



**Stotesbury Cup**  
**The 99<sup>th</sup> Stotesbury Cup Regatta**  
**2026**  
**Referee Handbook**

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## General

**Welcome to the 99<sup>th</sup> Stotesbury Cup Regatta.** You can look forward to two days of competitive Scholastic rowing. Your acquired referee skills, your knowledge of the USRowing rules, and teamwork will ensure a successful regatta. As always, you are encouraged to consult your rule book during the regatta and this handbook is intended to highlight some key areas of responsibility.

Our goal is to ensure fair and consistent application of the USRowing rules and to meet this obligation in a **friendly, non-confrontational and professional manner.**

### **What can you expect from your Chief & Deputy Chief?**

- Dedication to the safety and fairness of the regatta, your welfare, and your overall experience
- Everything prescribed and listed in the Rules of Rowing
- Support for your decisions. Guidance if needed.
- To be available and to assist with what you need to do your job well.
- To take a genuine interest in your welfare. It's in here twice – must be true!

### **A word about our volunteers...**

There's another group of people here at this regatta that are just as important as we are – the SN volunteers from the LOC. They are here for many reasons. Some love our sport; others love their community. All are giving back. How they interact with us is important to the quality of the experience they have. It is the responsibility of every Referee to make sure the volunteers you work with at the dock, in a launch, in the start area, on the finish line, or in the starting area have a great experience. They may be nervous because they may not fully understand the breadth of their commitment – gently teach them. They may be sunburned and/or thirsty – look after their welfare. Who Knows, Some of them may even want to become referees!

### **What do we expect from you?**

We respectfully ask for 100% of your attention when you are on duty. If conflicts arise let Murph or Meagan know so that we can appropriately address any issues. When you are on the water, your attention should be focused on the competitors so please, leave phone calls, tweets, text messages, and Facebook for afterhours!

## **Referees Returning to the Start Area**

~~Watch crews on their way to the start area as they travel past the pinch point at the 500m mark. Ensure they follow the shoreline to enter a natural counterclockwise rotation as well as avoid crews that are warming up in the start area. Watch crews warming up to ensure they stop before the pinch point and safely turn without interfering with Lane 1, other crews in the warm-up area, and crews traveling to the start area. Assist the Start Marshal with hunting for crews if asked.~~

## Following Referees on the Water

If you need a break, simply radio the Chief or Deputy that you're taking a break so that everyone is aware that we are temporarily down one referee. Please take breaks as needed; don't be a *martyr*.

**Reporting Times:** By Megaphone

**Objections:** The following referees are to address all Objections raised on the water. Notify and seek feedback from your fellow referees if additional information is needed. You are required to provide the crew(s) with a decision that they can accept or reject. If they reject your decision – irrespective of the nature of the issue – inform them of their right to protest and that they have 60 minutes from landing to file a written Protest to the Chief Referee or Chief Judge.

Please display flags as appropriate and inform the Chief Judge of the outcome. Please keep your phone and radio handy for communication. Please notify the Chief Referee of any potential protests.



**Friday, May 16, 2026**

## Time Trials Stotesbury Referee Position Descriptions

### ***C/C Control Commission @ Three Angels ALSO @ Canoe Club.***

- Does safety check of crews launching & records who has launched also when they launched. ....Monitors radio for inquiries from the start. Works with Doc Masters and keeps traffic moving to launching dock in a timely and safe fashion.

### ***Marshall 1 above Strawberry Mansion Bridge east bank:***

- Will check in crews leaving the Canoe Club and will instruct crews to stay on the East Bank & release them upriver to Marshall 2 in ascending numerical order.

### ***Marshall 2 @ 1500 m start line:***

- Will keep the crews, leaving the Canoe Club, moving upriver, single file, to 2000m starting line to Marshall 3 in ascending numerical order.

### ***Marshall 3: @ 2000m starting line:***

- Will send crews to the chute in ascending numerical order by race # combining crews from the Canoe Club with crews from Boat House Row & Three Angels.

### ***Marshall 4: (Start Marshall)***

- Will release boats, in the chute, to starter while continuing to direct Odd numbered boats to port into lane 3, Even numbered boats to starboard into lane 4.

**Marshall 5:**

- Will turn crews to the top of the chute beginning to direct Odd numbered boats to move starboard into lane 5. - Even numbered boats to move port into lane 4,

**Marshall 6:**

- Will release crews, from Boat House Row & Three Angels to Marshall 5 who will turn crews to the top of the chute.

**Marshall 7:**

- Will keep crews moving upriver to Marshall 6 @ the 2000m starting line.

**Marshall 8:**

- Will release crews in ascending numerical order by race # to Marshall 7.

**Marshall 9 below Strawberry Mansion Bridge west bank:**

- Will check-in crews coming upriver from Three Angels & Boat House Row, instructing crews to stay on the west bank and release them by race number to Marshall 8 @ the 1500m starting line.

**Starter:.....**Asst. Starter assists starter

- Will (when possible) tell crews they are approaching the starting line.....
- Will announce "Go" as crews' cross start line.

**Marshall's: below Strawberry Mansion Bridge to Columbia Avenue Bridge:**

- ❖ (Marshall @ 1000meters)
- ❖ (Marshall @ 750meters)
- ❖ (Marshall @ 500meters)
- ❖ (Marshall @ 250meters)

**Marshall's: below Strawberry Mansion Bridge to Columbia Avenue Bridge:**

- Watches the course for broken equipment and passing violations.
- Reports, by text/phone, to finish, any violations observed. Giving bow number and violation.
- Keeps crews returning to the canoe club in lane "0", moving and in lane 0

**Finish Marshall: Below Columbia Avenue bridge:**

- Directs finishing crews to continuing thru Columbia Bridge

- Observes crew's condition. Takes needed action when an athlete in distress is encountered.
- Identifies returning crews. Have them move down river to "next Marshall" (FM 1) who will direct turning crews

**Finish Marshall 1: Below Columbia Avenue bridge:**

- Will allow crews to return to 3 angels (Athlete Village) & Boat House Row and direct crews returning to the canoe club to into turn in to port and return to the canoe club up the east bank & lane "0".

**Finish Marshall 2: Below Columbia Avenue bridge:**

- Will allow crews to return to 3 angels & boat house row and direct crews returning to the EPCH to the east bank & lane "0".

**Finish Marshall 3: Opposite Three Angels:**

- Will keep crews from cutting across river as they launch. Will monitor upriver traffic and direct crews going to start to move "port" and close to west bank to avoid race finishing traffic.

**S/M Safety Marshall Above Girard RR bridge:**

- Will allow crews to return to boat house row. Will also instruct visiting crews headed to the start to turn up river on the west bank...



**Saturday, May 17, 2026**

**Stotesbury Referee Position Descriptions**

**Sprint Racing**

**C/C Control Commission @ Three Angels ALSO @ Canoe Club:**

- Does safety check of launching crews.
- Records who have launched and **when they launched**.
- Monitors radio for inquiries from the start.
- Works with Doc Masters and keeps traffic moving to launching dock in a safe and timely fashion.

**Marshall 3 @ Strawberry Mansion Bridge:**

- Will hold boats launching from the Canoe Club & Gillian Boat House until race on course passes by.
- Will allow crews to cross, perpendicular to the racecourse, to west bank and continue upriver to marshalling/warm up area.

**Marshall @ Twin Stones Bridge:**

- Will check-in crews and start crews down the course by race# to Marshall 1 no more than 10 minutes prior to race time

**Marshall 1 @ 2000m start line:**

- Will verify crew has next race, are in the proper lanes.
- Releases them down river to Marshall 2.

**Marshall 2 Start Marshall:**

- Will bring crews down to stake boats - making sure crews are in the proper lanes.

**Following Referees:**

- Will always, make every effort to follow up fast at the Start. **Minimize the waking of the athletes** as you progress down the course. While always scanning the whole course, to include making eye contact frequently with your partner referee.
- Will be analytical in your launch positioning, trying to predict where problems may arise and being close enough to the action to effect a change if necessary. With flagging, less can be more.
- Will address crews by name, if possible, as needed.
- Will return, after races, behind Peter Island. Positioning your launch to minimize wakes.
- Will observe proper flag etiquette at the Finish. If all is well, hold a taut white flag up with two hands in the direction of the athletes, and then towards the finish. Report the winning time by megaphone to the Judge in the tower, using tenths only. **For example: "TIME, SIX FIVE THREE POINT TWO" = 6.53.26**

**Marshall 4 @ top of peter's island:**

- Will hold crews' returning to the Gillian Boat House & Canoe Club until the race on the course has passed them.
- Will then direct crews to cross course on 90degree angle to east bank & lane "0".

**Marshall 5 Finish Marshall @ Columbia Avenue Bridge:**

- Will allow crews returning to Three Angels & Boat House Row to continue down river.
- Will instruct crews returning to Gillian Boat House & Canoe Club to the west bank & back upriver.
- Will \*During Regatta finals. Communicates with the finish tower and returns winning crews, in reverse order, to awards dock.

**Marshall 6 @ Three Angels dock:**

- Will allow crews to continue to Boat House Row
- Will keep crews launching from cut across river.

**Marshall 7 Safety Marshall – Above Gerard Avenue Bridge**

- Will turn crews heading for the starting line to the west bank & upriver.
- Will allow crews going to boat house row to continue (row through) to boathouse row.

**Radio Protocol**

Keep radio traffic to a minimum. Think **"WAIT" Why Am I Talking?** Listen to make sure you are not stepping on a communication. There is no need to communicate routine things, other than finish time. Also Keep in mind who may be standing by a radio haring your transmissions.

The Start should verify the Finish is ready for the first race of a shift but no ordinary communication about Starts is required afterwards. Communicate the exceptions only!

Be prepared to broadcast by position/name, deliver your message clearly and succinctly, and confirm that you received and understood the message.

If a boat has flipped on the course, report the location (lane, distance, if blocking the racecourse, etc.) to the Starter. Keep the Starter informed and report when the course is clear.

**In case of an emergency, the reporting referee calls “Medical Medical Medical.” This establishes priority over any and all other radio traffic.** Report your name, location, and describe the nature of the emergency and what assistance may be required.

## **Medical**

Medical support will be available on shore near the Launch Dock Area. All medical assistance cases should be brought to the primary launching dock. As was mentioned in the Radio section, be very clear about medical issues on the radio. If you need assistance, ask for it – if you don’t, please say so.

## **Incidents on the Water**

Incidents on the water should be handled with priority on the crew involved first, then worry about racing. If you need help, or are uncomfortable with the issue, say so. If you are OK and don’t need assistance, say that too. No other launches should go to assist unless specifically requested.

## **Course Evacuations**

We will be monitoring the weather regularly. Should we need to suspend racing, every effort should be made to assist crews, our people, and volunteers to move to the designated safety area. The Starter oversees the first 500m of the course. If possible, the crews will be raced down the course. Where possible, completing all heats would be ideal, but only if it doesn’t require people to stay out too long.

The remaining 500m-1500m of the course is under the control of the Chef. Under their direction, the Referees on the water should assist making sure the course has been cleared of all athletes.

On shore, the Control Commission is responsible for ensuring launch dock and recovery dock personnel and volunteers are under appropriate cover. Please note which crews recover at your docks so that an inventory of all shells can be communicated.

The Chief Referee will make the evacuation decisions with input from the water as requested. Please keep the radios clear for evacuation related traffic only.