

PARENT, COACH, and SPECTATOR NOTES - ICEBREAKER 2022

What to Expect: The Icebreaker is an all-youth race for Middle School and High School students in the Northeast. It is like no other race! Held in Fort Point Channel in Boston Harbor, it is a series of sprint heats for Pilot Gigs and Coxed Fours followed by two distance races for all crews. In the sprints, crews navigate slalom courses suited to their skill levels and race in



different boats in different rounds. The day ends with a ½-mile Distance Challenge for novices and a Nautical Mile for the more experienced crews. Parents and Coaches are encouraged to cheer all youth rowers from the sidelines at Fort Point Channel overlooking the 2 racing venues (one for Pilot Gigs, one for Coxed Fours) on the Harborwalk. (See graphic.) For safety reasons, parents, spectators and most coaches will not be allowed on the docks. 50 experienced volunteers will be taking care of your youth rowers all day.

We hope that you enjoy the day with a spirit of good sportsmanship and friendly competition. The Barking Crab Tent and marina is our home-base throughout the

day. We ask that groups do not “claim” a table, but share and help ensure that everyone keeps warm and has a place to nosh.

WEATHER: A week out, we will send weather updates to coaches, as needed. Regardless of the particulars year to year, being outside and active for upwards of 8 hours takes a toll on young bodies. **PLEASE make sure that all rowers have proper clothing, layers, hats, and protective gear. In case of wind or wet, these efforts should be redoubled.** The winds will make hands cold so please bring gloves for warming up between heats. Shoes may get wet: *Be prepared!*

WATER BOTTLES: Bring your own. No disposable bottles will be available.

TIMETABLE: NOTE, these are projected times and the races will follow sequentially. The day is timed around having all races completed and kids and boats settled by sunset. Fingers crossed! First and foremost, safety of the rowers, volunteers, and the Vermont, Rhode Island, and Connecticut crews loading boats at the end of the day are our number one concerns.

7 to 8am. **Registration.** Pancake Breakfast in the Barking Crab Tent. Coxswain tours of the course by powerboat. **Please come early!**

8 to 8:30am. **COXSWAIN/ALL CREWS MEETING** under Moakley Bridge near the Crab.

8:30 am Crews head to Pilot Gig and Coxed Four race courses!

9 am to 12:00 pm. **Sprint Challenge Heats** on both Coxed Fours and Pilot Gig venues. **Boats or crews that are not at the start line by the start of their heat will forfeit that heat.** NOTE: Boston is a wonderful city and the Seaport area has really grown in the last few years with many fun things to see and do. **DON'T!!!** In previous years we have seen kids leave with coaches or parents to get food or sit in cars or just hang out away from the races. With the size and complexity of the event, we cannot put races on hold to find kids. Crews are expected to be in their boats and ready to leave the docks PRIOR to the start of the heat in front of them. *We need your help to make this carefully choreographed event run smoothly!*

12:30 to 1:00 pm. **Distance Challenge.** Novice teams race up the Channel from the Gillette embayment to the Barking Crab Docks.

1:00 to 2:00 pm. Move boats and crews to Nautical Mile start.

2:00 to 2:30 pm. **Nautical Mile.** 1st and 2nd boat teams Race from Legal Seafood to the Federal Courthouse at the mouth of the Fort Point Channel.

3:30 pm. **AWARDS CEREMONY** – Barking Crab Tent

PARKING:

The “Binford Street Lot” is the recommended Parking Area for all cars and buses for the event. The day rate is \$5. Address: 45 Binford Street (off A Street), Boston.

From the North:

Take I-93 South over the Zakim Bridge and into the tunnel under Boston. Follow I-93 South and

- **take EXIT 20A-20B** toward South Station. The left lane off the exit will
- **merge onto Purchase St.** After merging on Purchase, the stay in the left lane because very quickly you will turn
- **left onto Summer Street.** Stay in the righthand lane. Once you cross over the Summer Street Bridge the take the first available
- **right onto Melcher Street.** Follow Melcher St about 2 blocks and then turn
- **right onto A Street,** in two blocks you will see the parking lot on your right. At the end of the lot there is a right turn onto Binford Street to get to the entrance.
- You will see the entrance to **Binford Street Lot** on your right at the end of this street.

From the West:

Take I-90 (the Mass Pike) East toward Boston. Continue through the tolls into Boston, staying on I-90. (You will go through a series of tunnels, stay to the left until you pass exit 22 Prudential/Copley. I say this because exit 22 comes up quick and you can get caught in

traffic on the exit if you stay to the right). Stay on I-90 and get in the righthand lane after Exit 22, following signs toward the airport.

- **take Exit 25** and stay in the lefthand lane coming out of the tunnel. At the top of the exit you will see a sign that directs you to the left toward Seaport Blvd. Follow that road to the first set of lights. That is Congress Street, turn
- **left onto Congress Street.** Follow Congress through the first light and stay in the lefthand lane. At the second light get in the left turn lane and turn
- **left onto A Street.** Follow A Street about 3 short blocks and you will see the parking lot on your right. At the end of the lot there is a right turn onto Binford Street to get to the entrance.
- You will see the entrance to **Binford Street Lot** on your right at the end of this street.

From the South:

Take 93 North toward Boston.

- **take Exit 20** toward Logan Airport. Stay in the left lane and follow the signs toward South Boston. When you go into the Tunnel, get in the right lane. Follow
- **exit on the right toward South Boston.** Stay in the left lane. At the first light
- **turn left onto Congress Street.** Follow Congress through the first light and stay in the lefthand lane. At the second light get in the left turn lane and
- **turn left onto A Street.** Follow until you see the parking lot on your right. At the end of the lot there is a right turn onto Binford Street to get to the entrance.
- You will see the entrance to **Binford Street Lot** on your right at the end of this street.

If you have ANY questions, please email:

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Thank you again for all that you do to make this event possible.

- **The Icebreaker Planning Crew**