

## **Welfare Policy & Plan Great Ouse Marathon 2026**

### **1. Introduction**

At The Great Ouse Marathon 2026, we are committed to ensuring the safety, well-being and welfare of all participants, volunteers and spectators. We believe everyone has the right to enjoy rowing in an environment that is welcoming, inclusive, and free from harm.

This policy applies throughout the duration of The Great Ouse Marathon 2026 and covers all event venues and facilities under the control of the organising committee, including the boating areas, trailer park, enclosure and associated facilities.

An Event Welfare Officer will be appointed and will act as the point of contact for any welfare concerns. They can be contacted by radio or via Race Control 07971 921731 throughout the duration of the event. In the event of an emergency please contact the nearest official, who will report the incident to the Welfare Officer or the Chair of the Race Committee.

### **2. Event Welfare Officer**

The Organising Committee has appointed **Sam Roberts** as Event Welfare Officer who can be contacted on the day via Race Control 07971 921731 or via any race official at either West Norfolk Rowing Club/Isle of Ely Rowing Club/on the course.

### **3. Welfare Reporting Structure**

Any concerns related to the welfare of a participant should be reported immediately to the Event Welfare Officer.

All concerns will be recorded and, where appropriate, referred to statutory authorities or British Rowing in line with safeguarding procedures. Reports will be handled sensitively and confidentially.

The Event Welfare Officer will be present on-site throughout the event. While they will not have a fixed base, they will be contactable by mobile phone and will attend promptly in person if required.

They will also be present on the day of the event so please get in contact if needed.

### **4. Adult Responsibilities**

Adults with responsibility for children entered in the event are expected to ensure that conditions are suitable for their athletes. Adults, coaches and parents are also reminded of the need for suitable clothing for the event, especially as all competitors are likely to get wet. Changes of racing clothing and warm layers are more important than wearing club colours.

## **5. Conduct**

All coaches, competitors and other participants should abide by the event Rules of Racing. Attention should be paid to the British Rowing Safeguarding and Protecting Children Policy 6. Medical Provision.

First Aid and general medical provisions are available to all coaches, competitors and other participants. These facilities will be located at West Norfolk RC and Isle of Ely RC. In case of an emergency please contact the emergency services as well as advising the Event officials of the problem.

## **6. Volunteers who are under 18 (Young volunteers)**

Great Ouse Marathon recognises the valuable contribution of young volunteers and will ensure:

- Young volunteers agree to comply with British Rowing's Code of Conduct.
- Written parental/carer consent is obtained for their role at the regatta.
- Young volunteers are always supervised by a parent/carer or an adult who holds a valid DBS check and has completed appropriate safeguarding training.
- Young volunteers understand their safeguarding responsibilities and know how to report any concerns they have or become aware of.
- No responsibilities are assigned to young volunteers that may place them or others at risk of harm.

## **7. Security**

All volunteers have been advised to be vigilant and to report anything suspicious to the Event Welfare Officer.

## **8. Photography**

Given the nature of the event, it is not possible to control all photography taking place at the event. Volunteers are advised to report any suspicious photography to the Event Welfare Officer who will take the appropriate action.

## **9. Distribution of Data**

All competing clubs, umpires and race officials will receive a copy of the welfare plan, a set of competitors' instructions. In addition, these documents will be available on the event website.