



QUALIFYING RACES

FRIDAY, 26 JUNE & SATURDAY 27 JUNE 2026

General Instructions for Competitors and Coaches

- Qualifying Races will take place between 18:30 and 20:45 on Friday 26 June and between 09:00 and 14:00 on Saturday 27 June (UK time).
- All crews entered into the Regatta must check the document '*Crews Required to Qualify and Timetable*' available on the website (hrr.co.uk/compete) to see if their crew is required to row in Qualifying Races - please check all the Events entered.
- **Crews are formally advised that penalties may be imposed on Clubs that fail to comply with these instructions.**

Travelling, Parking & Rigging

- Please allow plenty of time to reach Henley as traffic conditions on Fridays and Saturday mornings are very difficult – allow at least 4 hours to travel from London.
- Parking instructions are available on the website (hrr.co.uk/compete). Subject to weather conditions, spectator parking will be available in Green's Field, and cars will be charged £15 on entry – payment by cash or card.
- All crews boating from Lion Meadow **MUST** bring their oars/sculls into the Boat Tent Area before they bring in their boats to minimise congestion.
- The rigging of boats must be carried out on Lion Meadow, and in no circumstances should boats be put on trestles in front of the Boat Tent.

Competitor Wristbands

- Access to the Boat Tent, changing and toilet facilities is restricted to those wearing pre-event wristbands.
- The crew or coach should report to Crew Enquiries to collect their pre-event wristbands, which are valid only until Monday 29 June.

Reporting and Weighing

- Each boat **MUST** carry its correct racing number, available from the Boat Tent Official.
- A Regatta Official will collect number plates from crews when returning to the pontoons after racing.
- Coxswains **MUST, without exception**, be weighed at Crew Enquiries before racing. Proof of weighing, including any deadweight to be carried, will be inspected by a Regatta Official either as the crew boats or when the crew returns after racing, or both.

Timetable

- Qualifying Races will be timed races over the Regatta Course, and there will be a separate 'race' for each Event.
- Crews will start their 'race' in alphabetical order, at intervals of approximately 30 seconds.
- The times shown on the 'Timetable' are the starting times for the first crew in each Group.
- Your crew must be ready below the Start for assembly in the correct order at least 10 minutes before that time, irrespective of your place in the starting order; you should leave the boating pontoons between 25 and 30 minutes before the starting time for your Group. Conditions are expected to be very warm so you should avoid prolonging the time you are on the water.

Training on the Course

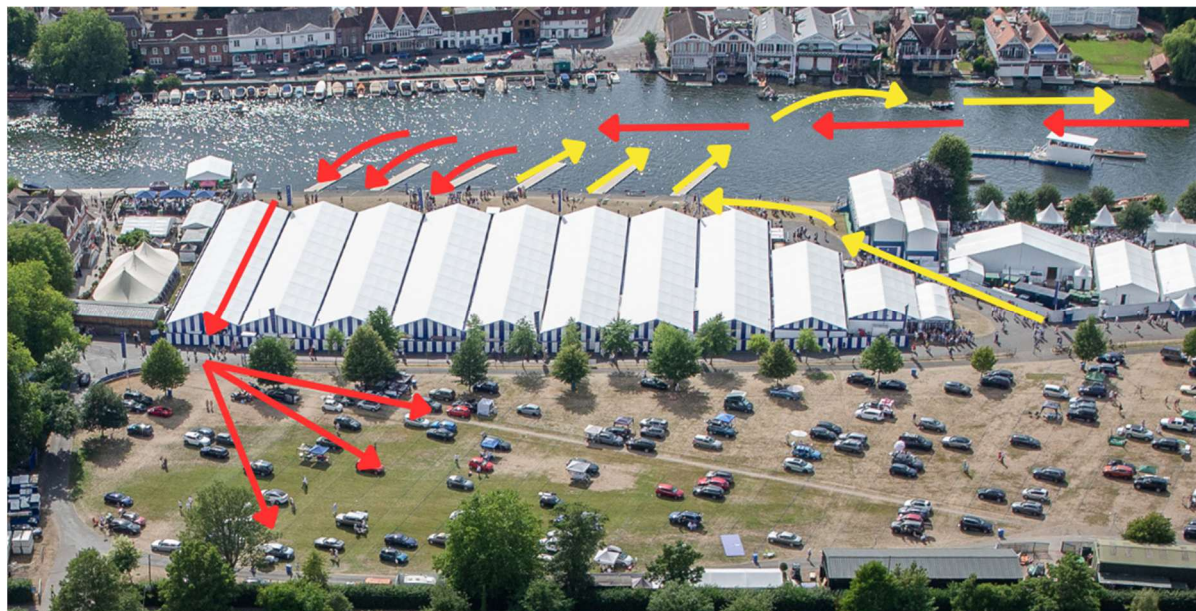
- To ensure there is no interference with competing crews, the Course will be closed for training from 16:30 on Friday and 07:30 on Saturday.
- All crews having training outings, whether involved in the Qualifying Races or not, are required to be off the water and off the lawn in front of the Boat Tent by 16:30 on Friday and 07:30 on Saturday.
- Crews competing in the first Event may boat from 17:45 on Friday and 08:15 on Saturday.

Bicycles on the Towpath

- In the interests of Health & Safety, it is an absolute rule that no bicycle (either ridden or pushed) shall be brought onto the towpath in front of the Enclosures.
- Cyclists must follow the diversion signs.
- Any coach flouting this rule will place the continued participation of their crew in the Regatta at risk.

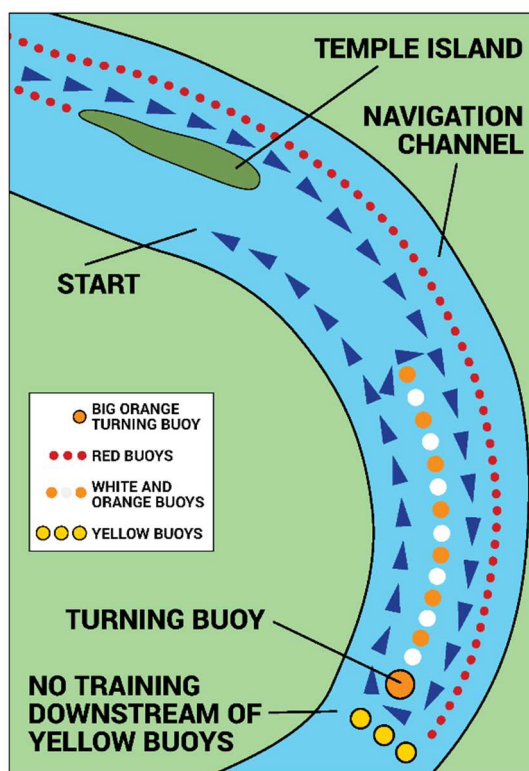
Boating

NEW: All crews are to familiarise themselves with the NEW arrangements for the 2026 Qualifying Races for boating, both when going out to race from the pontoons, and when returning to the pontoons after racing, as shown on the plan below. **This applies to the movement of boats and oars.** This NEW circulation pattern will commence from 18:05 and will be monitored by Regatta officials – crews **MUST** follow these new instructions.

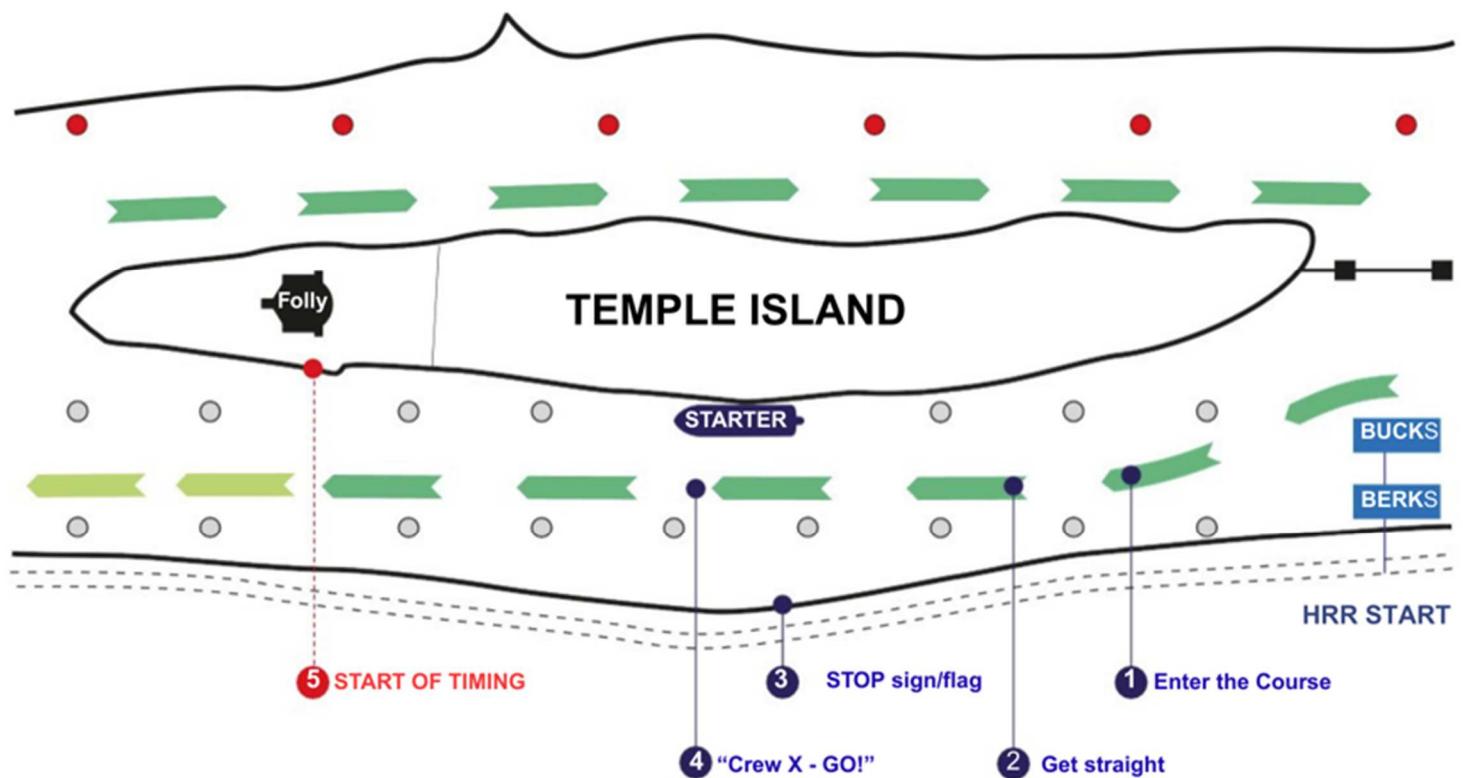


The Start

- Marshals below the Start will assist crews to turn and assemble in the correct starting order.
- The Marshals will instruct the crews when to move up towards the Starter.



- The Starter will be standing in a launch which will be moored against Temple Island on the Bucks Station.
- A red 'STOP' marker flag is on the Berkshire bank opposite the launch.



- Crews will be instructed to paddle slowly towards the Start, keeping to the Bucks (Island) Station and enter the Course.
- The crew will then GET STRAIGHT, on the Berks (towpath) Station.
- As crews approach the Starter they will be ordered to 'STOP'.
- When the boat is straight and the crew is ready, the Starter will state the crew name and then give the order 'GO'.
- CREWS WILL BE TIMED FROM A POINT APPROXIMATELY 200 YARDS UPSTREAM FROM THE STARTER'S LAUNCH – THERE WILL BE A SIGN INDICATING 'TIMING'.
- From stationary by the Starter's Launch, crews may make a 'standing start' or a 'rolling start' but should make sure that they have reached racing speed by the time they reach the Timing Point.
- Any competitor requiring medical attention should report to the Paramedic stationed at the Start for assessment - a pontoon will be stationed below the Start on the Berkshire bank from which the crew may disembark. From this point, the crew will no longer be considered as racing and will be directed to row back to the Boat Tent at the earliest opportunity. A decision about substitutions or racing at a later time will be made by the Stewards.

On the Course

- Umpires will be stationed along the Course to direct crews in the event of an emergency occurring.
- Crews should row the race on the Berks Station and only move out to the Bucks Station if they are about to be overtaken by another crew.
- **A crew being overtaken must move out of the way** once the overtaking crew gets close to being just one length of clear water behind.
- If your crew is forced to stop on the Course for any reason, PULL ACROSS TO THE BUCKS SIDE to leave the Berks side free for the crews behind you.

Results

- A crew's time over the Course will be recorded.
- A list of those crews that have qualified to compete in the Regatta will be posted on the notice board outside the Crew Enquiries Office about an hour after each qualifying race has finished.
- Results will also be available on the website (hrr.co.uk).

Departure

- Trailers involved in Qualifying Races on Saturday, may remain in Lion Meadow from Friday into Saturday.
- ALL trailers MUST be removed from Lion Meadow by 18:00 on the evening Saturday 27 June.
- Penalties may be imposed on clubs that fail to comply with this requirement.
- Clubs remaining in Henley MUST move their trailers to the trailer park on Butler's Field **by 18:00**, or as soon as possible.
- Clubs no longer in the Regatta MUST immediately remove their cars and trailers from the Regatta site, although space has been allocated at Fawley Meadows for Clubs needing to leave a trailer in Henley.

Food

- Café Regatta will be open all day.
- Food trailers will be serving pizzas, Greek wraps and burgers.

Retail

- The Boat Tent Shop will be open on Qualifying Race Days.
- Qualifying Race Day Special: with a QR Grandstand wristband, receive a FREE 2026 Poster with every purchase of an Entries T-Shirt – offer available in-store only.

Spectator Viewing Area – Members' Grandstand

- NEW for 2026, spectators will be able to watch the Qualifying Races undercover, from seating in the Members' Grandstand.
- Tickets to watch all qualifying races are available to purchase online at hrr.co.uk.
- Alternatively, tickets for individual sessions will be available to purchase on the day.
- Access to this new spectator area will be from the towpath in front of the Members' Grandstand.
- Soft drinks and snacks will be available to purchase close to the grandstand.