



SUPPORTERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

Competitors are responsible for the conduct of anyone who turns up to watch or support them. The terms "supporter" and "support crew" are used interchangeably. 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.

General principles of supporting crews 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 from time to time by the Organisers.

Abuse

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

However, 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.

Supporting Instructions – All Classes

Driving and Parking

Obey all traffic rules and restrictions at all times.

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 parking restrictions; do not obstruct emergency access or driveways, railway crossings or junctions. Do not park on private property.

Portages

Do not swamp the course with supporter crews and vehicles. Minimise the number of cars following. Other classes are subject to specific rules set out below. Keep dogs on a lead at all times and inside vehicles at night time on the Senior Doubles race to avoid disturbing residents. Keep noise to a minimum in residential areas. Follow instructions from marshals and umpires at locks, where access may be restricted on safety grounds to one person per crew.

Closed or Restricted Access Portages

The following locks are closed for all support crews irrespective of their mode of transport:

- Little Bedwyn
- County
- Blake's
- Shiplake
- Boveney.

Parking/driving restrictions apply at the following locks:

In the event of retirement or emergency, call Race Control on 0207 620 0298

- 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.
- 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 so illegally parked vehicles will be ticketed. Use the public car park which will be fully open.
- 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 – 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 walk to the lock (about a ten-minute walk).

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

Lighting and visibility

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

Support Crew Restrictions (Stages Classes only)

Supporter and Car restrictions – armbands and car stickers.

Boats in the Stages (4-day) classes are limited to 2 support vehicles and 4 support crew each. Four arm bands and two vehicle stickers will be given to each crew with their boat number at Devizes. Stickers must be displayed in support vehicles. Arm bands must be worn at portages, camp sites and at the finish at Westminster. Teams are permitted one additional Team Leader vehicle. The Team Leader must pick up a vehicle sticker and arm band in person at Devizes. Excluding the Team Leader's vehicle, only one vehicle and two support crew may ever be present at the same time at any one portage.

Restricted areas.

At a portage, only supporters with an arm band 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 tow-path in between". Only support crew vehicles displaying a valid sticker 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 sticker-only car parking may be signposted or otherwise notified to supporters.

Spectators who are not providing tangible support to a crews.

The Organisers urge other spectators to avoid portages and go to alternative viewing places such as bridges, riverside- or canal-side-roads and other open ground near the water. A list of such locations is published on the Race website.

Campsites

Sticker-only car parking may include areas around the stage stops at Newbury, Marlow and Ham. At stage stops only supporters with armbands may be near the outer exclusion area around the campsite and only to hand over camping equipment. No supporters are allowed into the inner area of the

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Devizes to Westminster 2013
The 2013 Race will use GMT throughout.

Supporters' Code of Conduct

campsite. Crews must erect tents, mattresses and other equipment themselves. Entrants in the Junior Doubles class must cook for themselves. 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 interfere with, the time-keepers at any point. Each breach of the restrictions on supporters will receive a 30 minute time penalty. Repeated breaches will result in disqualification. In the event that a specific crew cannot be identified, the penalty will be applied to the team or organisation concerned.

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.