



## Isis Winter League Marshalling Guide

Please be sure also to read the event plan as well as this guide for the IWL events. This is a short guide to the absolute essentials of marshalling and more information is available from the event plan.

Please arrive promptly at the LongBridges boathouse for the start of your marshalling shift where you will be briefed by a member of the OURCs committee and sent out to your position. Remember to wear appropriate clothing to stay warm and dry as you will be standing by the river for some time. It may also be useful to bring a pen.

Marshals are primarily responsible for the safety of all crews on the river. You must be standing up, alert and watching the river at all times. You also should look out for hazards to spectators and the public on the towpath or area you are stationed, but do not let this distract you from the river. If you need help, radio racedesk.

The Isis Winter League is a headrace where crews attempt to row the course, from Donnington bridge to the finish post near the head, in the fastest possible time. Unlike many other headraces, in IWL the slower crews do not need to give way and faster crews must go around. Crews are set off in divisions and must wait for the last racing crew to finish before returning to their boathouse. Crews for the next division can boat as the last racing crew passes them heading downstream (refer to the circulation pattern).

### Other river users

During the event it is unlikely that other boats will come to the Isis. These could be everything from tourist punts and narrow boats to huge steamers. They have a right to be there so when speaking to them be polite and always ask them to follow your instructions. When approaching a cruiser, find out what their intentions are and ask them to stick to the centre of the river, passing other cruisers on their portside. Competing crews should not be allowed in the centre of the river and should not spin in front of cruisers. The SU may tell you to ask cruisers to moor to wait for divisions to go past, please do this politely and explain why.

The Environment Agency river inspector may be on the river during event. They are aware of how things run so will probably not need direction. Their boat has a flag on the stern saying "River Inspector", and has a pale blue hull.

Two launches will also be in operation – this is part of the event so you do not need to worry about this.

### Radio use

Ensure you know what channel your radio is supposed to be on (usually channel 1). When talking into the radio press the large button on the side for a second or two before starting to speak and keep it held down until you have finished. Speak slowly and clearly.

Remember your call-sign (your marshalling position) so you can identify yourself when making a call and say who you are who you are speaking to (e.g. "Univ boathouse to racedesk..." or "Top gut to senior umpire...").

Have your radio at a suitable volume that you can hear it but it is not distorted. Listen out for if the racedesk or SU are calling you.

If the battery starts to run out radio racedesk or find a nearby marshal to radio racedesk to request a replacement.

In the rain, the radios will start to fail to work if allowed to get too wet. Try to keep your radio as dry as possible.

## River Checks

The SU will call frequent river checks over the radio by saying something along the lines of “Can I have a river check please, from the Head, go”. The person named (in this case the Head marshal) should then report and everyone should in turn report on whether the river is clear. This order runs from the head of the river downwards in order: *Head, Finish, Boathouses A, Boathouses B, Univ Boathouse, Green Bank, LongBridges, Top Gut, Bottom Gut*.

If it is, say “Head, clear” “Finish, clear”, etc. If it is not, please report on any cruisers, kayaks, logs, debris, swans or anything else in the racing line (e.g. “Boathouses A, there is a large log in the middle of the river drifting downstream slowly” or “Top gut, there is the narrow boat ‘X-ample’ heading upstream through the gut”).

## Klaxons

You will have a klaxon which can be sounded to stop racing. If you need to sound it hold the button on the top down for 10 seconds. If you hear another klaxon, sound your own for 10 seconds also. If you have sounded your klaxon, immediately radio through to race desk with details of your position, where the problem is, why you have klaxoned and if any help is required (the launch and or first aiders).

While Isis Winter League has fewer occurrences for klaxoned races than bumps, you still should klaxon in the event of anyone falling in the water from the boat or if the racing line is irreversibly blocked with crews approaching. In the event of a crash with the bank or between two crews, if someone is injured, the klaxon should be sounded and first aid called. However, do not klaxon the race if there is an obstruction – the crews can move round it. Only klaxon where safety is compromised otherwise.

## Boat checks

If you are one of the raft marshals (boathouses A and B, Univ BH, LongBridges or the bike marshal sent to CORC, Falcon or Academicals) you will need to check all boats being put on the water before pushing off for the following:

- The cox must be wearing a lifejacket and it must be over their outer layer.
- Bow balls must be firmly attached to the bows of the boat (give it a tug to ensure it is firmly attached)
- Heel restraints must be present and correct (lift up the heels of each of the seats to ensure they do not come further than horizontal)
- EA licence (this is a square coloured sticker in the boat with the year on it)
- Crews boating after 2:45pm have lights on.

## Details of roles of individual positions'

1. **Head:** Approx. 50m beyond finish post. Instructs crews to clear the finish line + spin; Communicates with other river traffic; performs River Checks.
2. **Finish:** Located at the finish (approx. 50m past the end of the boathouses). Instructs crews to clear the finish line; performs River Checks. Assists with timing.
3. **Boathouses A:** Located on top end of the boathouse island. Performs checks on each boat to ensure that they conform to ARA and EA regulations; performs River Checks.

4. **Boathouses B:** Located on the bottom end of the boathouse island. Performs checks on each boat to ensure that they conform to ARA and EA regulations; performs River Checks.
5. **Univ Boathouse:** Located outside Univ boathouse. Performs boat checks; performs River Checks.
6. **Long Bridges:** Located at LongBridges boathouses. Performs boat checks; performs River Checks.
7. **Top Gut:** Located at the mouth of the gut. Performs River Checks; keeps a record of which boats have passed downstream so as to inform the SU of the progress of crews to the start.
8. **Bottom Gut:** Located at the downstream end of the gut. Performs River Checks.
9. **Start #1:** Located below Donnington Bridge in the marshalling area. Assists the SU marshalling crews before the start;
10. **Start #2:** Located below Donnington Bridge in the marshalling area below Start #1. Assists the SU marshalling crews before the start; warns and instructs other river traffic to prevent obstructions on the course.
11. **Start #3:** Located below Donnington Bridge in the marshalling area below Start #1. Assists the SU marshalling crews before the start
12. **Bike Marshal:** cycles ahead of each division with the sole aim of providing additional warning to spectators and members of the general public on the tow path if significant numbers of pedestrians and bystanders are present. Also able to cross to Falcon and City prior to each division.

*Phil Gemmell, OURCs Secretary 2008-09*