

**Your entry denotes acceptance of these rules. All participants undertake to:**

- 1) Ensure their craft is registered for navigational use on the River Stour. This will be for the duration of the event. Proof will be required during the final part of registration before you depart. This is achieved by one of the following options:
  - a) At least one person in the craft has British Canoeing (BC) 'on the water' membership.
  - b) The craft is already registered with the Environment Agency (EA).
  - c) The craft is on hire from an S2C Official Hire Partner.
  - d) You obtain an Environment Agency craft registration via the River Stour Trust (RST) by:
    - i) selecting the relevant S2C ticket option when booking your place/s.
    - ii) purchasing an EA craft registration direct from RST.
- 2) Craft entries that cannot provide proof that their craft is registered for navigational use on the River Stour are required to purchase an EA craft registration so they can take part in the event. However, this is refundable (subject to a £2.50 admin fee) if proof of an alternative registration method is provided within 2 days after the event.
- 3) All participants must be competent and confident in handling their craft. This can include children but only if they are paddling alongside or sharing a craft with a responsible adult.
- 4) All participants to always wear life preserver/buoyancy aid.
- 5) We intend for all working locks to be in operation, but this cannot be relied upon and space is restricted. Therefore, all participants must be prepared to use the portages. Our volunteer marshals will be on hand to provide guidance, but physical assistance cannot be expected.
- 6) We will arrange staggered time slots for launching on Saturday morning from The Granary and on Sunday morning from Wissington. This will help to avoid overcrowding and mitigate issues with restricted space, particularly at the finishing location. Please aim to arrive 10-15 minutes before your launch time so we can efficiently manage this process. Delays are possible if you arrive outside your timeslot.
- 7) You must check in at each and every checkpoint. This is essential, as failure to do so could result in a search being made for you.
- 8) If you cannot leave a checkpoint by the designated time, then you will be deemed to have withdrawn from the event.

Checkpoints DAY 1	Sudbury (The Granary)	depart by 10.30am
	Bures (Recreation Ground)	depart by 2.30pm
Checkpoints DAY 2	Wissington (Rushbanks Campsite)	depart by 10am
	Stratford St Mary	depart by 3pm

- 9) Help to support the Check-Clean-Dry scheme: [www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry/](http://www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry/)
- 10) If you are withdrawing from the event:
  - a) At a checkpoint - please ensure the checkpoint marshal is notified before you leave.
  - b) Any other place - ensure you contact our emergency number/s as soon as possible.
- 11) You are advised to keep in sight of other craft as far as is possible. Our designated sweepers are the last to depart and will follow S2Cers along the route.
- 12) Watch out for submerged obstructions or other hazards. If possible, pinpoint the location using the What3Words app then notify one of our volunteers at your earliest opportunity.
- 13) Report any urgent problems or other incidents to our emergency number/s.
- 14) Always use the Portages. Keep clear of weirs and sluices. You might find it useful if your craft has a painter (a rope that is attached to the bow of a boat).
- 15) Most portages are over private property - do not trespass. Only portage at the marked portage points, all described in 'S2C Route' document and on the EA Navigation map.
- 16) We recommend that you arrange a support vehicle, who might also be your emergency contact, ensuring that they are not participating in the event as a paddler or volunteer.
- 17) All participants will follow advice to ensure the safety of yourself and others, including:
  - a) agreeing not to mix alcohol and boating to ensure a safe and enjoyable event for everyone. Alcohol can severely affect the safety of you and others. Drunken and anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated. Please behave responsibly and think about others and the potential consequences of your actions.
- 18) Please take every opportunity to wash your hands properly with soap and water for 20 seconds. Although the usual toilet and hand washing facilities will be available at the checkpoints; we suggest that all participants bring along their own hand sanitiser gel.
- 19) **Weil's Disease (Leptospirosis)** - all water users should be aware of this potentially fatal infection. Transmission is usually through an open wound or abrasion but can also be caused by ingestion of contaminated water. Symptoms are often akin flu like symptoms and, if untreated, can be fatal. If you feel ill after paddling you should tell your Doctor as soon as possible and let them know where and when you have been on the water. More info: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/leptospirosis/>
- 20) Remember that boating is an 'assumed risk' sport - you paddle at your own risk. The River Stour Trust will make every effort to assist you to enjoy this event - however no liability can be accepted for any loss, injury or damage, however caused.
- 21) Understand that these rules are subject to change.

