Race Committee in the finish tent, but to do so they must be supported by their club captain or senior coach ONLY.

All officials and helpers are volunteers, committing to spend up to 12 hours of the day to make the event a success. A vast army of club members kindly help with catering and as marshals. Please treat them well - their support is indispensable.

Umpires are highly trained and qualified - their word is law, the ultimate authority is the Race Committee Chairman

Marshals are well briefed and many have additional safety and coaching qualifications.

Results and prizes

Results will be announced over the PA system and displayed at Registration and Results (boathouse) and outside the Finish tent.

All finals are run at the end of the program.

When all the races have finished the prizes - nice pots (tankards) will be presented to the winners.

First Aid/Emergencies

The South Regional Ambulance service will be based at the clubhouse.

In the event that you need specific urgent help of any kind during the regatta please speak to the nearest official, all those on duty will have radios to contact each other, the Finish Tent and Registration and Results.

Financials/Fundraising

It is our aim that the entry fees should cover the cost of running the event. That is primarily equipment hire (toilets, radios etc), lifeguards and first aid people and prizes (the main expense).

All other personnel are club members or BR officials. They are all much appreciated volunteers

Sales of food and drink provide a fundraising opportunity for the benefit of the whole club.

Full results

Full results will be on the Regatta website within a few days of the event.

Maidenhead Rowing Club