

Head of the Yarra Contingency Plan

The Head of the Yarra Organising Committee has several contingency plans and procedures in place. The main contingency plans relate to:

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| 1 | Moving the start line | This would reduce race distance and may need to happen if river obstructions occur, or if bridges cannot be passed safely. |
| 2 | Moving the finish line | Similarly, this would reduce race distance and may need to happen if river obstructions occur, or if bridges cannot be passed safely. |
| 3 | Delaying the start | A high risk event when course umpires take their places and call into the race referee to confirm the course is clear – or they have identified an obstruction.
a) The starter will make announcements to those at the start line.
b) Start line staging marshals will use megaphones to make announcements at the staging. |
| 4 | Suspending racing after the start due to an accident, obstruction on the course or a logjam at the finish line | This is a particularly difficult scenario with crews on the course.
a) Race referee will instruct course umpires to stop crews on the course from racing.
b) The Starter will cease starting crews.
c) Start line marshals will stop crews coming onto the water.
d) Course umpires will manage crews already on the course.
e) Start line team will manage crews at the start line on the water. |
| 5 | Re-starting the race after a suspension of racing | Course umpires will instruct crews already on the course to row through the rest of the course to the turn around point (no race time recorded).
a) The Start Team and Start Timing Team will exercise their best discretion in starting remaining crews in the remaining time left to conduct racing on the closed river.
b) Staging marshals will keep waiting crews informed of the revised arrangements. |

In all circumstances, continuation of the race will depend of the ability of race officials to implement the relevant contingency plan in the time available.

Please note that a high risk factor with the race is that our Event Permit (including river closure) has time limitations. We do not therefore have the luxury of taking as long as we need to make up any lost time. Parks Victoria will be the ultimate arbiter as to how long we can extend racing if required.

Rowing Victoria's Extreme Heat Policy

- At a temperature of 34°C, or a Heat Index of 35 no rowers aged 16 years and under may compete
- At a temperature of 38°C or a Heat Index of 35 all rowing competition is to cease.

Thus a window of opportunity exists for mature rowers at temperatures from 34–37°C in conditions such as low relative humidity where the Heat Index is below 35.

Once the air temperature at a regatta reaches 25 degrees, conditions must be evaluated every hour. Two successive readings of a Heat Index of 35 at 15 minute intervals require the referee to suspend racing.

The ultimate responsibility for decisions re extreme heat rests with the referee who may consult with the regatta's Primary Health Care Provider.

If the conditions change during the event it may be necessary to inform crews actually competing that all racing must cease. This will be done by communication with the Lifesaving Victoria craft along the course and with race officials at their various stations. If it becomes necessary to cease competition the race will be declared a non-event initially for junior competitors, and then if required for mature rowers.

Advice from Bureau of Meteorology indicates that in stable weather conditions, an accurate highest temperature forecast can be provided 5-6 days in advance. If such advice indicates the strong possibility of extreme heat conditions, the Head of Yarra Regatta Organising Committee will inform competitors re the possible restrictions applying to the event.

In order for you to respond properly to our contingency plans, you merely need to listen to instructions provided by Regatta Officials and Umpires. These are people who will be providing you with instructions via megaphones.