

ALTON SPRING AND AUTUMN HEAD RACE SERIES

THUNDERSTORM STRATEGY & SAFETY PLAN

If a thunderstorm develops during the Head race this will be regarded as a HIGH RISK event and officials will move crews to a place of safety as soon as possible. It is recognised that crews on the water may not be in an ideal position to seek shelter and get off the water immediately. Officials will be directing them to a place where they can get off the water as quickly as possible to seek shelter.

The Race Committee and Umpires will monitor the progress of the thunderstorm from its start. There will be a chain of command via the public address system to instruct competitors, officials and spectators of actions to be taken.

Race Control will be instructed to stop all crews from going afloat until the all clear for resumption of racing is given.

The Start and Finish Umpires and the Marshalls shall instruct the crews on the water to return to the shore as quickly as they can, to disembark and remove the boat from the water and to seek shelter.

Race Control and the Marshalls shall help crews get off the water at the landing stages as quickly as possible.

Crews will be advised to keep their blades horizontal as many contain carbon fibre, a conductor that could attract lightning.

Instructions will be issued from the Umpires, Marshalls and Race Control.

Seeking Shelter

General recommendation for thunderstorms is that sheltering in a car is the safest process as the metal of the car will shield the occupants and the tyres act as insulators.

Tents with metals frames can also shield, however care must be taken to avoid touching the frame. The Starter and Finish Umpire should shelter in their respective areas.

Competitors and spectators should shelter in the Water Sports Centre.

Anyone sheltering in tents should avoid touching the metal poles

Before they leave their stations the Umpires should inspect the course for any crews on the water under their jurisdiction.

All officials are asked to familiarise themselves with this plan so that it can be instigated quickly should a storm occur on the day. Racing will not re-commence until 30 Minutes after the last lightning strike and rumble of thunder.