

2019 Stephenson Partners Grafton Bridge to Bridge Briefing Sheet

LAUNCHING AND RETRIEVING OF BOATS

Only those competitors having paid Corporate Entry and Superclass may park in the designated parking area at the end of Prince Street. All other competitors must park outside this area.

Superclass and Corporate Entry boats may launch from the Crown Hotel boat ramp for Heat 1. Boats must be ready to launch when entering the boat ramp precinct. There is no parking or preparing boats inside the gated area at the top of the ramp. All other boats competing in Heat 1 are to launch at Corcoran Park. Boats competing in Heat 1 must be launched prior to 8:30am when all ramps will close.

The Crown Hotel ramp will re-open at 9:00am for boats competing in Heat 2. All boats competing in Heat 2 must use the Crown Hotel ramp and be launched prior to 10:30am when the ramp will close for launching boats. Please keep in mind that boats finishing Heat 1 will also be using this ramp for retrieval.

All boats must use the Crown Hotel ramp for retrieval after finishing each Heat.

TIME LIMIT FOR HEAT 1

Boats competing in Heat 1 have a Time Certain race finish time of 75 minutes. For any boat not having completed the race within this time, the Race Controller may issue a Red Flag to stop the race to allow Heat 2 to start on time.

TIMETABLE

8:00	Breath Testing at Grafton Rowing Club (SRA Membership Card and skier helmets must be presented)
8:30	Ramps Close for Launching
9:00	Heat 1
10:00	Breath Testing at Grafton Rowing Club (SRA Membership Card and skier helmets must be presented)
10:30	Crown Hotel Ramp Closes
11:00	Heat 2

COLOUR OF BUOYS & FLAGS

1. Orange Buoy – Must be kept on left – Time Penalty **OR** Disqualification
2. White Buoy – Disqualified if running on the incorrect side
3. Orange Turn Buoy (Susan Island & Brushgrove) – Keep on left DISQ
4. Black & White Start/Finish Buoy – *See Notes Below*
5. Green Flag – Course Open
6. Yellow Flag – Caution
7. Red Flag – STOP – Ferry Crossing

START

ALL BOATS ARE TO PREPARE ON THE CROWN HOTEL BANK. ALL BOATS ARE TO BE IN THE START AREA NO LESS THAN 10 MINUTES PRIOR TO THE START OF THE RACE.

1. STARTER IS ON THE START BOAT MOORED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE RIVER.
2. **ALL BOATS WILL START TO THE LEFT OF THE START BOAT. POLE 1 BEING CLOSEST TO SUSAN ISLAND**
3. AUSTRALIAN FLAG AND GREEN FLAG WILL BE RAISED WITH FIVE (5) MINUTES TO RACE START
3. GREEN FLAG WILL BE DROPPED WITH 30 SECONDS TO START (SKIERS TO ENTER THE WATER). NOTE SKIERS ARE NOT TO ENTER THE WATER PRIOR TO GREEN FLAG BEING DROPPED.
4. AUSTRALIAN FLAG WILL BE DROPPED ON GO. THE AUSTRALIAN FLAG WILL BE RAISED AGAIN AND SKIERS MAY ENTER THE WATER FOR THE FOLLOWING GRID. If for any reason a start is to be delayed a red flag will be shown. When the red flag is dropped this will show 3 minutes until race start
5. NO POWER TURNS ARE PERMITTED.
6. AFTER 2 FAILED STARTS – MOVE FROM THE START AREA

COURSE - BEWARE OF BIRDS

1. PROCEED UPSTREAM – Slightly moving across to the left hand side of the river. Please be aware of any boats on your inside.
2. LITTLE ISLAND – You will pass between the Big Island (on your left), and the Little Island (on your right). After passing the Little Island (on your right), do not push over to the right, (for better line into the turn buoy), as shallow water exists.
3. TOP TURN BUOY (Large Square Orange Buoy) – Located approximately 500 metres upstream. A small orange lead-up buoy will be positioned approximately 100 metres before the turn buoy. At the exit to this turn there will be 2 white buoys. Keep these on your right as shallow water and rocks exist.
4. PROCEED DOWNSTREAM maintaining RMS regulation distance from the bank and structures at all times. You will come across an orange buoy approximately two-thirds the way down the island, this must be kept on your left. When you approach the bottom end of the island do not cut the point as a sandbar runs out for approximately 250 metres. A series of orange buoys will lead you to the Grafton bridge

5. UNDER GRAFTON BRIDGES – (These are the only bridges that you will pass under) a Black arrow on an Orange background on the bridge will show which span to go under. Orange buoys are located on either side of the Bridge, and another Orange separation buoy approximately 400 metres downstream of the Bridge. Orange separators are all the way to Elizabeth Island. These must be kept on your left.
6. ELIZABETH ISLAND – Approximately 3 kilometres from Grafton Bridge. Keep the island on your right going down. White buoys mark the wrong channel (shallow). Halfway down the Island a stony sandbar exists – **DO NOT CUT THIS CORNER**. Orange separation buoys exist here, which must be kept on your left. These buoys keep boats coming home in the center of the river.
7. ULMARRA – Large orange separation buoys will be in place at the end of the Ulmarra Straight before and after the ferry. These must be kept on your left. A large course boat will be moored at the Ulmarra separators and this boat must also be kept on your left as an orange buoy will be in close proximity.
8. ULMARRA FERRY – Judge's boat approximately 200 metres on either side of the ferry

GREEN FLAG	-Course open, ferry on bank proceed
RED FLAG	- Ferry crossing, proceed past the Judge's Boat, drop into water and stop.

 Watch the Judges boat NOT the ferry. When the Judge raises the Green Flag continue racing. Time Off is counted when you pass the Judge's boat and Time On starts when the Judge raises the Green Flags. **NO CIRCLING IS PERMITTED**.
9. PROCEED TO BRUSHGROVE – Orange separation buoys exist here, which must be kept on your left. These buoys keep boats coming home in the center of the river.
10. BOTTOM TURN BUOY – Located in the middle of the 3 way fork in the river. It is a large square orange buoy. A smaller orange lead-up buoy will be placed approximately 100 metres prior to the turn buoy. After rounding turn buoy, proceed upstream back towards Grafton. Keep all orange separation buoys on your left.
11. ULMARRA FERRY – Same flag procedure as going down. Watch for Judges green flag. **NO CIRCLING**.
12. ORANGE SEPERATORS must be kept on your left and WHITE BUOYS marking shallow water on your right.
13. AFTER PASSING THE FERRY – Don't get too close to the right hand bank, as a sandbar runs 100 metres wide and 1.5 kilometres long. A number of moored vessels are in this area. All these moored vessels must also be kept on your right.
14. ELIZABETH ISLAND – Keep this island on your left going home. White buoys will exist stopping you going up the wrong channel
15. HALFWAY UP THE ISLAND – Separation buoys must be kept on your left.
16. COMING HOME – Stay outside moored yachts which must be kept on your right.
17. GRAFTON BRIDGES – Orange buoys on your left and a series of white buoys on your right A Black arrow on an Orange background on the bridge will show which span to go under. **STAY 60 METRES OFF THE BANK ALL THE WAY TO THE FINISH LINE**.
18. WHITE SAFETY BUOYS – Off the Crown Hotel Wharf – Must be kept on the right.
19. FINISH BUOY – Black and White – Must be kept on your left.
 - a. 500 METRES PAST THE FINISH BUOY – White run-out buoys exist. Keep these buoys on your right.
 - b. **NO POWER TURNS PERMITTED IN THIS AREA**.
20. RETURN TO BANK at the Crown Hotel. Boats must idle back SLOWLY and stay in between buoys and riverbank with NO WASH.
 - a. BOATS TO IDLE BACK
 - b. CROWN HOTEL RAMP – All boats may be retrieved at Crown Hotel Ramp (Marshalling to stop trailer going to ramp before boat is ready to be loaded on trailer).
 - c. **NO BOATS CAN PROCEED ON COURSE – Until the Chief Judge opens the course. ANY BOAT LEAVING THE BANK AFTER THE SWEEP BOAT AND BEFORE THE COURSE IS DECLARED OPEN BY CHIEF JUDGE WILL BE DISQUALIFIED**.
21. BOATS UNABLE TO FINISH the race in full race trim with their skiers in tow must stay on the bank until the last competitor has passed their position on the return leg and sweep boat with green flag has opened the river.
22. **NO ALCOHOL TO BE IN BOATS OR CONSUMED AFTER THE RACE WHILST STILL ON THE WATER. (RMS REGULATION)**.

TECHNICAL SCRUTINEERING PROCEDURE

The following classes will be subject to technical scrutineering to be conducted at the **end of Heat 2**.

- Outboard – MOC/F2

Competitors required for scrutineering please listen to PA announcements on the day for further directions. Any engine class boats that are required for scrutineering but are retrieved from ramps other than the Crown Hotel ramp will have their numbers taken and receive instant disqualification.



**STEPHENSON
PARTNERS**
Accountants & Business Advisors