



**Event communications:** The ONB is at <https://www.grafham.org/online-noticeboard.html> .

**Wash down:**

Boats must be washed down before leaving the Club to comply with non-native species guidance. There will be wash down facilities on all slipways being used for launching and recovery.

**Catering:**

The café on the ground floor of the Clubhouse will be open both days of the event. Breakfasts will be available from 0830 each day.

After racing on Saturday all competitors have a pasta meal which will be served in the downstairs café immediately after racing. The bar will be open at this time.

**Safety & Security:**

Please do not walk through fenced off areas: they are fenced off for your safety.

Take particular care of the coxswains' slipway (East side of the Clubhouse in front of the coxswains' shed) as there are regular tractor movements on this slipway

The fire exits from the Clubhouse are marked – the fire muster point is on the grass of the roundabout on the land side of the Clubhouse.

Please do not leave valuables in the changing rooms: there are lockers (green) in the café area which take a £1 coin.

**Launching and Recovery**

We have set a 50-boat entry limit to ensure all boats can be launched and recovered in a reasonable time. This section sets out the plan for storage, launching and recovery and includes information on what is expected of participants and any additional preparation that is required.

There will be three slipways allocated to launching and recovery, with boat storage areas near the slipway. You will be able to express a preference for which slipway, but we reserve the right to allocate based on numbers of entrants and weather conditions.

There will also be a limited number of moorings available for both early launching on Saturday morning and overnight mooring on Saturday night. There will be a RIB "ferry" service to take you to your boat and return you to shore. Launch early and come ashore for a relaxed coffee and breakfast!

**All boats should bring a bow line suitable for mooring.**

We will provide a label for your trailer to aid recovery.

*Slipway 2 – Tractor assisted, wet launch (21 boats)*

Slipway 2 runs down to the water from the camping area and is the preferred option for campers. Boats / trailers will be stored either side of the slipway, near to the water. You will be able to rig your boat by your camping space and move it down the slipway for berthing.

For launching, when it is your turn to launch, please wait in your berth where the tractor will hitch on to your trailer and move you down to the water. In Northerlies, there will be a rib to tow you to a temporary mooring if you require. Your trailer will be returned to your berth, and the next crew to launch will unhitch your trailer before hitching theirs on. Please do not pull your boats out of the berth before your turn as there is limited space for passing on this slipway.

For recovery, your trailer will be brought to the water for you to position your boat and then returned to your berth. When you have unhitched your boat, you will hitch the next trailer onto the tractor.

On Sunday, after racing, there will be a wash down station on slipway 2.

Boats can be de-rigged by your camping space.

*Slipway 3 – Tractor assisted, dry launch (21 boats, plus RIBs and Committee boat).*

Previous visitors to Grafham will have mainly used slipway 3 which is our main slipway past the coxswains shed. It is also used for all club boat launches, plus committee boat and rib launches.

To reduce the time for the tractor movements, we will be parking boats around slipway 4 rather than on the top roundabout. This area is not accessible by car, therefore please park in the top visitors' car park and rig your boat there before bringing it down to slipway 4 for berthing and launching.

Club boats will be launched from this slipway, and they are encouraged to launch early and pick up a mooring. Club boat trailers will be returned to their normal berth.

For visitor launching, when your boat is ready, bring it along the path between slipway 4 and 3 in front of the coxswains shed. When it is your turn to launch, bring it onto slipway 3 and hook onto the tractor. Please clear the jetties quickly once launched – there are temporary moorings available. In Northerlies, there will be a rib to take you to a temporary mooring if you require. Your trailer will be pulled up the slipway to the fuel shed where there will be a return path across the grass for the trailer to be unhitched and pushed back to the berth. We expect waiting crew to help with this to speed up the launching.

For recovery, the trailers will follow the reverse path, that is empty trailers to be brought across the grass and out by the fuel shed and boats pushed back along the path. Crews of recovered boats are expected to help with the movements of the empty trailers.

On Sunday, after racing, your boat will be taken to the top of the slipway where there will be a pressure wash station for wash down before you take your boat to the parking area for de-rigging.

Club boats should pick up a mooring at the end of Sunday racing and wait until all visitor boats have been removed from the water.

#### *Slipway 4 – Ferry service to moored boats*

If you have launched early and picked up a mooring, there will be a rib to return you to shore. This will operate from the jetty on slipway 4. This slipway is not suitable for launching boats.

#### *Slipway 5 – Manual, wet launch (8 boats)*

On arrival, please park in the top visitor car park and rig your boat there before bringing it down to slipway 5 for berthing and launching.

Boats will be berthed by slipway 5 close to the water and launched when ready down the slipway. Empty trailers should be returned to the berth and waiting crew are expected to help with this. There will be volunteer help for the last boat to launch.

For recovery, it is expected that some crew will require assistance to pull the boat up the slipway. There will be volunteer help available for the first boat, please help the boat after you.

On Sunday departure, there will be a pressure washer station on shrimp alley at the top of this slipway if required. From here, you will be able to take your boat back to your car in the car park for de-rigging.

#### Timings:

##### Saturday morning:

10:00 Launching starts with 9 boats on slipway 3 and 8 on slipway 2 to go onto moorings plus all ribs and the committee boat.

11:00 Competitor briefing

11:30 start launching remaining boats

12:30 all boats launched

12:55 First warning signal

##### Sunday morning:

9:00 Launching starts on all slipways

10:00 launching complete

10:25 First warning signal

Note that the Sunday timing assumes that 14 boats have stayed on moorings overnight. If conditions are not favourable for this, Sunday morning launching will commence at 8:30.

## **SAILING**

### **Race Area:**

Will be confirmed on the Online Notice Board and at the competitor briefing.

### **First race of the day:**

Our aim is to start on time on both days: please allow adequate time for launching; take into account the number of competitors [including club members on Sunday] trying to launch and plan accordingly. The Race Officer will be in contact with the beach team to monitor the launching process. If there is an unavoidable delay in launching, the first race that day will be postponed.

### **Starts**

We shall aim to set the start line square to the mean wind direction. The wind at Grafham does move around! During the start sequence small shifts will be ignored, but if the line become excessively biased the start will be postponed. The prep signal will initially be flag P.

If there are any boats seen to be OCS, but which cannot be identified from either end of the line because their sail number is obscured, a general recall will be signalled. In the event of a general recall, the UKFFA have requested that we move to U and then Black if U does not work. After that, we may remain on U or Black for the rest of the day. If the recall is caused by an extreme wind shift or Race Committee error, we shall remain on whichever prep signal was in use at the time.

Please check the course display before each race.

### **Finishing**

When finishing, only the first 3 finishing boats will receive a sound signal. If you are in a bunched finish, and possibly not easily visible to the finish line spotters, please note the boats ahead or behind.

If the wind direction is such that the route ashore is a beat, then in the final race each day we intend finishing the race at the windward mark.

### **Wind limitations**

No race will be started unless there is at least 5kts across the race course. Once started every attempt will be made to keep the race running, but if conditions become too erratic it will be abandoned.

If there are sustained periods of 27kts or more, racing will not take place.

Andy Rhodes [Club Host]

Nigel Denchfield [RO]