

Dear OCBC alumni,

We are very excited to welcome so many of you back to the boathouse this week to cheer on our crews in Summer Eights — your support means a great deal to everyone in the club.

We do need to flag an important rule change by OURCS this year. Previously, a crew could only face a Penalty Bump for dangerous behaviour on the water. That has changed: OURCS can now issue a Penalty Bump to any crew whose club members — past or present — breach the Rules of Racing or Code of Conduct on the bank during the race, resulting in unsafe or dangerous behaviour. In short, the actions of spectators can now directly affect the result for our crews on the water.

With that in mind, we must ask everyone watching to please refrain from running along the towpath with the crews. We have had serious collisions in the past involving spectators and bank riders and under the new rules this behaviour, whether resulting in a collision or not, could cost our crews a Penalty Bump — an outcome that would be devastating after all their hard work this year.

Please do cheer loudly and enjoy the racing from anywhere along the course - just make sure to find a spot and cheer from there.

Thank you for your understanding, and we look forward to seeing you on the bank and at the boathouse this week.

Kind regards,  
Freiderikos and Merle  
Captains of Boats 2025-26  
Oriol College Boat Club