

Celtic Challenge 2012 - RULES FOR THE RACE

1. Each rowing team will comprise 12 people with only five people in the boat at any one time. Mixed teams are to comprise 6 men and 6 women. The mix of rowers and coxes at any one time will be at the discretion of the team.
2. A men's team shall comprise 12 men. A women's team shall comprise 12 women. A mixed team must comprise 6 men and 6 women. A veteran team must all be over the age of 40. These are the only categories defined; any other mix is considered to be out of the scope of the accepted race categories but may still take part on that understanding.
3. Categories of boats eligible for the race are as follows: Celtic/Pembrokeshire Longboats, Irish skiffs, All Ireland boats. **All rowing boats will have fixed seats. The use of sliding seats will mean automatic disqualification.**
4. Means of propulsion is by four single oars only¹ the use of any other form of propulsion will automatically disqualify a team.
5. The Committee reserves the right to require each team to provide a nominated scrutineer who will be allocated to another vessel at the pre-race meeting.
6. Each team is to provide a support vessel of not less than 10m. in length and one powered RIB / Inflatable not less than 4m in length. *Full details of both, including a photograph, where available, are to be submitted to the Committee as soon as they are available. Details of the experience of the Skippers and helmsmen are also required by 1st February.*
7. All support vessels should be MCA CG66 registered or Irish Dept. of Marine equivalent.
8. Each team is responsible for its own navigation.
9. Each Support vessel and RIB / Inflatable / Rowing boat will be subject to an inspection by a member of the Race Committee to ensure that they comply with the list of Safety equipment below. Each Team is required to have a named person with responsibility for the Safety equipment who should report to the Race Safety co-ordinators. Failure to comply with the list of Safety equipment could mean disqualification.
10. SAFETY. EACH ROWING BOAT IS TO CARRY:-
 - A WORKING BILGE PUMP and bailer as back up
 - Adequate buoyancy to keep boat and all personnel afloat
 - Personal lifejackets, fitted with light and whistle, for all rowers and coxes, to be worn at all times during the race
 - Flares. Minimum 3 hand held red pinpoint flares
 - Hand held VHF radio² with a 2 or 3 kilometre range. Ensure good battery life.
 - Hand held GPS
 - One all round white navigation light not less than 2 metres in height
 - A powerful hand held torch
 - A compass
 - A small radar reflector – Commercial standard to be visible at all times (i.e. day and night).
11. EACH SUPPORT VESSEL IS TO CARRY:-
 - Life rafts onboard
 - Lifejackets for all persons. Lifejackets are to be of full support type to DTI standards NOT buoyancy aids.
 - Flares. Minimum of 4 hand held red, 2 red parachute and 1 orange smoke flare
 - Working VHF radio

- Handheld VHF
- Adequate charts and navigational publications to cover the crossing
- A working GPS navigation system
- Adequate fuel supply for both RIB and Support vessel to cover the Race.
- Safe boarding facility for Doctor or for the evacuation of casualty in an emergency with competent crew support.

12. EACH INFLATABLE VESSEL IS TO CARRY:-

- Hand held VHF radio with adequate battery life
- Flares. Minimum 3 hand held red pinpoint flares
- Powerful hand torch
- Lifejackets must be worn at all times
- Sufficient fuel
- GPS
- Throwing rescue line.

13. All Support vessels must be in Arklow by Noon on the Friday and **must** report to the Race Control so that the necessary inspections are able to take place before the briefing on the Friday evening.

14. INSURANCE. Each team is to have its own personal insurance

15. No alcohol is to be consumed during the race.

16. It is the responsibility for the Skipper of the Support Vessel to give an accurate position (Lat & Long) of the Rowing boat when asked to do so by the Committee Race Control boat.

17. If any Support Vessel breaks down the Rowing boat must stay with its Support Vessel and should not carry on rowing alone and unsupported. The Support Vessel should contact the Committee boat immediately.

18. It is essential that All Support vessels should not hinder the progress of their own Rowing boat or any other Rowing boat that is overtaking their boat. Any team that is guilty of hindering the progress of another Team could face disqualification.

19. Each Team will have to pass a given Waypoint to transit the Arklow Bank otherwise they will face disqualification. The Waypoint position will be given out at the Team briefing in Arklow before the race.

20. If the decision is taken to cancel the race, for whatever reason, Celtic Challenge will accept no responsibility for any boat / club that then attempts the crossing, and this action will disqualify that club from all future Celtic Challenges.

The organising committee's ruling on any dispute will be treated as absolute.

¹ At the discretion of the Committee, other types of single oared rowing boats may take part in the Celtic Challenge, but would not be eligible to compete for any trophies under present rules.

² A walkie-talkie radio is acceptable for communication between RIB/inflatable and rowing boat.