AVON BLUEFRIARS SMALL BOATS HEAD 2026
INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SHORT COURSE

ALL THREE DIVISIONS WILL BE RACED DOWNSTREAM ONLY

1 **PROCEEDING TO THE START:** Keep to the starboard/right hand side (Avon County Rowing Club Bank). Go through the starboard/right hand arch of the BOTTOM bridge and then cross over onto the port/left hand (Minerva bank).

2 **MARSHALLING: CREWS ROWING IN THE SHORTER RACES** will be marshalled just above the BOTTOM bridge. Please get into racing order with bows facing upstream on the Minerva side of the river, taking account of the marshalling letters on the bank, as set out in the Start Order. You will be told when to turn around and proceed to the start. Crews arriving late at the start may have to wait until other crews have raced and may incur a time penalty. The short course will be started as soon as all other crews have passed,

3 Before **THE SHORT START,** crews will be instructed to turn and paddle through the port/left side (Avon County Rowing Club bank) arch of the bottom bridge. Watch out for debris caught on the bridge. Crews should build up pace as soon as they are clear of the bridge. The start is about 20-30 metres below the bridge.

4 **RACING** crews must row on the **STARBOARD/RIGHT (**Minerva bank) side of the river, **overtaking** on the **PORT/LEFT** (Avon bank). Slower crews must give way to faster crews. Time penalties may be awarded for unsafe behaviour.

5 **DISEMBARKING:** After the finish crews must continue to paddle light. Crews must go beyond the rafts before turning and approach them upstream. Please wait patiently in the queue for your turn. Do not go too far past the rafts as there is a weir further downstream. Crews returning to Minerva must wait, facing upstream, on the Avon County Rowing Club side downstream of the rafts until given permission to proceed.

6 Your shoes will be brought to you in their numbered bags. After disembarking move your boat and blades away from the rafts and riverbank as soon as possible. In between divisions, boats and blades may be left on trestles in the field on the river side of the railway bridge. This will be signposted. No cars will be allowed in this field. Your Empacher (bow) number may be collected when you disembark – if not please return them to Registration. A charge of £5 each may be made for numbers damaged or not returned.