

2025 Head of the Chick

Coaches & Coxswain Meeting



Welcome and Introductions

Regatta Directors:

- Sharon Kriz

WBC Director of Rowing

- Bruce Lifka

WBC President

- Croxton Gordon

Chief Referee

- Sarah Stafford

Safety Executive Officer

Objections:

- Safety First
- Fair Racing
- Smooth Regatta

Team and Spectator Arrival

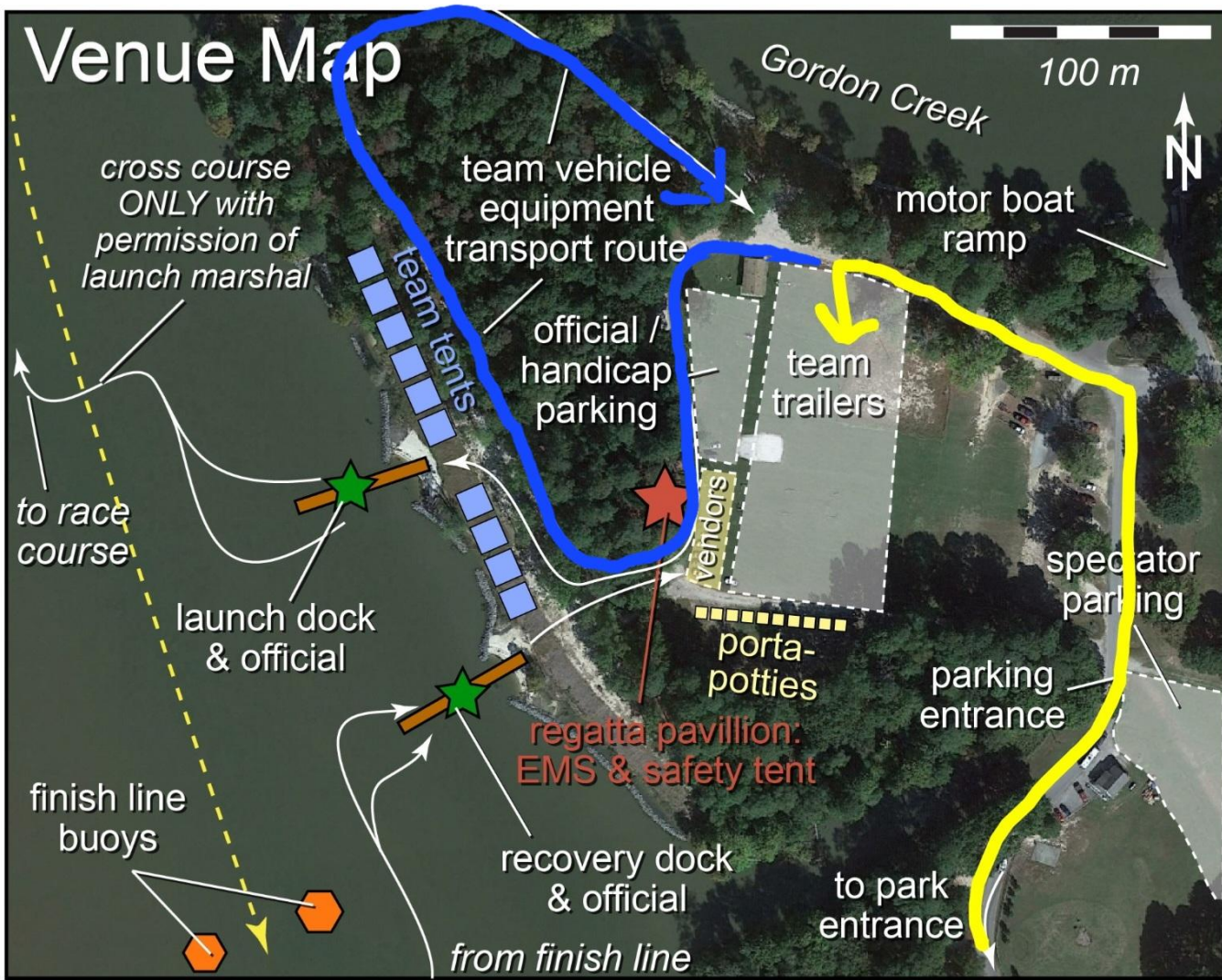
Boat and Food Trailers:

- Saturday 4-6pm
- Sunday starting at 6am
- Contact Regatta Director at dor@williamsburgboatclub.org if you need to arrive at another time
- We will have volunteers to meet you and help park - Do not just park anywhere

Spectators:

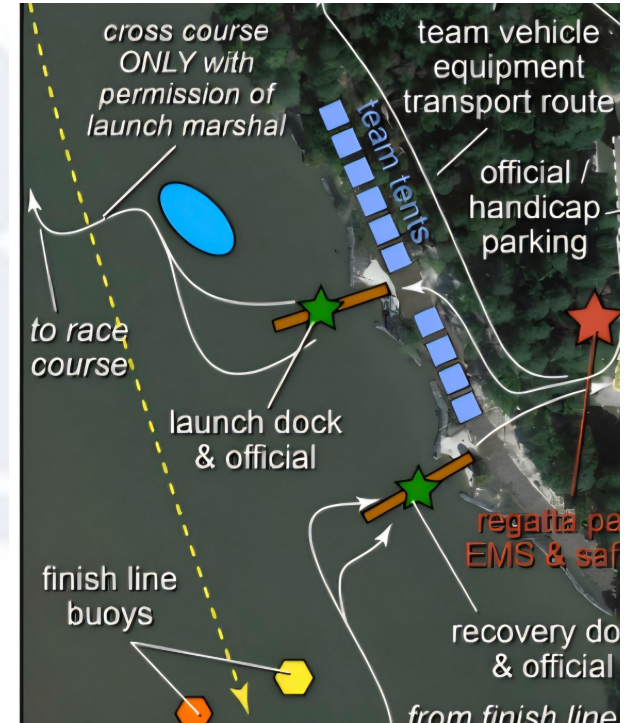
- Follow directions to spectator parking
- \$10 per car - Please have CASH ready
- Park opens at 6am. Please do not arrive earlier

Venue Map



Race Course Overview - Launching

- Safety checks
 - Heel ties, Bow balls, Bow Number - provided in regatta packet, pick up at Pavilion
 - Check boats BEFORE coming!
- Bring boats to the launch docks **STERN FIRST**
 - After safety check crew will about face and walk BOW first down to the beach/launch dock
 - Have oar carriers - limit the number of extra people in the launching area
- First Call will be 40 minutes before race time - you will not be allowed to launch earlier
- Know your bow #, race time, crews starting before/after

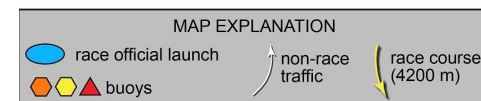
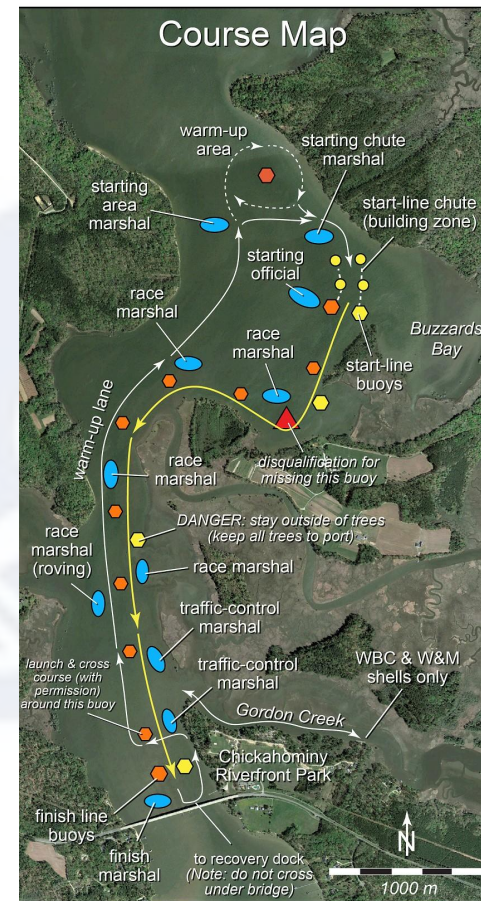


Rowing to the Start

- The **Traffic Control Marshall** will tell you when to cross the course.
 - Row past the **ORANGE** buoy before turning to row up the course
 - You will **NOT** cross the **ORANGE** buoy line again!
- Keep **ORANGE** buoys about a boat length away from your starboard oars on the straight-away until you reach the **Race Marshall** - about $\frac{2}{3}$ way to the start.

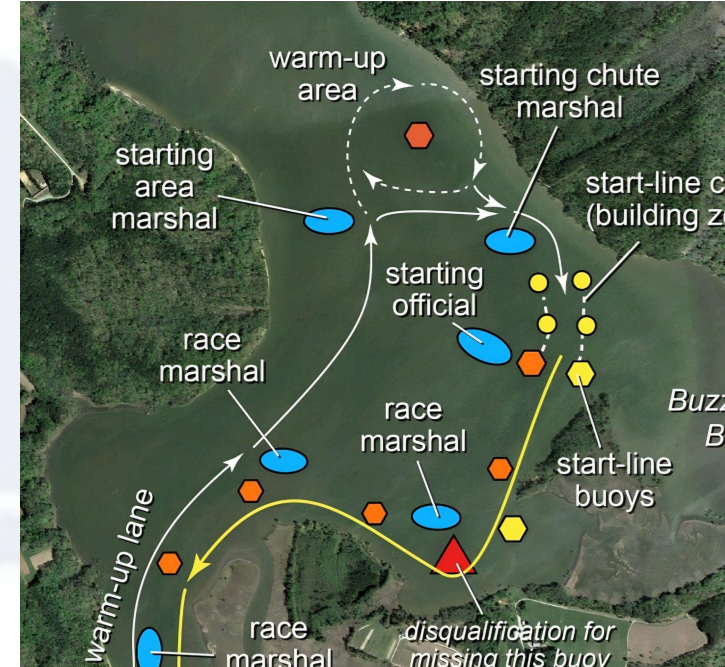
****Be ALERT!**

The course is NOT closed to other Marine Traffic**



Rowing to the Start...

- You will move away from the buoy line after you check in with **Race Marshall** and row towards the **Starting Area Marshall**
 - Course will be further away on your starboard
 - Keep the Duck Blind on your starboard
- The **Starting Area Marshall** will either
 - direct you to line up for your race
 - direct you to continue warming up in the warm up area - **Clockwise pattern** with **RED** buoy always on STARBOARD** *It is your responsibility to know the time and be ready to line up for your race - approx 5-10' before race time*

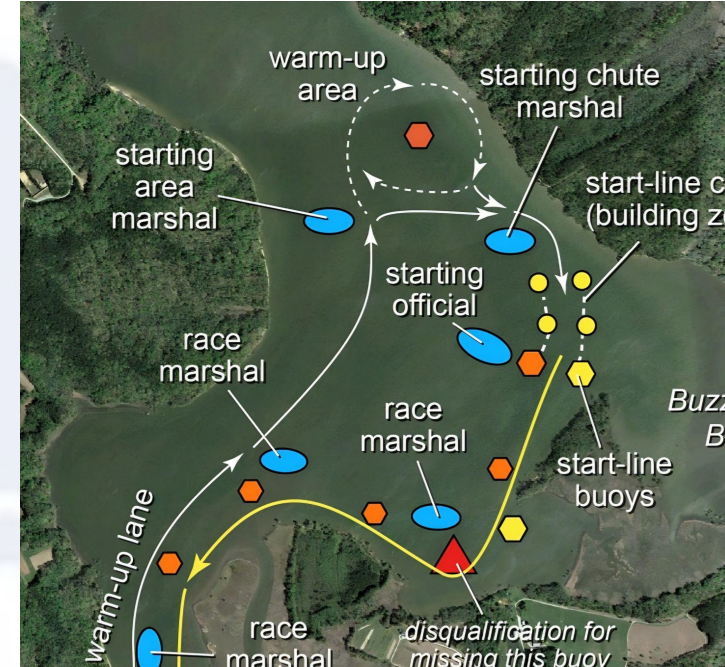




**Duck Blind Stays on Starboard
on way to the start**

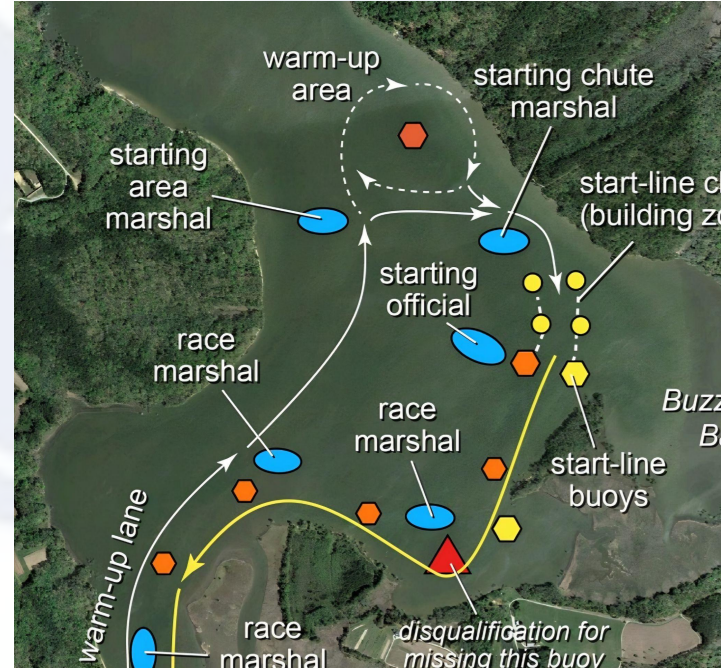
The Start

- There will be **YELLOW** buoys marking the Starting Chute
 - Listen for the **Starting Chute Marshall** to call you to the start.
 - You can start to build pressure when you enter the Starting Chute
- There will be a **Starting Official** at the end of the chute.
 - Your race time will start when you pass the Starting Official.
 - You may or may not hear an indication that you have started the race - **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO BE AT RACE SPEED AS YOU PASS THE END OF THE CHUTE**



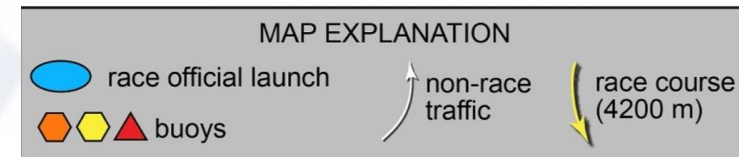
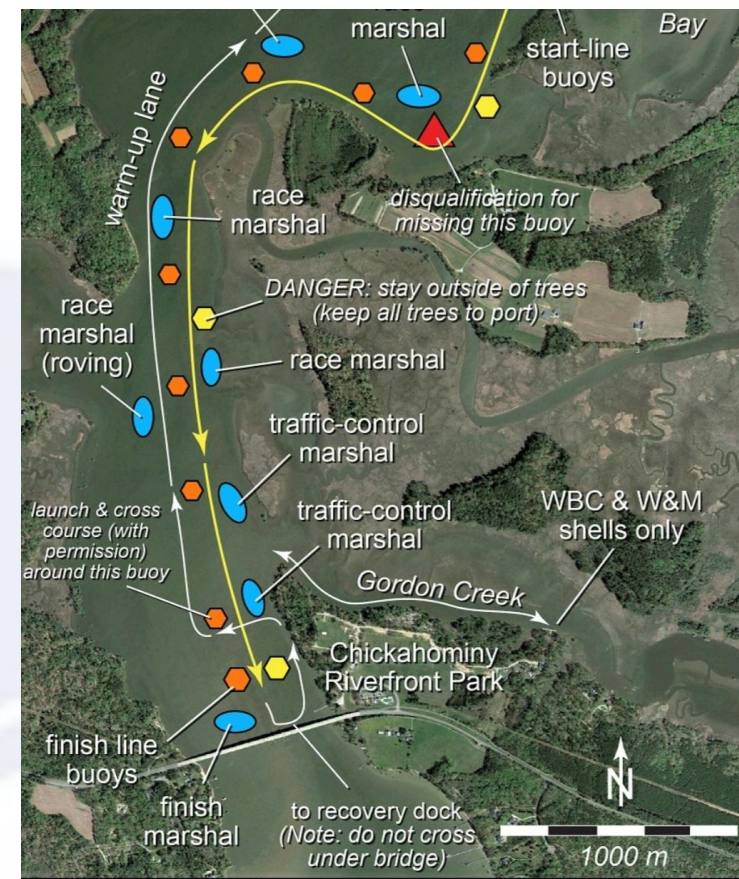
The Course

- There are **ORANGE** buoys lining the course. These buoys are **ALWAYS ON YOUR STARBOARD SIDE**.
 - You never cross the **ORANGE** buoy line!
 - Any crew that does, during warm up or racing, will be assessed a 30 second penalty.
- **YELLOW** buoys on port are marking areas to avoid. **DO NOT go between these buoys and land!**
 - You will be assessed a 30 second penalty as well as run the risk of boat damage.
- There will be a very large **RED TRIANGLE** buoy marking the inside of the large turn early in the race (about 600m from the start).
 - When racing, this buoy **MUST** be on your STARBOARD side.
 - Any crew failing to pass this buoy on their starboard side will be disqualified.



The Course...

- As you approach the second turn, this time to port, be careful **NOT** to get too close to shore. There are some shallow spots.
 - At the same time, **DO NOT** take the turn too wide and keep all **ORANGE** buoys to your starboard.
- Coming off the turn, pick up the trees in the water (they are upright trees surrounded by water) about 600m away.
 - Keep ALL of the trees and the **YELLOW** buoy to PORT at all times.
- As you pass the trees pick up the Bridge and Finish Line area, mostly a straight line about 1500m away.
- Do **NOT** stop racing until you have fully passed the finish line buoys!
- You should hear a horn as you cross



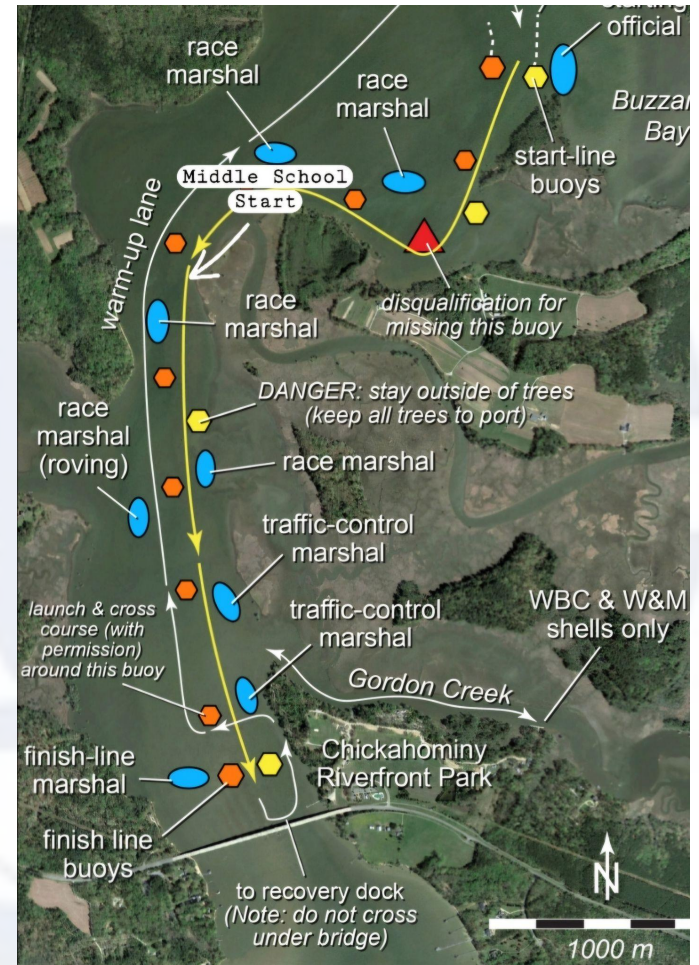
Finish/Recovery Dock

- Continue to paddle after the finish line
- The Finish Marshall will direct you to turn towards the PORT short and row towards the Recovery Dock
 - **DO NOT ROW UNDER THE BRIDGE**
 - ****You might see some WM/WBC boats rowing through the bridge - DO NOT FOLLOW**
- Listen for the Dockmasters - they will help you into the dock.
 - ****Tide will be coming in - pushing you towards the start**
 - Take this into account when approaching the recovery dock - **you will drift past the docks if you are not careful!**



Middle School Race

- Middle School races will row a shortened course of about 2000m
- Same launching/recovery
 - WBC Middle School boats will be rowing from the WBC docks
- Keep all **ORANGE** buoys to starboard.
- A race marshall will meet them past the trees in the water but before the turn to the start



Rules of Racing/Penalties

USRowing Sanctioned Regatta

- Following USRowing rules of racing
- All clubs need to be Organizational Members of USRowing
- All participants need to be Basic USRowing members, online waiver signed, Safe Sport compliant

Penalties

- Missed **ORANGE** or **YELLOW** buoy while racing or on the warm up - **30 second penalty**
- Missing the **BIG RED TRIANGLE** buoy - **exclusion from the race**
- Late to the Start
 - Any crew arriving late to the start will be allowed to row IF the event is still in the process of starting. If the next event has already started we will do our best to allow the crew to race down the course but as exhibition only.
- Failure to Continue Rowing Past the Finish Line
 - Crews **MUST** continue to row past the finish line. Failure to do so could result in a penalty at the discretion of the Chief Referee.

Rules of Racing/Penalties Cont...

- Failure to Yield or Over Aggressive Passing - 30 seconds
 - Overtaking crews must steer a safe course and allow at least one boat's width open water when passing.
 - A crew is considered to be overtaking when it is within one boat length of the slower boat.
 - Crews being overtaken must promptly yield to either the outside turn or the direction instructed by the overtaking crew.
- Unsportsmanlike Conduct
 - Time penalties or disqualification at the discretion of the Chief Referee.

Safety Procedures

- Chief Referee, Safety Executive Officer and Regatta Directors all monitoring weather, safety conditions, emergencies.
 - All regatta volunteers acting as first responders - will access and precede as necessary
- **EMT/First Aid Station**
 - *Stationed near the Pavilion*
- **Safety Launches**
 - PFDs
 - First Aid Kits
 - VHF Radios
 - Cell Phones
- **If YOU NEED ATTENTION**
 - Get the attention of a Safety Launch, Regatta Director, Race Volunteer
- Areas of extraction
 - Launch/Recovery Docks
 - Boat Ramp on Gordon's Creek
- If you have an inhaler - **Have it with you in the boat**

Schedule/Heat Sheets/Results/Other Info

Everything is or will be posted on the Head of the Chick Website:

<https://www.williamsburgboatclub.org/head-of-the-chick>

Questions before Sunday:

Email Sharon Kriz at dor@williamsburgboatclub.org

Questions on Sunday:

Ask someone at the Pavilion

We look forward to seeing you on Sunday!
Good Luck and Safe Travels!