



O U R C s

Isis Spring League 2021 Instructions to Competitors

The Isis Spring League is a series of races held in some academic years in order to provide regular competition for colleges. In the event of cancellation of a number of events over the winter (this year due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic), these races serve as valuable racing experience for college crews and race officials. It is hoped that these races will help provide further focus for crews, aiding retention of senior oarsmen and women. The ability to train coxes and OURCs Marshals is expected to aid the smooth running of Bumps Races.

ISLs are open not only to OURCs affiliated crews, but also to other rowing clubs based on the Isis, so all are encouraged to participate. The course usually runs from Donnington Bridge to the Cox Stone opposite Christ Church Meadows. Each race is a time trial from a rolling start, and is timed on the bows.

Slower crews must make all reasonable efforts to give way to faster crews.

Safety

All crew members must be listed as swimtested on the OURCs Entries System. Any athletes competing in small boats must also have passed a Capsize Drill. Coxes must be registered with OUCS and be wearing a well-fitting, done-up lifejacket as their outermost layer. Coxes in bow-loading boats must wear manually-inflating lifejackets.

All boats must meet all relevant EA and BR regulations, and must have bow balls, hatch covers, backstays, heel restraints, EA licenses and boat codes as appropriate. In low visibility conditions, such as low light or poor weather, boats must have bright white, non-flashing lights on their bow and stern which are, together, visible through 360°.

In adverse conditions, the Senior Umpire may limit entries to crews and coxes of a certain status.

Circulation

Crews racing in the first division of the day may boat as soon as the Senior Umpire has opened the river to racing crews. Crews in subsequent divisions must boat when the following launch of the previous division has passed their raft.

All crews from upstream of the Gut should boat pointing downstream and stay on that side of the river until they reach Top Gut. The centre of the river must be kept clear for other river traffic. When crews reach Top Gut, they must cross to the bowside bank (towpath side) and keep to normal circulation in the Gut and below. Crews should spin and wait on the non-towpath side of the river, pointing upstream, in racing order.

A diagram of the circulation pattern is available in the IWL section of the OURCs website (<http://www.ourcs.co.uk>).

Racing

Crews should row up to the start when instructed by the marshals or Senior Umpire, reaching race pace before crossing the start, and race up the course to the finish. The timer will start when the bow of the boat crosses the start line. Crews may choose their own line up the river, but are expected to follow the Ideal Racing Line, which is by the towpath bank below the Gut, by the Greenbank (non- towpath side) above the Gut, crossing over below the Cherwell Cut back to the towpath side.

The finish is on the bows and is marked by a white semaphore post ("clacker"). The clacker shall be dropped when each crew finished the race. Once they have finished, crews should wind down and row up the course to the Head and spin when instructed by the marshals.

Crews from the first half of a division may be asked to spin and wait pointing downstream for the rest of the division to finish. Crews must not go below the finish while a race is in progress. Once the division has finished, crews should return to warm up circulation to return to their boathouses.

If a klaxon is fired during racing, all crews must hold it hard immediately and should not start rowing again until instructed to do so by a marshal, Senior Umpire, or medical launch. If possible, crews from a klaxoned division will be invited to re-row in a later division.

Cyclists

Only one cyclist may accompany each crew during the race, unless specific permission has been granted by the event organisers to have additional bankriders. It is not expected that there will be many pedestrians on the towpath, but bankriders should keep a good look-out and avoid collisions.

Emergencies

There will be first aid available at Longbridges which can be brought to any point on the Isis using a launch. If First Aid is required, ask the nearest marshal to radio Race Desk. Emergency Services vehicles can gain access to the river via the Riverside Centre.

Organisation

Entries must be done via the OURCs Entries system. Any questions should be directed to racedesk@ourcs.co.uk and secretary@ourcs.co.uk.

On the day, Racedesk will be based at Longbridges boathouse. Any substitutions required after the online substitution deadline must be done in person at Racedesk before the crew in question boats for their race.