

Burway Small Boats Head

Competitor Instructions

Saturday 24th October 2026

An approximately 3000 m upstream race held under British Rowing Rules of Racing in three divisions starting at 10.00, 12.00 and 14.00.

1x for J14 to J18, Seniors and Masters, and 2x and 2- for J15 and above. 4x+, for J13 and J14. All events are available for Open/Women crews and there are mixed events in many categories. Maximum of 100 crews per division.

The event is held under British Rowing Rules of Racing and complies with RowSafe: A Guide to Good Practice in Rowing guidelines.

****As a minimum, these instructions should be read in conjunction with the event Safety Plan and the course map****

COMPETITORS AND/OR COACHES MUST ENSURE THEIR ROWERS ARE CAPABLE OF RACING IN THE PREVAILING CONDITIONS AND WEARING APPROPRIATE KIT.

Instructions For Coaches and Competitors

Club Captains, coaches and rowing master's must read these instructions carefully and ensure all their competitors are aware of, always understand and comply with them. These instructions should be read in conjunction with the course plan and circulation pattern maps.

The Burway Head is a challenging course. Please only enter crews who are competent to steer the course and who can cope if there are strong stream conditions which will affect marshalling and at the finish.

It is most important that all crews are competent in turning in a fast-running stream

The event is held under the British Rowing Rules of Racing and in accordance with Row Safe: A Guide to Good Practice in Rowing. All competing clubs are expected to know and abide by these rules and exercise their duty of care to themselves and others, on and off the water, always.

In the event of strong stream (yellow board stream decreasing) or adverse weather conditions the race committee may adjust entries so that only more experienced crews are allowed to race. In addition, if there is a strong stream we may move the

start upriver to keep clear of the weir. We will be monitoring the conditions regularly before the event. Please look at the Burway website for updates.

If there are red or yellow stream increasing boards the event will not be run. Can we please remind all crews and coaches that we cannot risk assess your capability, this must be a decision taken by you. If you choose to boat crews that cannot cope with the conditions, you will increase the risk on all other competitors taking part.

PARKING

Two car parks are available along the river on Thameside, one just upstream of Burway RC for **trailers & towing vehicle only** and the other about 1km downstream of Burway RC at Laleham Park. At Laleham Park we have some of the car park reserved for **trailers and towing vehicle only**. For the remaining half of the car park the usual **pay and display** system will be in operation. A third car park is available behind the club house on Abbey Drive which is also pay and display. We will allocate clubs bringing trailers to a car park and we may concentrate boating at Burway Rowing club depending on entries.

Absolutely no parking is permitted along Thameside or at Burway RC.

Great care should be taken when crossing the road and stepping over the barriers along the road, especially when carrying boats. All crews should have a competent person to guide them across the road.

ENTRIES

Competitors may enter any or all divisions but may not double within a division. Entries will be automatically moved to a higher status event if insufficient entries are received, unless it is clearly indicated on BROE to the contrary. Masters' categories will be combined if insufficient entries are received and these will be indicated on the draw. A handicap will be applied in accordance with Masters Handicap Data given in the Umpires' Handbook. Masters' novice will not be handicapped.

REGISTRATION

Registration will be based at Burway RC. Numbers will be issued from 08:00. You will be given:

- 1) Two large numbers to pin to the back of bow's outer top and racing top, FOUR safety pins will be provided for each and must be used.
- 2) A plastic Empacher (bow) slot number. These numbers must be returned to Burway RC after racing. Failure to return will result in your club being charged £10. Numbers will NOT be issued for any unpaid entries.

3) Boating times for crews. Please follow these to ensure that there are no delays.

BOATING

All boats must comply fully with the British Rowing boat identification code. Failure to do so will attract a 10sec. time penalty.

Three boating areas are available as indicated on the map.

Burway RC/SWPS Immediately opposite the boathouse

Laleham Park Across the road (NB wet launch). – We may concentrate boating at the other two areas see website for details.

Upstream of Burway RC. (NB wet launch).

Depending on entries we may concentrate boating at Burway and SWPs landing stages. Details nearer the time

BOATING TIMES

- Please adhere to these times to help racing start on time. Late crews will not be allowed to race. Crews boating early may warm up using normal navigation rules: row downstream on Surrey, upstream on Middlesex (towpath side).

- Boating times will be posted on the BRC website and will be available on the day at Registration.

- Boats must be launched with bows upstream and proceed a short distance clear of the boating area before turning and heading downstream to the marshalling area on the Middlesex bank of the river.

SAFETY

- It is the absolute responsibility of competitors and coaches to ensure that their boat meets the standards laid down in BR Rules of Racing and Row Safe. Random checks will be carried out throughout the day. Each crew should check their equipment before boating. Every boat must have an effective bow ball and proper shoe restraints. All coxswains must wear a suitable buoyancy aid in good working order.

- Competitors and coaches are responsible for undertaking their own Risk Assessment, ensuring that all competitors are competent, healthy and suitably clothed to race in the conditions on the day, irrespective of the organizer's decision to hold all or some of the events. Junior crews must always be under adult supervision.

- Any pre-existing medical conditions, that may require attention during the race must be reported to the organizers before racing.
- If boating from the beaches, please wear suitable footwear before wading into the water. Crews must follow instructions given by Umpires, Marshals and Environment Agency officials always. Failure to do so may result in disqualification.
- Consideration of other river users must be always exercised.
- In the event of an incident, Umpires and Marshals will advise crews what to do.

COVID-19

If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, please do not attend the event.

WEATHER

- In the event of inclement weather, coaches must decide if their crews are competent to handle the conditions.
- Crews must wear sufficient and suitable clothing for the prevailing conditions. No crew will be permitted to boat if it is deemed to have inadequate clothing for the conditions.
- In the event of a major incident or deterioration in the weather, race officials will instruct crews what to do.
- In the case of lightning all competitors will be instructed to get off the water as quickly as possible.

SAFETY LAUNCHES

Maps of the course on the Burway web site detail the circulation patterns, navigational requirements and positions of Water Marshals, Umpires, Safety Launches and First Aid. All crews must read and be aware of their contents.

ACCIDENT & EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

- All parts of the course are under observation by at least one Umpire or Marshal. An Official seeing an incident must deal with it as their priority and inform the Chief Umpire by radio stating the nature of the incident and the assistance required.
- The safety of the competitor(s) is the main concern until such time as the reporting Marshal/ Umpire is satisfied that no one is in danger.
- In the event of a capsize competitors should be instructed to stay with their boat and await assistance from Safety. It should be considered whether further assistance, including medical, should be summoned.
- Ambulance access is possible for casualties brought ashore at Burway Rowing Club and various other points along Thameside.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Radios will be supplied to all Umpires, Marshals, Safety Launches and the Ambulance crew.

THE RACE

NAVIGATION

- All crews must be clear of the racing course 10 minutes prior to the start of racing in each division as shown on the circulation pattern maps.
- All boats are to be marshalled with bows downstream.
- Racing is upstream on the Surrey side of the river. At the instruction from a Marshal or Umpire, paddle down to the start. They will then be told to turn at the buoy and start to race.
- Crews returning after racing must travel on the right-hand side (closest to the racing course) of the navigation channel on the Middlesex side of the river.
- **Extreme caution when passing through the Narrows (marked “Harris Boatyard” on course map and by the Water Intake. All crews must be made aware that this part of the channel is restricted by moored boats, possibly on both sides, and that it is a two-way channel. Marshals may instruct racing crews to proceed in single file through this area. Please make your crews aware of this and that they must comply.**

MARKER BUOYS

- The course is on the Surrey side of the river and all racing crews must always keep to the Surrey side.
- Racing crews must keep to the Surrey side of the **TWO RED BUOYS** at the Sailing Club and Ferry bends.
- Any crew crossing into the navigation channel will be liable to a penalty or disqualification.

OVERTAKING

- Crews being overtaken must move out of the racing line if safe to do so. Impeding an overtaking boat will incur a time penalty. Overtaking crews must not impede a crew who has given way by unnecessarily demanding more water.
- Coaching and any steering advice from the bank must not be given by megaphone.

FINISH

- The finish is at the concrete steps on the Middlesex bank. Crews must not stop but continue rowing clear of the finish area and turn only when instructed by a marshal. Crews may be penalized if they turn before instructed.
- Crews must then return in single file downstream in the navigation channel on the Middlesex side of the river, aware of any other river users.
- Any returning crew interfering with a racing crew on the course will be penalized.

DISPUTES

Any objections or disputes must be lodged with the Chief Umpire within 15 minutes of the end of the division. In any dispute, the Race Committee's decision is final.

MARSHALLING

- All crews will marshal along the Middlesex bank in numerical order, lowest numbers nearest the start. Signs along the bank will indicate marshalling positions. All crews must be in position 10 minutes before the start of the division. Crews arriving late will start at the end of the division.
- On the instructions of the marshals, crews will row downstream to the start area buoy in the middle of the river, where they will turn and proceed to the start (see diagram). No crew may go downstream beyond the M3 bridge. Crews will be started at 10-15 second intervals, with timing commencing approximately 50m upstream of the instruction 'CREW XXX ROW'.

SAFETY BOATS

- Three safety boats will be on the water as indicated on the course plan. First Aid will be available at Burway Rowing Club.
- In the event of an incident on water, the nearest marshal/umpire will take charge and prioritise safety, summoning the nearest safety boat and informing Race Control. Other racing crews will be alerted if they need to take action to avoid the incident, which may include stopping. Casualties will be landed at Burway RC landing stage where first aid is available.

REFRESHMENTS

Food and refreshments will be available outside throughout the day at Burway RC. There is no access to inside the club except for members of the host club.

RESULTS

Full results will only be available online at www.burwayrowingclub.co.uk. Prize giving will be outside Burway Rowing Club

Key Race Officials:

Chief Umpire:	TBA	TBA
Safety Advisor:	Graeme Ross	07933 177175
Welfare:	Tracey Dawson	07866 779807
Registration:	TBA	TBA