

Tees Regatta 2009

The Course and Notes on Steering

The course is 4 lanes wide and approximately 850 metres long.

The Barrage is at the east end of the course, the Princess of Wales Bridge at the west end.

The direction of racing is from east to west, from The Barrage towards the Bridge.

You race against the stream (very slight under normal conditions).

The regatta base is on the north bank - the Stockton side.

The course is straight and runs parallel to most of the north bank. The start and finish lines are also parallel - there is no stagger. The course is buoyed in four lanes and has a stakeboat start.

The lanes are named South, South Centre, North Centre and North. The lanes are 12.5 m wide (cf a sweep boat 6.8 metres blade tip to blade tip). The buoys are also every 12.5 m. For the last 100m the buoys are red.

There are other buoys on the river, both large and small, that are not associated with the racing course.

The north bank bends northwards at each end. As a result the launching steps are off the racing line in what amounts to a bay.

The east end of the launching steps is approximately 125 metres from the finish.

Competitors must go to the start on the south side. There is a very large bay to the south of the course - there is therefore plenty of safe space in which to paddle to the start off the racing line - but please note that this space runs out near the start line. You should therefore wait in the bay clear of the course and await instruction from the mid-course marshall (near large white buildings) before proceeding to the start. When paddling to the start, you will need to go between the stakeboats. Please do this with caution and with care for the people in the stakeboats.

If there is a side wind when attaching to the stakeboats, you may need to 'scratch' the boat around, particularly the eights. If you don't know, 'scratching' involves 3 rowing with 2's blade to move the boat to bow side or 2 rowing with bow's blade to move the boat to stroke side.

If it is sunny the sun may be in your eyes when you are racing (particularly later in the afternoon) - cap and / or sunglasses are advised.

Please also note that Regatta rules and instructions, such as the Circulation Pattern and Safety Procedures, should be noted and understood before going afloat.