

2024 Come Boating! Belfast Regatta

Safety Rules & Considerations:

All participants under age 18 are required to wear a PFD with a whistle

All others must have a PFD **with them** (make sure to try it on & fit it to you beforehand). Pilot gigs must have a life ring and a horn on board (Coast Guard regs).

Take care in the Mooring field – please don't hit any sailboats (expensive!).

Watch for traffic: sailboats, motor boats, lobster boats, and tug boats may be entering & exiting the harbor

No blocking allowed (if another race boat is overtaking you)

Larger, faster boats will start last, so watch for small singles & doubles ahead of you, especially near the turns and on the final leg of the race, when big boats really catch up to small ones.

Giving Way at a Mark:

When 2 boats are overlapping or close to overlapping each other on approach to a Mark, there is a two-boat length zone around the Mark. The position of boats as they enter the two-length zone determines who must give way at the turn. **The boat on the inside of the turn has the right of way.**

However, if the lead boat is clear ahead when it reaches the two-length zone, then it maintains the right of way, and the boat astern must allow clearance even if it later catches up to overlap.

Safety Boats:

We have 3 Safety Boats, 1 Marshal Boat and 1 Committee Boat this year.

One Safety Boat will be on each leg of the race, one will be at the Monument + one stationed off the rocks at foot of Allyn Street. Each safety boat is marked by an orange pennant / flag stick on the stern. Safety boat crew has bright orange T-shirts on.

If you get in trouble:

Make your way toward nearest safety boat.

If you have a **medical emergency**, STOP and raise your oars or paddles.

If you're capsized & in the water, STAY PUT, wave your arms & make noise – wait for a safety boat to come to you.

Race Course:

Total length 3.6 nautical miles with 3 starboard turns.

Start line is at Red #6 nun, middle of the channel opposite the town ramp where many boats will have launched

1st Leg: Go to the Monument (big pile of stones out in the bay, covered in guano, can't miss it), passing Red #4 nun along the way (stay on right of center of the channel) It's 1.25 miles to the Monument – this is the longest leg of the race. Make a Starboard turn at the Monument

Head for Red Bell Buoy – the shortest leg of the race – make another starboard turn to head for City Park (shoreline) – look for 4' tall orange race Mark

3rd turn is sharp to starboard, about 90-degrees

4th Leg: Follow shoreline straight back to the Boat House, but not too close to shore Keep rocks at Allyn Street on your PORT SIDE. (There's a safety boat there to warn you.)

Finish line is at the Boat House.

A horn will blow for each boat crossing the finish line. Do not stop until you hear **your** horn!

Take care on the turns: Any boat or racer that touches any of the 3 Marks will be disqualified.

THE START:

Race starts at 11 am.

We use a “staggered start” with boat heats by category starting in waves. Gather up-river of the START LINE with other boats in your Wave.

First Wave goes off at 11 am.

The starter will call instructions via bull horn, so PAY ATTENTION – listen for your “wave” to be called.

There will be two minutes between each wave, so you must be ready to approach the start line.

If you are too far behind the starting line when the horn goes off for your wave, tough luck!

But if you cross the Start Line before the horn goes off – instant DISQUALIFICATION.