ELIZABETH QUAY ROWING REGATTAS

REGATTA MANAGEMENT PLAN

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Introduction

Regattas held at Elizabeth Quay (EQ) are a unique opportunity to be able to showcase the sport of rowing to a wider audience. Through linking regattas in EQ with other land-based events held at the same time, rowing can be showcased to audiences of over 20,000 people. This amount of live exposure is unheard of for rowing that is traditionally held in isolated purpose-built locations. To leverage this fantastic opportunity appropriately rowers, officials and marshals will need to work cohesively to deliver an event experience that is safe and exciting and to participants and spectators.

However in delivering regattas in such a high-profile location there are a number of additional safety concerns compared to regattas held in other co-shared river locations and the Champion Lakes Regatta Centre.

The additional safety concerns include:

- Shared use of water body with ferry services
- Shared use of water body with recreational boats
- Narrow approach channel
- Fast turn-around of events (4 minutes)
- Twilight/Night Regattas

Rowing WA has developed the following Regatta Management Plan to ensure that rowers, officials and supporters are provided the most enjoyable and safe experience when competing in or supporting events held at EQ.

In preparation of developing this document, a full risk assessment of holding rowing events in EQ was conducted.
Elizabeth Quay Regatta Flow Plan

The following flow plan outlines the movement of rowing boats prior to and following their races.
Shared use of water body with ferry services

There is a dedicated TransPerth ferry terminal within EQ with a ferry arriving or leaving approx. every 8 minutes in peak times. The Ferry timetable is available here: http://www.transperth.wa.gov.au/timetables/details?Ferry=Ferry&key=25

As you can see from the flow plan, ferries coming toward Elizabeth Quay from South Perth or vice versa will cross the return path of rowing vessels moving from Marshalling Area to Marshal 4. During night regattas, marshal 3 will be placed at the intersection of rowing craft and ferries shown in orange in the diagram. Rowing vessels must always give way to the commercial ferries. This marshal located at this crossing will act as a traffic controller and will advise rowing vessels if a ferry is on approach from either direction. However it is always the crew which has ultimate responsibility to remain well clear of any ferries in motion.

As Ferries enter EQ they generally swing quite wide before turning 180° to berth against the EQ ferry terminal on the western side of the quay. Upon departure from EQ, ferries will once again cross the course to exit through the navigable channel. Once outside the quay and en-route to South Perth, they will again cross the return path of rowing vessels moving from the finish line back to Marshalling Area 1 or the Launch Area.

Although TransPerth are aware of our events, ferries and other commercial vessels have complete right of way in all circumstances. Understanding the limited ability of rowing boats to take evasive action, coxswains and crews need to be extremely vigilant and take extreme caution when rowing in and around EQ and follow all instructions provided by on-water and off-water Rowing WA officials.

Rowing WA will provide the two South Perth to Elizabeth Quay ferries with radios to liaise with other on-water and land-based officials. A dedicated event official will communicate with all participating crews via a separate radio channel (to that of the one boat race officials utilise for event operations) to inform them of relevant ferry movements including:

- Ferries approaching the ferry/rower crossing from South Perth
- Ferries approaching the EQ Pedestrian Bridge
- Ferries about to depart the EQ ferry wharf

During rowing regattas held in twilight/night, it is increasingly important that rowing vessels follow all directions outlined in this document as it has been compiled with the input of the Department of Transport and TransPerth (ferry operator). If rowing vessels are operating outside of the designated areas it will significantly increase the chance of an incident occurring.
Shared use of water body with recreational boats

Recreational vessels can also access EQ at all times. There are berths for approx. 20 recreational vessels within EQ and regular recreational vessel movements are common, especially when the weather is conducive to boating. Collaborating with these vessels increase the exposure of our sport to the general public but they are also an additional hazard to manage. Officials and marshals will be positioned around the regatta course, marshalling areas and key congestion points to ensure the smooth marriage between recreational boating and rowing vessels.

During rowing regattas held in twilight/night, due to reduced visibility at these times, all crews and officials need to remain highly vigilant of recreational boat movements as they may be extremely unpredictable. Key recreational vessel contact points include:

- In the navigation channel from the Narrows Bridge, continuing past Elizabeth Quay, Barrack St Square, WA Rowing Club and along Riverside Drive. If you are not aware of this channel please refer to the Department of Transport Swan and Canning Riverpark Boating Guide.
- In the EQ inlet, with vessels:
  - Arriving and departing the public jetties (predominantly on the Western side of the inlet).
  - Sightseeing but not docking on the public jetties. These vessels pose a greater nuisance as they are typically operating on the course line.
- There are also numerous vessel moorings between EQ and the Narrows Bridge on the northern side of the river.

To make other vessels aware of the rowing regatta, Rowing WA will:

- Liaise with the MRA to have A-Frame signage placed on the public jetties indicating that there is a rowing event to be held in EQ on the event date.
- Communicate the event details to all charter companies that berth at Barrack St Jetty.
Narrow rowing course approach channel

To improve the flow of events and keep rowing boats out of the navigable channel used by ferries and recreational boats, rowing vessels will enter EQ under the bridge to the eastern side of the island. This is a relatively narrow section of water with a bend at the end to get around the most southern jetty finger on the eastern side of the inlet.

A marshal will be positioned on this finger to direct rowing boats through this section of water and advise of any recreational boats entering/exiting their berth. There will be an on-water marshal (marshal 4) positioned on the southern side of this bridge to assist in managing crews who are holding in this location.

On the diagram, the Marshal Area is where crews will wait to be instructed by marshal 2 to proceed to marshal area 2, marshal 4 will then instruct crews to move under the Eastern Bridge to await further instructions from the pontoon marshal, before moving to the start.

Marshalling Point 3 is in front of the recreational vessel berths, where recreational vessels may be coming and going regularly. Marshals will advise arriving vessels of the regatta in progress however rowing boats need to also be courteous and respectful to these vessels.

Marshal 5, also acting as the safety boat, will be positioned inside of the Quay with a primary responsibility of advising all recreational vessels that enter the Quay of the event taking place. The marshal will politely ask the vessel to move off the course to avoid delays to the race schedule.

Fast turn-around of events (4 minutes)

Regattas at Elizabeth Quay are designed to be fast-paced exciting events that attract and hold the attention of passers-by and ultimately attract new people to our sport. To achieve this objective race starts will be scheduled at 4-minute intervals. This will require rowers, coxswains, officials and marshals to be competent and organised.

The flow plan and description in the next section outlines how these rapid starts can be achieved. Marshals will be in constant communication with race officials to ensure crews are constantly advised of race start times, delays, etc.

Depending on the number of crews in a race category the style of progression from heats will differ. Crews will be advised during the regattas to when their next race will be depending on their finish position in the subsequent race. Communication is key. If crews are unaware of their next race start time they need to approach the marshal on the beach or marshal 2 in the marshalling area.

Once crews are in the marshalling area they need to be ready to move onto the start line as soon as the preceding race has moved off the line. Marshals on the finger jetties will advise of when to move. With only three minutes from the start of the previous race, crews will need to move swiftly and accurately to attach on to their respective start pontoon and be ready for a start.
The action that will take the most amount of time is the 180⁰ turn and reverse onto the start pontoon. From marshalling area 3 the first crew will move into the ‘Convention Centre’ (western) lane, the 2ⁿᵈ crew will move into the ‘Bell Tower’ (eastern) lane. In the essence of time, both crews will need to spin and reverse at the same time.

Race starts will be delayed for the arrival/departure of ferries.

Recreational boats leaving/arriving in the inlet will be held up as much as possible to fit in with the start schedule of rowing events.

**Twilight/Night Regattas**

Additional requirements for regattas held in EQ during twilight/night include:

- Minimum standard lighting
  - A 360 degree white light (visible up to 100m) along the gunnels of the boat as required for rowing vessels under marine legislation operating between sunrise and sunset
  - Coxswains must also carry a torch for use in emergency situations to alert other vessels if necessary.
- Boat speed (outside of the racing course) is to be kept under 5 knots. Other river users are not used to seeing rowing vessels at night so crews must be extremely vigilant of other river users and this is best manage at very low speeds.
- Although ferries will be made aware of our regattas, they have complete right of way
- Coxswains should be 100% certain of a clear path before making any changes of direction or speed, especially when operating around designated ferry paths (refer to flow plan).
- The two lane markers hung from the Pedestrian Bridge will be lit during twilight/night regattas
Regatta Logistics

**Boat Launching:** Boats can be launched from the park located underneath the large Australian Flag between EQ and The Narrows bridge. This location provides the closest water access possible to EQ for participants to be able to watch the regatta before or after they compete.

Other suggested launch sites (with appropriate permission) include South Perth Foreshore, West Australian Rowing Club, UWA Boat Club, Wesley College boatshed or Trinity College boatshed.

Whether crews choose to launch from this point or row in from other locations it is each crew’s responsibility to be at the Marshalling Area a minimum of 10 minutes prior to their required start time.

Crews must pick up their assigned bow number from the RWA personnel stationed at the launch site located under the RWA tent.

**Please note:** Crews will be charged for the replacement of damaged/missing bow numbers.

Further information on the boat park, rigging areas and trailer parking in this location is available in the *Boat Transport and Rigging Plan*.

**Marshalling Area 1** is located in the section of water between the EQ bridge and the Launch Area. Crews are welcome to move around this area prior to or following their races. An on-water marshal (marshal 2) will be located in this area to communicate with crews the progress of races and which crews are required to move to Marshalling Area 2. If you are unsure of when you are racing next then please approach marshal 2.

Marshalling Area 1 will be bound by 4 inflatable marker boys indicating the Marshalling Area boundaries. During night regattas these buoys will be lit. It is critical that crews remain with this area until they are told to move to Marshalling Area 2.

If crews are warming up prior to their event they must do this to the east of the Marshalling Area. There is a ferry channel to the west of Marshalling Area 1. Under no circumstances are crews to enter the ferry channel prior to their event.

**Marshalling Area 2** is located just outside and underneath the eastern bridge in EQ. Crews are required to be here no less than 6 minutes prior to their scheduled race start time. If there are event delays these will be communicated back to marshal 2 in Marshalling Area 1 and boat launching area to reduce the congestion in this area. Marshal 4 will be positioned on-water prior to entering this area and in this location to aid
communication with these crews. The crew racing in the ‘Convention Centre’ lane (lane 2) should be positioned in front of the crew racing in the ‘Bell Tower’ lane (lane 1).

**Marshalling Area 3** is located within EQ and in front of the eastern jetty fingers for recreational boats. A pontoon marshal will be positioned on the southern-most finger to communicate with crews moving from marshalling area 2 to 3. An aligner will be positioned on one of the more northern fingers to advise the crews where to hold and when to start moving onto the start line.

**Marshals and Officials** will be located at the locations outlined on the flow plan to assist crews with traffic flow and to communicate race results and times to crews. Once crews have completed their heats their point of contact for information on their next race is the marshal within Marshalling Area 1.

The **Start Line** is the northern-eastern boardwalk of EQ. Two temporary start pontoons will be erected for boat holders to assist rowing boats accurately reverse into the start area. From marshalling area 3 both crews will need to turn 180° before reversing into the start area. Crews should be proficient at this style of manoeuvre before race day. The fast and accurate attachment of rowing boats to the start pontoons is essential for the fast turn-around of races.
The **Rowing Course** cannot be buoyed due to the other users of the inlet. Hence visuals markers are very important for rowing boats to safely navigate the 200m course. The starting position for both lanes is **not** perpendicular to the boardwalk. However the start pontoons will be positioned in parallel to the line that rowing boats should align to have a straight run to the finish line. Two lane markers will also be hung from the bridge to give coxswains a visual marker to aim for during the race.

After **finishing a race** crews will follow the flow path back to Marshal 2 (refer to Flow Plan), where they will be advised about:

- Confirmation of their finish position;
- Confirmation of their next race time; and
- Whether to travel directly to Marshalling Area 2.

The **Finish Line** is a parallel line to the start line anchored from the central pillar of the pedestrian bridge. Due to the curve of the bridge the finish line is actually several metres in front of the actual bridge itself (as indicated). Once crews row underneath the bridge they need to make a slow turn to return back to Marshalling Area 1 where they need to wait to be advised of their next race time.
**Traffic Flow** of all rowing boats is based around the start of each race. Once a race commences:

- crews in marshalling area 3 will move to the start line as quickly as possible;
- crews in marshalling area 2 will move to marshalling area 3; and
- crews in marshalling area 1 will move to marshalling area 2

Marshals/Officials will be placed on land and water (in the locations indicated with yellow dots on the flow plan). It is imperative that you listen to and observe all directions provided by officials.

**Emergency Response:** In the instance that an emergency situation occurs, RWA marshals and officials will administer emergency response. As accredited officials they are trained in the identification and reduction of hazards related to rowers, rowing craft and regatta management. All marshals and officials will be in constant radio communication to handle emergency situations shall they arise.

For crews requiring emergency assistance, please make yourself known to the nearest marshal or official who will coordinate the appropriate action.

**Communication** between crews, umpires, marshals and RWA staff is essential for a successful event in EQ.

Umpires will communicate on a closed two-way radio channel to ensure no interference

Please ensure that all crew members have read and understand this document.

**General Boating and Safety Information**

It is advised that coxswains and strokes in particular, review Department of Transport publications, including:

- [Swan Canning Riverpark: Boating guide](#)
- [Paddle Safe](#)
- [Recreational rules and regulations](#)