

Erith and Gravesend Rowing Clubs

Cancellation and Postponement Procedure

Danson Dashes Regatta Saturday 16th August 2025

This document sets out the procedure to be followed where there is a need to postpone or cancel racing. These are guidelines rather than strict rules. Responsible officials should, at all times, do what makes sense in terms of making and communicating decisions.

This procedure should ensure that nothing is forgotten.

The Race Committee Chairman and the Safety Adviser are responsible for the operation of this procedure and should constantly monitor racing conditions.

Cancellation or postponement may arise from, for example:

- Steadily worsening weather, resulting in unfair or unsafe racing.
- Temporary weather crisis such as a thunderstorm or squall.
- Major incident such as an accident (on water or on land) or a security alert.

The actions they can take include:

- Change the **timetable**: run later/extend the days racing.
- Change the **draw**: institute time trials.

This document cannot describe the action to be taken in every circumstance: that is what the responsible Officers are there to decide. They should do this by meeting in person if possible: in extreme circumstances they can do so by radio or mobile phone.

In doing so they should follow these basic steps:

- **Evaluate**: actively seek information from relevant people (umpires, marshals, regatta officials) in order to make well-informed decisions, concentrating on facts rather than opinions.
- **Decide**: consider all reasonable actions in the circumstances, select those that are in the best interests of fair racing and safety of competitors and officials.
- **Communicate**: ensure all relevant people are informed quickly once a decision is made and confirm that key people (e.g. Start, finish and umpires) have received the message.

Common considerations:

Speed is of the essence. It may be wise to suspend racing immediately for, say, 30 minutes, to allow proper consideration of a re-draw or other major changes. A full decision can then be made and announced later.

It's wise to stop crews boating immediately, even if a firm decision has not been made.

In worsening weather conditions racing should be suspended when conditions become unfair rather than waiting until they become patently unsafe.

The quickest way to clear competitors from the course may be to race them to the finish.

If competitors are evacuated from the course other than at the finish, they need to be provided with warm, dry cover if possible.

Officials, timing people and stakeboat people need attention as well as competitors.

There are well-established guidelines on actions in the event of a thunderstorm (refer to the Risk Assessment).

Communication Checklist RCC = Race Committee Chair; RC = Race Committee; SA = Safety Adviser.

Summary of decision:

- _____ Radio Control Commission to stop boating (may be done whilst a decision is being made).
- _____ Consult Race Committee before making decisions that affect the draw or timetable.
- _____ Confirm Race Committee understand the decision and resultant changes.
- _____ Confirm Start understands the decision.
- _____ Confirm Race Control understands the decision.
- _____ Announce decision on all radio networks.
- _____ Announce decision over commentary.
- _____ Organise officials to manage evacuation of the course.
- _____ Confirmation from officials that required evacuation is complete.
- _____ Set a time to review and amend the decision (e.g. as the weather improves)
- _____ Post a statement at Race Control.

PA / Commentary Standard Statement

“This is an important announcement for all competitors. Racing has been temporarily suspended, and no competitor should go afloat for the time being.

A statement will be made in ___ minutes at _____ (time). Please listen for further announcements at that time.”