

# Loughborough Soar Head Welfare Plan

**To all competing clubs and race officials:**

***In accordance with the British Rowing Safeguarding and Protecting Children Guidance Guidelines for Rowing Competitions (WG 3.4).***

## **Welfare Statement**

The Organising Committee of Loughborough Soar Head believes that the welfare and wellbeing of all attendees, and in particular children and vulnerable adults is paramount. All people, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, religion or ability, have equal rights to safety and protection. We ask that everyone involved in the regatta in any capacity remains vigilant and reports anything suspicious. All suspicions, concerns and allegations of harm will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately. Any such concerns should be reported to a Loughborough Boat Club volunteer or race official without delay.

## **Welfare Plan**

The Organising Committee has looked at the procedures and processes of the event from the point of view of the welfare of children or vulnerable adults, whether as competitors, helpers or spectators and would like to draw attention to the following specific points;

**Children as competitors:** All officials and competitors should treat child competitors in an appropriate way, for example when giving instructions or when launching or marshalling.

**Children as helpers:** Children will not be placed in hazardous situations.

**Children as spectators:** Children spectating along the course and in the boating area should take care when close to the riverbank. Those with them should exercise vigilance at all times.

## **What to do if you have a child or vulnerable adult welfare concern**

If anyone at the event has any concerns of any nature about child welfare, they should contact one of the **Soar Head Welfare Officers, Kate Henry or Vicky Haines**. During the event, they can be contacted via the registration room in the clubhouse. They can also be contacted by asking any official with a radio to pass on a message.

Kate and Vicky will take overall responsibility for investigations and taking any required action, and referral to other concerned parties e.g. the coordinating umpire, the police or the British Rowing CPO. They will take responsibility for reporting any matter to the police, and for ensuring that reports are made to the British Rowing Lead Safeguarding Officer (LSO) (020 8237 6700), for the NSPCC (0808 800 5000), if appropriate.

First aid provision is provided at the event and a specified driver is on hand to take any casualty to the Loughborough Urgent Care Centre if further medical attention is required.

## **Supervision of junior competitors**

The Soar Head recognises its responsibility to ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to provide a safe environment for all those attending the race in whatever capacity. With respect to juniors however, it remains the attending Club's responsibility to ensure that their junior competitors are fully supervised, competent to race and navigate the course in the prevailing conditions. It is a condition of entry to the race that a manager, coach or

parent shall supervise each junior competitor or crew. This person must be over the age of 18 and is to be responsible for the welfare, safety and appropriate supervision of his/her crew(s). They are expected to understand the competence of the individual competitors and to know the whereabouts of their crew(s) at all times during the event. If at any stage they feel that the conditions are outside their competitors' level of competence, it is their responsibility to withdraw them from the event. They are also expected to have read the Instructions to Competitors and familiarise themselves with the risks and hazards that may be encountered on the course. They must also ensure that their junior competitors understand these Instructions, risks and hazards. A copy of the event risk assessment is available on the website or on request.

Whilst crews are out on the water, marshals will be on hand on the bank to provide safety cover and to summon help if required. In addition they will be instructed to report any suspicious activity to the Race Marshal, Safety Adviser or Club Welfare Officers whilst showing respect to all competitors.

The Soar Head expects clubs and schools to have their own up-to-date child protection and welfare policies, and that these policies will be followed.

### **Contact numbers for responsible adults**

The Regatta Welfare Officer may need to contact a coach /person responsible for a junior competitor.

All clubs with junior competitors will be expected to provide a list of names and contact mobile phone numbers for their responsible people. If no number is provided the number captured with the entry documentation will be used.

### **Missing Persons**

If a child or vulnerable adult is believed to be missing this should in the first instance be reported to the nearest event official or the Head Welfare Officers. The Head Welfare Officers will advise both the chairman of the race committee and the chairman of the organising committee of the situation. The coach / person responsible for the missing child will be made aware of the situation. The Head Welfare Officers will send out an announcement via the radios and the PA system, organise a search for the missing child and, if necessary, contact the police. If contact has not been made with the individual within 20 minutes of concerns being reported to the Head Welfare Officers the local police will be contacted. Any young person or vulnerable adult who has lost their coach or responsible person should report to the registration room in the clubhouse, so we can reunite them. We ask coaches/responsible persons to make their crews aware of this.

### **Photography**

Clubs and schools are asked to recognise that the race takes place on a river course with public access. There will inevitably be a number of people, including parents and supporters, taking photographs of the racing and the 'scene' during the day. In addition the race committee may make appropriate use of photographs of crews and races on its website, in the program and its future publicity