

Skerries Rowing Club

Annual Regatta



Event Plan

Venue: Red Island, Skerries Harbour

Date: 1st July 2023



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1. Introduction

Under the guidance of the East Coast Rowing Council (ECRC) various clubs along the east coast of Ireland compete in a number of regattas hosted by each club at their home venues between May and September. Each regatta consists of number of individual races of varying difficulty from U/12's up to Veterans.

Skerries Rowing Club will host their regatta on the **1st July 2023** at Skerries Harbour. The event will begin at 10.00hrs, the races will begin at 11.00hrs and will be completed approximately six hours later at 17.00hrs. All races will be run in accordance with ECRC guidelines. A list of events can be found in Appendix 1.

It is the policy of Skerries Rowing Club to provide a safe environment at the Skerries Rowing Club Regatta at Skerries Harbour, Co. Dublin by ensuring that all facets of the event are managed in a manner so as to maximise the safety of all spectators and participants attending and participating in the event, together with the provision of competent organisers and safety management systems for all competitors and spectators in attendance.

This Safety Plan incorporates the key points of all the rowing clubs involved, our aim is that all competitors, officials and visitors will uphold all Good Practice that exist in Rowing throughout all the clubs participating this weekend.

A copy of the Safety Plan is lodged with Fingal County Council.

Medical professionals, Ambulance personal will be on site during the day of the Regatta and will be present during the whole Regatta. There will also be a Doctor on call during the regatta.

Safety boats crewed by trained personnel will be patrolling the course throughout the regatta.

Umpires are equipped with loudhailers and basic safety equipment; throw-bags and emergency blankets.

Safety boats, umpires and other regatta officials are provided with radios operating on the Umpires' channel for communication.



2.0 Organising Committee

2.1 Event Managers:

Niamh Butler **086 8341604**
Stephen Comiskey **085 747 5130**

The Event Managers will be responsible for:

- Ensuring the event is organised in a timely manner
- Ensuring the event runs as outlined on the day

2.2 Safety Officer:

Paul Pearson **083 331 3754**

The Safety Officer will be responsible for:

- Developing & updating this Safety Plan as required in conjunction with the event Managers thus identifying all potential hazards for competitors on the water.
- Implement health and safety procedures
- Submit health and safety incident report to the East Coast Rowing Council

2.3 Head Steward/Traffic co-ordinator:

Joe Kelly **087 911 3738**

The Head Steward will be responsible for:

- Ensuring teams of volunteer stewards are in the correct key locations
- Ensuring traffic is kept flowing at the top of the harbour.
- Ensuring the RNLI slip is kept clear.

2.4 Race Organiser:

Niamh Butler **086 8341604**

The Race Organiser shall be responsible for:

- Co-ordinating all operations on the Start/Finish line including co-ordinating the race running order,
- Recording and issuing results.
- Identification of boats.
- Issuing of 10-minute warnings etc.



3.0 Safety Procedures

3.1 Safety Instructions & Information for Competitors

Equipment:

It is the responsibility of each crew to ensure that the equipment that they are using is safe and compliant with the requirements of the East Coast Rowing Council (ECRC) Rules of Racing and rowing Irelands safety manuals.

- All participants at the regatta will wear a personal flotation device.
- Coxes presenting at the pre-launch inspection without life jackets on will not be allowed on the water.
- All boats must have secure bow fenders.
- Coxswains must wear a life jacket in the correct manner and be familiar with the method of operation. In “front-loader” boats coxswains must wear manually operated gas inflation life jackets. Inspections will be conducted, and omissions may lead to disqualification.
- All boats will have a marine VHF radio and will have it tuned to the relevant channel as advised at the coxes meeting.

Coxes

All coxes should be familiar with the method of operation of their life jacket.

Swimming Ability:

Every competitor is expected to be in good health. Although the race area is some distance from shore, competitors in the water are expected to be able to remain afloat with the aid of a life jacket until picked up by a marshal’s boat or rescue boat.

Competitors’ Responsibility

While we endeavour to provide a safe system at this event, each competitor and competing club also has a duty of care to themselves and others.

- Their own safety, remembering that they have a duty of care to themselves and any third party both on the water and on land.
- Ensuring that any equipment (e.g. boats, blades, buoyancy aids, etc.) are safe and prepared to the standards as required. Spot checks may be made by marshals to check on any safety essential equipment of the boat or crew.
- Ensuring that their boats comply with the buoyancy requirements.
- The strict observance of any ‘local rule’ or traffic/circulation pattern along with any competition specific safe’ provisions.
- Deciding whether or not they are competent to use the water course in the prevailing weather conditions; this decision may be taken by the individual or with their cox/crew.
- Adequate clothing / protection is worn suitable to the conditions on the day.
- All boats will have a marine VHF radio
- All participants at the regatta will wear a personal flotation device.
- The consumption of alcohol will not be prohibited before or during a race.



3.2 Pre-registration

All east coast rowing clubs must pre-register their race crews before 9pm on the Thursday before the regatta which is then forwarded to the Skerries Rowing Club Secretary (skerriesrowingclub@gmail.com) and the East coast rowing council secretary.

3.3 Launch Plan

Slipway

- Launch will be via the lifeboat slip for the duration of the regatta.
- To ensure minimal disruption to traffic the slipway at RNL station Slip 1 will have a maximum of one vehicle pulling a trailer permitted on any slipway.
- If there is a low tide more than one vehicle is permitted at water's edge but slipways must still be limited to one vehicle.
- The crews and coaches are asked to help with the flow of incoming and outgoing crews by ensuring boats are ready to launch and all adjustments are made before approaching the slipway.
- Crews are advised to wear appropriate footwear when using the slipway.
- There will be two slip marshals in place during the regatta.
- Oars should be removed from the slipway as quickly as possible.



3.4 Racing

Crews should make their way from the slip to the area just before the start keeping away from the harbour wall on their left. A marshal's shall be in place on the slip and will advise crews when it is safe to make their way to the holding area between the perch and the ECRC buoy. Once into the hold area crews should move in an anti-clockwise direction going around the marker buoys. Crews must pay attention to other crews that may be moving slower than them when warming up in the holding area.

- During racing, each competing crew must stay in their own racing lanes
- The whole course is visible by umpires and marshals.
- Safety boats patrol the course.
- In the event of a capsize on the course please stay with your boat and listen to Marshals instructions.
- Know the rules:
- The Rules of ECRC (East Coast Rowing Council) will be used.
- The marshalling rules are straightforward – see the Regatta circulation plan - umpires will stop racing if an unsafe situation develops.
- Give yourself plenty of time to boat before your race time, as the marshalling area can become very congested and slow moving and it may take you some time to get to the start
- All boats must launch from the Slip.
- Listen for start marshals' instructions - they are all experienced in the job and know the event and the sea area well.
- If you see an accident:
- Please report to the nearest official immediately, who will act or alert the rescue services by radio as necessary.
- Umpires, marshals and officials will be the initial public contact points for reporting of emergencies. Marshals will wear a high visibility jacket for identification at all times.

This Safety Plan is distributed to umpires and other regatta officials by the Regatta organising Committee.

3.5 Safety Boats & first aid/ emergency services.

At least one Safety Boat will be available at all times, positioned near the Start, or finish line dependant on conditions. These shall be equipped with competent people, radios, throw lines, safety blankets and first aid equipment.

First Aid

First Aid cover is provided at the area near to the launch slip by Order of Malta.

Emergency

The nearest Accident & Emergency unit is Beaumont hospital Dublin Phone 01 8093000

Emergency: Fire, Police, Ambulance: 112 or 999 from any telephone.

Key Personnel

Event Controller	Niamh Butler	086 8341604
Safety Officer:	Paul Pearson	083 331 3754



3.6 Incidents – Collisions & Capsizes

- In the vicinity of the slip/ harbour: Get any boat that is damaged and unable to proceed to the beach beside the slip.
- On the course: Get any boat that is damaged and unable to proceed back to the beach beside the slip.
- Umpires and marshals: Shall pay particular attention to any incident on the water.
- Should a crew be involved in a collision or suffer any injury that requires assistance, or a crew member falls out of a boat, the official shall summon a rescue boat by radio. If the course is blocked, the official shall also advise the start that no further races shall be started.
- Capsize: The whole course is visible to marshals. Marshal/ Rescue boats are equipped with throwing lines and a radio to inform Race Control. **STAY WITH THE BOAT!**

3.7 Incidents – Extreme weather conditions & other threats

The Safety Advisor or Event Controller shall consider the forecast weather conditions when recruiting rescue boat volunteers, who must be competent, experienced & physically strong enough to assist persons in the water.

Start control shall arrange for sun-protection, water and relief rescue boat volunteers in excessively hot or cold weather

Where extreme weather conditions or other situations that could require the cancellation or postponement of racing, either for the day or until the conditions change, the decision will be the responsibility of the Event Controllers and the Safety Advisor who also reserve the right to amend this plan if weather or competition conditions on the day make this necessary.

Amendments, postponement or cancellation will be published at Race Control and announced over the public-address system.

In the case of lightning a risk warning will be broadcast advising participants already on land to avoid moving boats and oars during the period of the storm. The message shall make clear whether racing could be resumed if conditions improve and whether crews already on the water should return immediately or complete their race first. As soon as the decision is made, every effort will be made to get all competitors and Safety boat crews ashore and safe as quickly as possible.

As for determining when things are safe, the Regatta will use the 30-30 rule. After you see lightning flash, count the number of seconds it takes until you can hear thunder crack. If the time is less than 30 seconds, you are still in danger and should stay in a safe place. Similarly, a person should wait 30 minutes after seeing the last flash of lightning as it may linger after a storm.

3.8 Pre-inspection

Approximately 1 hour before the start of the race the Event Controller will inspect the course and surroundings for any obstructions or likely problems and assess the weather conditions. Decisions on postponement or cancellation will be considered.

3.9 Instructions

Marshals, Safety Boats and other officials will be issued with all relevant safety documentation prior to the event. Specific safety information may be issued on the day. Competitors will receive details of the arrangements and instructions prior to the event.



3.10 Communications

Safety boats are provided with radios operating on the umpires' channel (Channel 73), to maintain contact with umpires when needed.

Radio etiquette shall be maintained at all times and only relevant event information shall be relayed by radio.

For clarity Marshals use channel 73 while Rescue, Control & Umpires are on channel 6

The PA system shall also be used to make emergency and public announcements if necessary.

Back up is provided via megaphones..



4.0 Traffic Management Plan

4.1 Main Points

- Advance notice has been given to relevant authorities; Fingal County Council, An Garda Síochána, RNLI, Irish Coastguard, Skerries Liaison Committee, Skerries Community Association and Skerries Chamber of Commerce.
- Skerries RNLI launch on the water for training from 11am to 12.30pm, the slip will be cleared to allow them access to the sea.
- Advance notice shall be given in writing to all business' residents on Harbour Road, Skerries.
- General signage will be displayed on harbour road in Skerries one week in advance to notify the public of the event.
- Directional signage for competitors and spectators will be displayed on Harbour Road and Red Island, Skerries.
- Designated stewards and marshals will be located along the harbour and Red Island from 10am to 7pm (or later if needed) to ensure safe access and egress of competitors, spectators, boats and vehicles pulling trailers.
- An informative email will be sent to the East Coast Rowing Council and the East Coast Rowing clubs one week in advance with an alternative directions map for trailers, illustrated map for car parking/ trailer parking, picnic area, shops, toilets, restaurants and first aid etc.

4.2 Traffic diversions

There are no traffic diversions or road closures required. There may be minor delays on Harbour Road, Skerries before races begin and after races have been completed. Access to the harbour will be restricted from the public toilets on harbour rd. Access will be maintained for RNLI crew, fishermen and East Coast Rowing Club vehicles to launch and retrieve rowing boats.

4.3 Parking

Designated car parking will be available for competitors, spectators and boat trailers at Red Island in a marked out area. This area will be primarily reserved for trailers and vehicles pulling trailers.

In the event that this parking area is full spectators and competitors will have to avail of other free parking at Red Island or South Strand, Skerries. Or alternatively paid parking on Harbour Road or around the town of Skerries.

Illegal parking or dangerous parking by competitors or spectators will not be tolerated.

4.5 Organisational Layout

Refer to Appendix 5



5.0 Event Emergency Details

5.1 Stewards & Marshals

Stewards & Marshals will have a mix of experience. All volunteers will be briefed on the roles and responsibilities at the race office (Sailing club) on the morning of regatta at approximately 10am. Head Steward, Event Organiser and Safety Officer will be contactable by radio at all times.

5.2 First Aid

There will be a First Aid Point at the regatta. The primary First Aid Point will be at the PA system and will be run by the Order of Malta.

5.3 Accident and emergency report

Any incidents or accidents must be reported to the safety officer and the event manager. The safety officer must log this incident or accident and must submit a report to the East coast rowing council following the completion of the regatta.

5.4 Boat Rescue

There will be a minimum of three rescue boats on the water at all times. One must remain in a position behind the turning buoys while a second will follow the races from a safe distance from the rowing boats so as to ensure that they do not interfere with the racing and will act as an emergency response boat. A third boat will be deployed at the start line.

5.5 Lost Children

If any stewards, marshals, competitors or spectators are approached by a lost child they should direct them to the first aid point and PA system at the back of the harbour. The person in control of the PA system will then announce that they have the child and a steward will be nominated to stay with the child.

5.6 Fire Point

There will be a fire point at the main PA and the race office. If any fires occur that cannot be dealt with in a safe manner, Dublin Fire Brigade should be called and the scene secured.

5.7 Emergency Access/Evacuation Routes

Emergency Access and Evacuation routes are as follows

Vehicles: Harbour Road is only route available.

Pedestrians: Will be directed either towards Red Island or to harbour road by stewards depending on which route will be safest in the situation

****NB**** Slipway at RNLI station will be cleared at a moments notice if RNLI Crew need to launch.



5.8 Event Emergency Contact Details

	<u>Location</u>	<u>Key contact</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Event Manager	Skerries	Niamh Butler	086 834 1604
Safety Officer	Skerries	Paul Pearson	083 331 3754
Traffic Co-Ordinator	Skerries	Joe Kelly	087 911 3738
Hospital	Beaumont	A & E Department	01 8092714
Garda Siochana	Balbriggan	Garda station	01 8020510/112
Doctor	Fingal	D-Doc	1850224477
Fire Brigade	Skerries	N/A	112
RNLI	Skerries	N/A	112/ VHF Channel 16
Coastguard	Skerries	N/A	112/ VHF Channel 16
Order Of Malta	Skerries	Monica Hickey (Deputy Officer in charge)	087 2673810
		Sioban Lyons (Morning)	087 2065549
		Dessie Flynn (Afternoon)	087 9630223
Coxswains, starting boat, finish line, turn judge	Skerries		VHF channel 6
Safety boats, event manager, Ground marshals on land	Skerries		VHF channel 73

In the event of a major incident the following shall be the order of response:

- a) All incidents on water shall be notified to the Event Manager & Safety Officer who will escalate from there
- b) All incidents on land shall be notified to the event manager Ger Fogarty and will escalate response accordingly.

The Order of Malta will be notified by the relevant person and they will decide on the appropriate response to the incident. This may be in the form of ambulance or first aid.



6.0 Emergency Action Plan

6.1 Purpose

This Emergency Action Plan sets out mitigation and procedures in relation to an emergency which represents a general threat to Regatta participants.

6.2 Responsibility

Responsibility for actions in the event of an emergency rests with the Race Committee. These individuals will carry radios at all times.

6.3 Actions in the event of a medical emergency

The nearest radio equipped Race official on the scene will take initial control and will assess the situation. (If necessary, he/she will call emergency services.) As soon as immediate life saving measures are in hand Race Control (if not aware) will be notified. If emergency assistance is required, the Official will call Code-Red (urgent medical issue) and Code-Blue (non-urgent) on his radio and all other radio users will observe radio silence and follow instructions given by that official. For any other situation (obstacles, debris etc) normal radio protocol should be used.

The initial incident report for a Code-Red should briefly include;

- What is needed (first aid or higher or safety boat).
- Location/ area of the sea that the service is needed.
- What has happened!
- The number of casualties.
- The severity of injuries or illness.
- If racing needs to be suspended.

As soon as an incident is reported, all stations on radio are to minimise their communications. Absolute priority is to be given to Race Control and those responding directly to the incident.

In the event of any accident or emergency beyond that detailed in the safety plan and outside the capabilities of the regatta first aid and safety facilities, the emergency services will be called using 999 by mobile phone.

Emergency services not familiar with the embankment and requiring detailed information about an incident location can contact Race Control for grid references & post codes.

6.4 Fire

If anybody discovers a fire in the area of, or in the club house or the Enclosure or surrounding forest park they should raise the alarm and he/she will assess the situation and tackle the fire ONLY if they are confident to do so and initially order local evacuation. If the emergency may require the stopping of racing or general evacuation, he/she will inform the Regatta Chairman. They will agree appropriate action.

6.5 Equipment failure

Should there be a Radio failure during the event, Safety Boats and marshals etc shall use mobile phones & loudhailers to raise alarm, providing the radio is to be replaced hastily. If this is not possible Race Control shall be informed and racing shall be halted.

In the event of Safety Boat failure during the event then this must be reported to Race Control straight away to consider if racing should be halted.

6.6 Capsize

In the event of a capsized during a race the umpire will call ‘Rescue, Rescue, Rescue’ and state where the incident has occurred and whether additional assistance is required. All unnecessary radio traffic should be discontinued until the event is declared over.

6.7 Floating Hazard



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Any significant floating debris or “hazard” seen on the water shall be reported to Race Control immediately. A Safety Boat shall be deployed to clear the water and racing shall be suspended.

6.8 Anti-social Behaviour

A serious public disorder or violent behaviour shall be reported to Race Control immediately. If necessary, racing shall be suspended, and the Gardai shall be called.

6.9 Terrorist Threat

Any news that could be deemed a serious threat to life should be reported to the Gardai immediately. Evacuation of any area believed to be in threat shall be organised in the first instance by Regatta officials.

6.10 Reporting of incidents

Any witnessed incidents should be reported to Race Control for recording purposes.

6.11 Emergency Services Access

Emergency vehicle access on the Harbour Road & Red Island for the emergency services will be maintained at all times.

It is very important that the Harbour Road & Red Island is kept clear and free of obstructions at all times including two hours before the regatta, during the regatta and for a reasonable time after the regatta.

If parked vehicles are causing an obstruction it will be announced over the public PA system and if the vehicle causing the obstruction is not moved in a reasonable amount of time, arrangements will be made to remove the vehicle by the regatta organisers and all cost incurred will have to be paid by the vehicle owner. Skerries Rowing Club and committee accept no responsibility for damage caused to vehicles parked in such a way as to cause an obstruction to emergency vehicle access.



Appendix 1:

Race Day Timetable 1st July 2023

07:00hrs	Organising Committee meet at Skerries RNLI station Set up of marques for first Aid, Results tent and first aid tent
08.00 hrs.	Steward briefings Safety briefing and briefing of boat crews
08.45 hrs.	East coast rowing council inspects course and gives clearance to commence racing Lane Draw Skerries Sailing Club
09.45 hrs	CoxSwain meeting and safety briefing at back of RNLI station
10.15 hrs.	Stewards and marshals in place
10.00 hrs	Mayor of Fingal open regatta
10.15hrs.	Races commence
17:00 hrs.	Races finishes
17:30 hrs.	Awards & speeches -take place throughout the day, last presentation 17.30 hrs
19.00 hrs	Dismantling of marques and tidy up of area



Appendix 2:

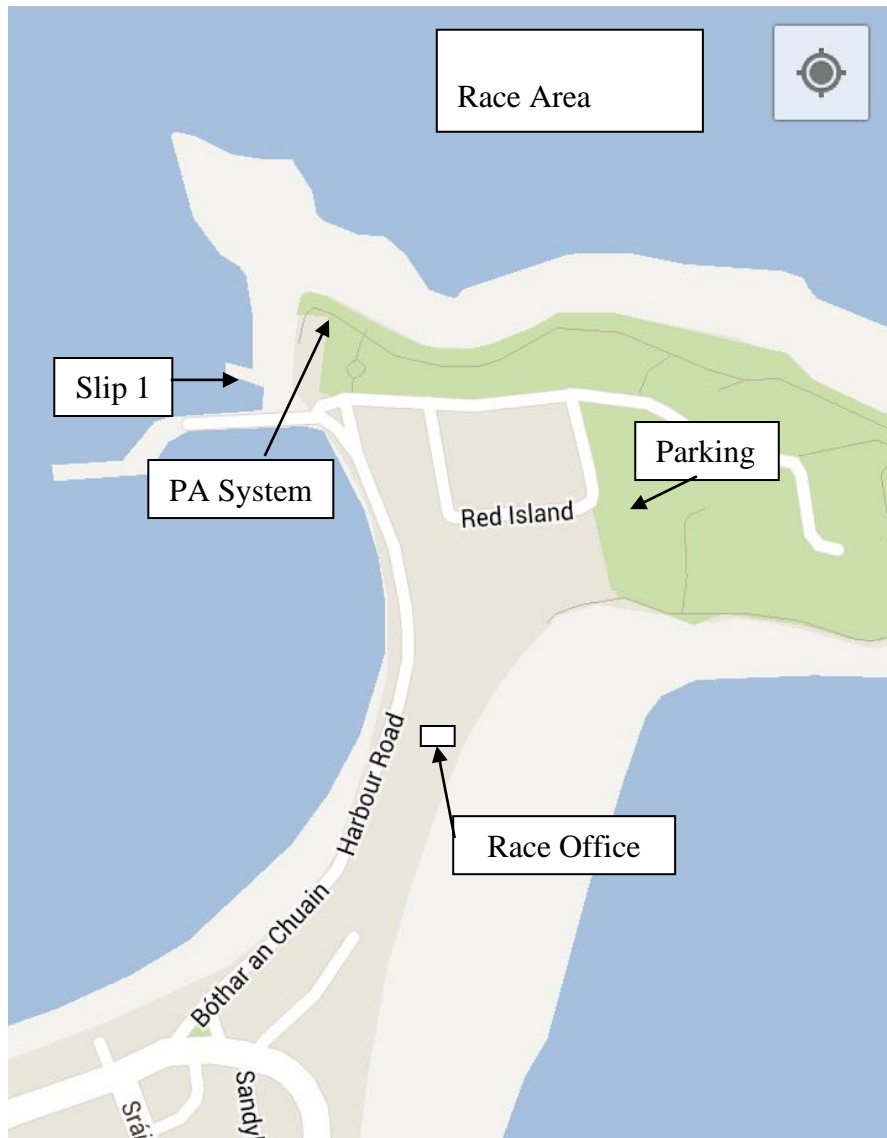
Race Categories

**Race Categories to be decided and Timing TBC at club meeting
The race events which take place at the regatta are decided by Skerries Rowing Club in accordance with East Coast Rowing Rules.**



Appendix 3:

Map of Area:





Appendix 4:



**ORDER OF MALTA
IRELAND**

MEDICAL OPERATION PLAN – East Coast Skiff Rowing Regatta 2019

Purpose:

The purpose of this document is to outline the medical cover being provided by Order of Malta Ambulance Corps at the Skerries Regatta 2019. This document is based on information supplied by the Event Organiser and in conjunction with the Event Plan.

Scope:

This plan relates to provision of Medical services provided by Order of Malta on land ONLY. Services on the water are provided by other agencies. OMAC will liaise and assist with those agencies in the treatment of any casualties once safely on land. Separate safety systems are in place on the sea with several safety boats in situ for the duration of the regatta, working very closely with Skerries RNLi in setting up and managing the event

Event date Saturday 15th June 2018

Event Location Skerries HARBOUR, Skerries Co. Dublin

Event Details

East Coast Skiff Rowing regatta from under 12 to senior grade for men and women competitors.

Crowd Expected/Profile:

1000 people from babies up to 70 years old directly involved in the regatta from rowers, coxes, ECRC officials and family and friends of the rowers will be on site for the most of the day. During the event an additional 1500 spectators of a similar age profile attend the event.



Risk Assessment:

There has been no recorded injuries from competitors for the previous 4 regattas. OMAC have treated a low number of members of the public at the Regatta unrelated to the event. All injuries were treated on site with no additional interventions required.

This event is deemed low risk.

MEDICAL cover.

Due to the low risk, based on the above risk assessment, OMAC shall provide the following Medical cover at the Regatta.

3 x Personnel (FAR)

1 x Treatment unit.

Any previous medical presentation to OMAC at the Regatta have been minor.

Should any patients require an escalation in care, OMAC personnel shall request the assistance of the Statutory Ambulance Service via the 999 system, OMAC personnel shall continue to treat the patient in accordance with their relevant PHECC CPG's while awaiting the arrival of the Statutory Ambulance service from either NAS or DFB.

Communications:

Provision of communications between the event organisers and OMAC is the responsibility of the Event Organiser as per the Event Plan.

The OMAC Personnel in charge on the day:

Morning Siobhan Lyons 087 2065549 - Afternoon Dessie Flynn 087 9630223

East Coast Skiff Regatta Contact: Marie Richardson.. 0863991673

Communication between OMAC personnel and NAS / DFB controls shall be via mobile phone.

Appendix 5:



**Skerries Rowing Regatta 2019
Organisational Layout**

