The Boat Race 2023 - Timekeeper Process

Primary timing system used at The Boat Race – Women's and Men's Race

- The Boat Race Company contract Pangea Tech to provide an on-board electronic timing system for the Women's Boat Race and Men's Boat Race.
- This system uses sensors within the boats that are triggered when the boats pass the intermediate timing points at the Mile Post, Hammersmith Bridge, Chiswick Steps, Barnes Bridge and the Finish Line.
- These times are fed into the BBC graphics team who display the times on screen as the race proceeds across the course.
- At the end of the race these timings are checked with the manual back up times for any significant discrepancies, assuming none are found and that the technology performed without failure, these times are then taken as the official Boat Race times.

Secondary / back up timing system used at The Boat Race for the Women's and Men's Boat Race and primary timing system used for the reserve races, Isis/Goldie and Osiris/Blondie.

- A back up manual timekeeping team will follow the Women's and Men's Boat Races and record all intermediate and finish times to sense check the primary times and act as back up if there is failure in the technology.
- For the reserve races no electronic times will be recorded and the manual timekeeping team will be the primary timing system used for these races.
- There are flag droppers located at the intermediate timing points along the Championship Course at the Mile Post, Hammersmith Bridge, Chiswick Steps, Barnes Bridge, and the Finish Line.
- Timekeepers in each of the four Races take their times on the drop of the flag at these positions, for both crews.
- The Finish flag will be white, and all intermediate timing point flags will be yellow.
- Mirror flags are also in place where line of sight is challenging at the finish and at Hammersmith Bridge.
- All timekeepers will be provided with stopwatch, launch pass and radio by The Boat Race. Lifejackets will be provided on their respective launch.
- At the end of the race these timings are used as primary times for Isis/Goldie and Osiris/Blondie and back up times for the Women's and Men's Races.

Communication process
A WhatsApp group will be set up with the following people to verify and share official times:
- The Boat Race Event Manager – Chris Price
- Pangea Tech – Duncan Barnes
- Manual timekeepers of each race
- Flag droppers in each position on course
- The Boat Race Marketing and Comms Manager – Naomi Hutchinson
- Film Nova – Alex Lightfoot

The Women's Boat Race & The Men's Boat Race Primary Process
- The start clock will be initiated by the assistant umpire pressing a button when the umpire begins to lower their flag to start the race, on a remote provided by Pangea Tech.
- Pangea Tech will take times at all the timing points - Mile Post, Hammersmith Bridge, Chiswick Steps, Barnes Bridge, Finish.
- Finish Judge (Ben Kent) will confirm the official result of the Races — Ben is on land at the BBC camera finish position with access to view the BBC feed.
- Pangea Tech will post provisional times in the WhatsApp group.
- Manual timekeeper to post times into WhatsApp group.
- Finish Judge to verify the provisional times vs the manual times for obvious discrepancies.
- Finish Judge to confirm the result, time, and winning margin on WhatsApp group and with the Umpire.
- Film Nova representative to confirm official times to the BBC
- The Boat Race Marketing and Comms representative to confirm official times to media centre.

Back-up System for The Women's Boat Race & The Men's Boat Race
- Manual timekeepers will be on launches for each Race.
- Start stopwatch when the umpire begins to lower their flag to start the race.
- Timekeepers to take times for all intermediate timing points when the flag drops from the bank of the river, plus points at which any stoppages and restarts occur. Intermediate timing points are Mile Post, Hammersmith Bridge, Chiswick Steps, Barnes Bridge.
- Timekeepers to WhatsApp times into WhatsApp group when the race has finished.
- Finish Judge to use these times if there is a technical fault in the electronic timing system.
- If adopted due to technical fault, follow next steps:
- *Finish Judge to confirm the result, time, and winning margin on WhatsApp group and with the Umpire.*
- *Film Nova representative to confirm official times to the BBC*
- *The Boat Race Marketing and Comms representative to confirm official times to media centre.*

Osiris Blondie & Isis Goldie
- Manual timekeepers will be on launches for each Race.
- Start stopwatch when the umpire begins to lower their flag to start the race.
- Timekeepers to take times for all intermediate timing points when the flag drops from the bank of the river, plus points at which any stoppages and restarts occur. Intermediate timing points are Mile Post, Hammersmith Bridge, Chiswick Steps, Barnes Bridge.
- Timekeepers to WhatsApp times into WhatsApp group when the race has finished.
- Finish Judge to confirm the result, time, and winning margin on WhatsApp group and with the Umpire.
- Film Nova representative to confirm official times to the BBC
- The Boat Race Marketing and Comms representative to confirm official times to media centre.

Back-up System for Osiris Blondie & Isis Goldie
- In the event of the manual timing system failing for the reserve races the livestream coverage will be reviewed post event and timings taken from this footage.