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Durham Regatta

Disability Access Statement

The Directors and Executive Committee are committed to ensuring that all stakeholders including trade stand/display providers, competitors, volunteers and visitors, can enjoy the Regatta. It will take all reasonable measures to ensure that disabled competitors and visitors can access and enjoy the event, taking into account the requirements of the Equality Act.

To achieve this, it is important to consider that the Regatta is an outdoor event taking place in June annually using facilities and an environment over which the Executive Committee has little control. The Executive Committee do not own the river or land on which the event is held and must cooperate with a number of other organisations, including Durham County Council and Durham University. The Regatta has access to the site for a limited period only and is unable to make permanent or significant temporary changes to the land or the infrastructure serving it.

The event can be subject to rapid changes in weather which may impact adversely on water and ground conditions within the Regatta Enclosure, trailer park, river access and parking areas. Rowing and bankside activities may be cancelled/altered at short notice and will be dependent upon a risk assessment made by the Race Committee and Safety Committee. Under such conditions, access cannot always be guaranteed for disabled visitors.

The racing extends over both 700m and 1800m, following a winding course on the River Wear through the City of Durham. Public footpaths extend along the course with the 700m course being mainly within the Regatta Enclosure. Access to the river by competitors is via the steps and a ramp at Durham Amateur Rowing Club. Outside of the Regatta Enclosure, access is outside of the control of the Executive Committee.

Areas in and around the Regatta Enclosure can be uneven and most facilities, including the trailer and car parks are part of grassy/playing fields. There may be some viewing restrictions due to the uneven and grassy nature of the riverbank as well as foliage on the riverbank in the enclosure although an accessible footpath is available along its entire length. Accessible toilets are provided within the Regatta Enclosure and at Durham Amateur Rowing Club.

Disabled parking is provided close to Regatta Control and Entrance Gate 1, and is available on a first come first served basis. Entry to those with reduced mobility who require disabled parking is best made via Green Lane onto to the track past Durham Amateur Rowing Club towards gate 1 – Disabled Parking is on the left of the footpath immediately before gate 1.

As part of the implementation of our Equal Opportunities Policy, Durham Regatta regularly reviews this Disabled Access Statement and its practical implementation.

Signed for and on behalf of Durham Regatta:

Mr Michael Laing, Chair of Executive Committee and Director, April 2026.

Next Review: January 2027.