



SUPPORTERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

General Principles of Support in the Race

Supporters perform a vital role in providing food, drink and spare kit to their paddlers and monitoring their well-being. They are an essential and valued part of the Devizes to Westminster Race.

The behaviour of support crews affects public perceptions of the Race as much as, or more than, that of competitors. Supporters must behave responsibly and considerately at all times and shall observe restrictions along the course and adjoining areas as may be imposed by the Organisers.

Note :- The terms "supporter" and "support crew" are used interchangeably in this document.

Competitors' Responsibility for their Supporters

Competitors are responsible for the conduct of anyone who turns up to watch or support them. Competitors/Team Leaders must ensure that all support crews read these rules. Ignorance will not be an acceptable excuse in the event of a protest or penalty.

Abuse

The Race Organisers will not tolerate any physical or verbal abuse whatsoever. Abusing, assaulting or deliberately impeding any official in any way will result in disqualification and may also result in a ban on the individual, crew, team or organisation concerned from taking part or being involved in future races.

Lack of sleep or the emotion of watching close friends or relatives under extreme physical stress can cause supporters to behave inappropriately. However any breach of these rules may result in a penalty being imposed on the crew being supported.

Chief Supporter

Each boat should have a Chief Supporter who is responsible for any communications with Race Control, and who Race Control will attempt to contact in the first instance if there is any problem.

The Chief Supporter of each crew must confirm/provide the Competition Secretary with their name and mobile phone number as required on the Entry Form. They should also supply a landline number of a supporter who can relay messages should mobile communication fail. Support crews must be readily available at all times to be contacted by DW Control. If you cannot be contacted immediately you may receive a text asking you to make contact. You should check for messages at regular intervals. Penalties will be imposed on crews whose supporters are found to be un-contactable on the numbers provided.

Guiding principles

Common sense is to be the underlying principle of the supporting arrangements. The Organisers will not penalise anyone who provides sustenance, replaces essential kit or effects repairs to a competitor's boat in the event of a proven emergency. Substantial penalties will apply to any crew, team or organisation deemed to be in breach of the spirit of the rules.

Supporting Instructions – for Supporters of ALL CREWS

Driving and Parking

Do not race from lock to lock as you will arrive too early and add to congestion at the next portage. The average speed of a kayak on the canal is less than 6 mph. Observe local parking restrictions; do not obstruct emergency access or driveways, railway crossings or junctions. Do not park on private property. Observe specific race access and parking rules.

Portages

Do not swamp the course with support crews and vehicles. Minimise the number of cars following. Stage race classes are subject to specific rules set out below. Do not allow dogs to cause nuisance of any sort. Keep noise and disturbance to a minimum in residential areas, especially at night. Obey instructions from officials at locks, where access may be restricted on safety grounds to one person per crew.

Closed Portages

No supporters are permitted at any of the following locks. There are no exceptions to this rule:

- **Little Bedwyn**
- **County**
- **Blake's**
- **Shiplake**
- **Boveney**
- **Sunbury Lock and Rollers** (Crews may be fed along the lock cut.)
- **Molesey Lock and Rollers**
- **Teddington Lock and Rollers**

Parking/driving restrictions apply at the following locks:

- **Crofton Flight:** Observe all parking notices and cones. Do not park on or by the Freewarren Bridge (middle bridge). Please use the Pay and Display Car Park at the Pumping Station, if that is full there is parking available in the adjacent field. To reach the canal make your way on foot through the grounds of the pumping station, under the railway line and out on to the canal where you can turn right or left to get to a lock. Marshalls will be on site on both Friday and Saturday.
- **Little Bedwyn: Closed portage.** Do not stop in the village or on the bridge.
- **Aldermaston:** Very limited parking with a busy A road. **Avoid if possible.**
- **Cunning Man, Burghfield:** Do not park in the pub car park.
- **Sonning:** Do not park on the access road to the lock.
- **Boulter's Island, Maidenhead:** Do not park on the main road or on/in/at the approach to the island. Use the public car park. Following residents' complaints, the DW Race is now required by the local council to pay for traffic wardens there; illegally parked vehicles will be ticketed. Use the public car park which will be fully open.
- **Bray Lock:** No parking beyond the "Bridleway" sign at the entrance to Amerden Lane from Old Marsh Lane. Amerden Lane is a clearly marked bridleway, and under no circumstances is vehicular access permitted from either end.

- **Old Windsor Lock** Ham Lane, the access road to the river, is a PRIVATE road. Because of safety issues there is NO access for minibuses or trailers. This is essential to keep the road clear for Emergency Services, Thames Water and access for the farm. You MUST drive up to the bridge and turn around before parking and you MUST park only in the approved areas, please see map. Anyone seen parking inappropriately or blocking the road will be penalised. Parking is on the left 100m from the bridge to 20m before the corner. When you round the corner parking is on the right until the road narrows. There will be cones and signs – but any infringements will be penalised.



- **Bell Weir:** Do not go through the Runnymede Hotel grounds to access the portage; these grounds are for hotel guests only and are out of bounds to supporters and their vehicles.
- **Sunbury Lock:** Rollers closed to supporters. Following complaints from the pub landlord, do not drive down towards or park in or near the Weir Public House. Please note, even if you use the pub, any car in the pub car park with a canoe roof rack may be clamped. All support crew must now park only in the car park of the Walton Leisure Centre and may provide support anywhere along the lock cut on the towpath side.
- **Molesey Lock and Rollers:** Closed to supporters. Support may be provided from the towpath up or downstream of the lock.

- **Westminster. (St Thomas's Hospital / County Hall / London Eye).**

THERE IS NO PARKING FOR MINIBUSES OR OTHER HIGH VEHICLES, CANOE TRAILERS OR VEHICLES WITH ROOF RACKS/CANOE RACKS AT ST THOMAS' HOSPITAL. All such vehicles must use car parking available at the South Bank (by the Royal Festival Hall). Follow signposts to car parking.

NO BOATS MAY BE LOADED ONTO VEHICLES AT ST THOMAS' HOSPITAL.

ALL BOATS MUST, ON FINISHING, BE CARRIED TO CAR PARKS AT THE SOUTH BANK. Support vehicles that do not have roof racks may use St Thomas' Hospital car park. Any attempt to load boats at the hospital will be penalised. The St Thomas' Hospital car park is marshalled by DW staff.

To reach St Thomas's Hospital pay and display car park, follow signposts. Follow the instructions of DW officials at the County Hall steps at all times. Although it may appear otherwise, the steps and walkway in front of County Hall are private property and the DW race requires the ongoing cooperation of the owners to be able to run the event to this location.

Reception for crews is in the clearly marked "DW Village" within the grounds of St Thomas's Hospital.

PLEASE NOTE: NO DW PERSONNEL, WHETHER PADDLERS OR SUPPORTERS MAY ENTER ANY HOSPITAL BUILDING EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY. ST THOMAS' IS A MAJOR EMERGENCY CENTRE AND A WORKING HOSPITAL. TREAT THIS AREA WITH THE GREATEST RESPECT AT ALL TIMES.

Other restrictions may apply. In all cases, follow directions from race officials. Substantial time penalties will apply to crews whose supporters ignore any of these restrictions or closures.

Lights

Do not shine lights directly at paddlers as it damages their night vision.

Do not use flashing or novelty lighting.

Carry spare white light-sticks and torch batteries.

Supporting Instructions (4-Day paddlers only)

This applies to Junior Doubles, Vet/Junior, Singles and Endeavour.

Severe congestion and over-crowding at portages have resulted in these restrictions.

Supporter and Car restrictions – vehicle identification and armbands/wristbands

Each boat in the Stages (4-day) classes is limited to 2 support vehicles and 4 support crew. DW identification showing the boat number for 4 people and 2 vehicles will be given to each crew with their boat number at Devizes. Vehicle identification must be displayed as instructed for the entire race. Personal identification must be worn at portages, camp sites and at the finish at Westminster. To avoid congestion only one vehicle and two support crew may ever be present at the same time at any one portage. Extra supporters are not permitted even if they do not arrive by car.

Each team is permitted one additional Team Leader vehicle. The Team Leader must pick up vehicle and personal identification in person at Devizes. The Team Leader must wear the personal identification as above.

Restrictions at Portages

At a portage, only supporters with issued identification may provide food and drink or other physical support to competitors. "At a portage" is defined as "anywhere along the racing line near the water's edge". The racing line is defined as "any point where a crew exits the water to wherever it chooses to get back in and the length of the towpath in between". Only support crew vehicles displaying a valid identification may go to a portage. For vehicles, "at a portage" means the nearest car park to the portage or any road adjacent to the portage. Designated vehicle ID only car parking may be signposted or otherwise notified to supporters.

Spectators who are not providing direct support to a crew

The Organisers urge other spectators to avoid portages and go to alternative viewing places such as bridges, river-side or canal-side roads and other open ground near the water.

Campsites

There will be vehicle ID -Only car parking areas at the stage stops at Newbury, Marlow and Ham.

At stage stops only supporters with issued identification may approach the campsite and only to hand over camping equipment. No supporters are allowed in or around the campsite.

Entrants in the Junior Doubles class must erect their own tents, assemble beds and prepare all their food without any outside help. Outside assistance is not permitted and will be penalised.

Westminster

At Westminster only supporters with armbands will be permitted between the London Eye and Westminster Bridge. Others should stay upstream of the Bridge or downstream of the London Eye.

Supporters may not disturb the time-keepers at any point, for example by shouting or screaming at their crews.

Under no circumstances can supporters use banners on Westminster Bridge. (This is not a DW rule but imposed by London Transport and Westminster City Council.)

Each breach of the restrictions on supporters will receive a 30 minute time penalty. Repeated breaches will result in disqualification.

If a specific crew cannot be identified, the penalty will be applied to the team or organisation concerned.