

Regatta Safety

This Safety Plan has been formulated to enable the Wilmington Rowing Center and the Howard M Smith Diamond State Masters Regatta Committee to conduct a safe regatta. This plan, and the Incident Action Plan, have been created with the advice and counsel of the United States Rowing Association (USRA or USRowing) and the New Castle County Office of Emergency Management.

Regatta Safety Advisor

The HMSDSM Regatta Committee has appointed a qualified individual as Regatta Safety Officer for the event.

Regatta Referees

The HMSDSM Regatta Committee has determined that the HMSDSM Regatta will be operated under the rules of the USRowing, and have arranged for the referees of the event to be USRowing-certified. The Regatta Referees will be employing US Rowing's Modified Referee Procedures for this event.

Expectation of Competitors

It is required that the HMSDSM competitors complete and have on file a valid USRA waiver. It is expected that every HMSDSM competitor be familiar with the USRA Rowing Safety Guidelines and have complied with the USRA Pre-Practice Safety Checklist for Athletes and Shells. Checks will be made of shells before launching for a competitive event.

Safety Coverage

A full-time Safety Officer and, if appropriate, Assistant Safety Officers will be in place during event operating hours. These individuals have responsibility to review regatta operations and to change or stop any practice considered unsafe. On-site medical support is being provided by New Castle County Emergency Medical Services. Rescue services are being provided by Volunteer Hose, Middletown, DE. Each launch on the water will be equipped with a basic water life-saving equipment bag. Emergency plans covering specific risks/hazards have been prepared. The basics of the safety plan will be presented to each crew prior to beginning competition, and will be posted at the Pavilion.

Accidents and Emergencies

Accidents, injuries and other life-threatening events must be reported to a member of the HMSDSM staff immediately. A radio network and procedures for its use are in place, to direct emergency messages to our first responders as quickly as possible. Emergency procedures covering specific risks/hazards have been developed (see next page for a summary). They define our plans for response, and the process for transferring responsibility to our professional emergency response partners, if appropriate.

Distribution of the Safety Plan

All volunteers, referees, and emergency responders will receive a copy of this Safety Plan, as well as details on the specific emergency plans. This information will also be posted at the Pavilion (Race HQ). The Incident Action Plan will be made available to volunteers in incident management positions, the referees, and the emergency response personnel on- and off-site.

Emergency Plan Highlights

Hazardous Weather Events

Regatta staff is monitoring the weather, using a variety of sources including local Emergency Management and NOAA Weather in Mt. Holly, NJ. In the event of threatening weather, Regatta staff will be briefed on possible situations, and take the appropriate actions:

- Low severity weather conditions – Issue warnings and increase monitoring
- Intermediate severity weather conditions – Issue instructions to tie down loose equipment. Monitoring becomes continuous
- High severity weather conditions – Regatta shutdown. Launching stops, crews on the way to or at the start will be turned around. A race in progress or ready to start will proceed. On-water personnel will direct boats to docks. All rowers will follow the instructions of the Dockmasters to land and immediately clear the docks, then follow instructions for seeking shelter.

Multiple Casualty Incident

In the event of an accident involving multiple casualties, Regatta staff will immediately terminate regatta operations and clear the incident area and docks, making room for our professional emergency responders to take action. Unified Command, led by qualified emergency responders, will lead the response. Communication with local Emergency Management will be established, and additional resources will be requested, if appropriate.

Lost Child/Missing Person

Should a lost child or missing person event occur, immediately notify Regatta Operations. Security will be notified, and an announcement will be made over the public address system. Should a lost child, or any person in need of assistance be located, bring that child/person to the Pavilion and ask that the Safety Officer or Operations Chief be notified.

On-Land Medical Emergency

In the event of an on-land emergency (Accident/Illness), immediately notify any staff person with a radio. The Safety/Operations Officer will coordinate with the on-site paramedics to provide the appropriate care.

High Heat Index Operation

If the calculated Heat Index is expected to reach or exceed 100 degrees F during the regatta, additional protective actions will be taken, including:

- Briefings of all participants before competition begins
- Meetings with all officials on plans and procedures to follow to get affected persons to medical care quickly
- Safety launches will be equipped with water and towels for cooling affected persons

Should the calculated Heat Index be expected to reach or exceed 110 degrees F, additional EMS support will be requested.

Regatta staff will be monitoring the return docks, providing updates to the Regatta Director and Chief Referee on the number of heat-related incidents. Delaying or stopping competition will be considered if significant numbers or participants are affected.