

## **St. Catharines Rowing Club - Weather / Action Plan for Club Regattas:**

This weather action plan provides an outline regarding the procedures as well as the steps to be taken in the event that weather conditions become a concern.

The Chief Umpire and Regatta Chair will monitor the weather forecast through web sites (radar , local weather stations and local weather forecasts), as well as by phone with One on One Environment Canada Weather.

References to weather related Websites

- a) Environment Canada Western Lake Ontario

[http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/marine/forecast\\_e.html?mapID=11&siteID=08207&stationID=](http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/marine/forecast_e.html?mapID=11&siteID=08207&stationID=)

- b) Exeter

Radar(north)[http://www.ontarioweather.com/current/radar/ontario/exeter\\_anim\\_wso.asp](http://www.ontarioweather.com/current/radar/ontario/exeter_anim_wso.asp)

- c) King Radar

(west)[http://www.ontarioweather.com/current/radar/ontario/king\\_anim\\_wkr.asp](http://www.ontarioweather.com/current/radar/ontario/king_anim_wkr.asp)

- d) Buffalo Radar (south)<http://radar.weather.gov/radar.php?rid=buf>

- e) Windfinder (Port Weller) [http://www.windfinder.com/forecast/port\\_weller](http://www.windfinder.com/forecast/port_weller)

- f) SailFlow

<http://www.sailflow.com/windandwhere.iws?regionID=96&siteID=1994&lsection=Forecast+Graphs>

- g) The Weather Network (St. Catharines hourly forecast, and radar forecast)

[http://www.theweathernetwork.com/hourlyfx/caon0638/hourlytable/1/?ref=tabs\\_hourly\\_table](http://www.theweathernetwork.com/hourlyfx/caon0638/hourlytable/1/?ref=tabs_hourly_table)

### **1. Procedures:**

The Weather Action Plan is set into action when:

- 1.1 The Chief Umpire and Regatta Chair determine that pending weather conditions require action to ensure safety. This may include:

- a) Holding additional boats from launch and finishing the races of a boat category; and/or
- b) Immediately calling all crews off the water; and/or
- c) Continuing to monitor weather, reviewing additional data.

- 1.2 If action is required the following are the responsibilities of the Regatta Chair and Chief Umpire.

- d) Chief Umpire informs the Jury (start line, umpires, and finish) of the action plan and instructs the Regatta Control Commission to monitor and account for all boats on the water by crew. The Chief Umpire will also communicate the action plan to the Safety Boat Director for safety boats on the water.

- e) The Regatta Chair / Chief Umpire ensures that a public announcement is made regarding the action plan.

## **2. Evacuation from Water**

- 2.1 The Control Commission must account for all crews on and just off the water. The Control Commission will monitor and record all crew names and follow up with crew coaches to ensure all crews are off the water.
- 2.2 Catamaran at the start will evacuate all persons in the area back to island facility.
- 2.3 Umpire boats and safety boats will follow crews back to the island dock and be last off the water.
- 2.4 Chief Finish Judge will watch all crews at finish and in last 500m area and communicate to Control Commission to ensure all crews are accounted for. Under some circumstances, it may be safer to have crews in the finish area go to the Grandstand and disembark there. This information, including the names of the crews involved, MUST be communicated to the Control Commission
- 2.5 The Starter will watch all crews at the start including in the warm-up area to ensure they have been informed of the plan and start heading back to the island dock. The Starter(s) will designate an umpire boat to follow the last crew back to the dock.
- 2.2.6 On-water Umpires will advise all crews on the water to return to the dock and ensure that a safety boat and/or an Umpire boat follows the last crews back to the dock.
- 2.2.7 Dock Marshals will ensure crews quickly exit the dock area. Shells return to the dock in a southbound direction (from the finish). However, during course closure the Dock Marshal may allow boats to dock from either direction ensuring that northbound docking shells and the southbound docking shells do not crossover docking patterns.
- 2.2.8 Chief Umpire, Regatta Chair and Chief of the Control Commission will confirm everybody (crews, umpire boats, safety boats, start personnel and others) is safely off the water.

## **3. Following Evacuation from Water:**

The Regatta Chair and Chief Umpire will review options related to the weather and make an announcement as soon as possible regarding the projected length of the delay.

## **4. Delay Contingency Plan**

The Regatta Organizing Committee has the right to reschedule races for safety reasons in the event of bad weather. Any changes in the schedule will be announced on the island and posted as appropriate. It is the responsibility of the crews and coaches to monitor announcements and stay current with the schedule.

Any changes required by a delay are deemed to supersede the published related requirements of the RCA Rules of Racing. During the condensed schedule, crews that are not competitive in the race and have dropped well back behind the field may be excluded from the race and directed to remove themselves from the course. No allowance will be made for athlete conflicts due to reducing time between races and substitutions will not be allowed.

### **5. Schedule Changes Options:**

The Regatta Chair and Chief Umpire will decide on and communicate schedule changes to the jury, organizing committee, finish tower etc. and will ensure announcements are made and communicated to coaches, crews, all areas applicable areas of the regatta including the grandstand and finish tower.

Races may be run with reduced time between races to complete the schedule. If it is not possible to complete the schedule the Regatta Chair and Chief Umpire may decide to award medals based on winning heat times.

2015/06/29