



# Vesta International Veterans Head of the River Race 2011 Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April at 0900

## WELFARE POLICY AND PLAN

### Policy

The Organisers of the Vesta Veterans Head of the River Race believe that the welfare and wellbeing of all children is paramount. All children, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, religion or ability, have equal rights to safety and protection. All suspicions, concerns and allegations of harm will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

A welfare officer will be appointed for the event and will act as the point of contact for any allegations or concerns. Their contact details will be included in the Competitors Instructions posted on the web site and will be made known to all race officials.

### CONTACT NUMBERS

Competition welfare officer – Sinéad Hayes	<b>07967 997609</b>
British Rowing child protection officer (CPO)	<b>020 8237 6700</b>
NSPCC	<b>0808 800 5000</b>
Local police	<b>0300 123 1212</b>

Please initially report any concerns to the Competition welfare officer.

### Plan

The welfare officer for the 2010 event will be Ms Sinéad Hayes. She will be available throughout the duration of the event and will be contactable by any race official via the radio network or by mobile phone where this is deemed more appropriate. She will determine appropriate action to be taken, and should any incident warrant such action, will be responsible for reporting to the police and the British Rowing child protection officer.

Given the nature of the event, where crews are boating from a variety of locations along the river, it is not possible for the event organisers to take responsibility for security at any specific location. Adults with responsibility for children entered in the event are expected to ensure that boating locations are suitable. Adults – coaches and parents – are also reminded of the need for suitable clothing for the event, given that there is the possibility of a long wait before the start; crew coaches are further reminded that in rough conditions, it is they who must make the assessment of whether their crew can safely boat and race in the conditions – particularly so in this veteran event where all the juniors participating are coxswains. Row Safe sections 1.4, 1.7, 1.8 and 3.2 are particularly relevant. We also draw your attention to our instructions to entrants indicating that while there are no age restrictions on coxes, we suggest that they are over 16 and experience to cope with their crew on the Tideway in whatever conditions we find ourselves having to combat on the day.

In the event that a junior participant goes missing for a period exceeding 30 minutes, the welfare officer should be contacted and she will contact the police if this has not already been done. The crew contact details entered on the British Rowing Entry Form will be used to contact the adult responsible for any junior reportedly involved in an incident. It is therefore incumbent upon the person entering the crew to ensure that a usable contact number is included in the entry. No individual contact details for juniors will be held by the committee.

All competitors in the event may be photographed or filmed by amateurs, or by professionals who sell these images and footage, and these media may be used for identification or publicity purposes. The organisers of the Vesta Veterans Head cannot prevent this, as the banks and the bridges crossing the course are open to the public. Officials and competitors must be aware of this.