

NORTHERN

REGIONAL UMPIRING COMMITTEE



Chairman: Dr. R. Mortimer Vice-Chairman: Mr. C. Curtis Secretary: Dr. D. Jones
Members: Mr. M. Bell, Ms. L. Forster, Dr. P. Hoare, Mr. J. Mulholland, Dr. A. Oakenfull, Mrs. L. Pain

Report to the Northern Regional Rowing Council Executive 17th June 2024.

MEETINGS OF COMMITTEE

None since last meeting.

SEMINAR

An autumn seminar is planned for Sunday 15th September.

RULES OF RACING

The 2024 Rules of Racing came into force on 1st April 2024. No particular issues have arisen although Race Committee Chairs should remember to include a notice if the "Two minutes" announcement is to be omitted in the start procedure.

COX WEIGHING

Competitions have taken notice of the cox weighing guidance given to them and no complaints regarding weighing have been received.

One crew was found to have raced without dead-weights at Hexham Regatta. Given the age of the crew and with their opposition's agreement the crew were not disqualified but the NRUC will be writing to the club to remind them of the need to stay within the rules and that a further transgression will likely result in disqualification at a minimum.

RACING

The regatta season has so far gone ahead mainly incident free.

At Hexham the Organising Committee took notice of umpire feedback from 2023 and have improved visibility at the start. There is still room for improvement but overall the start seemed workable this year.

Durham Regatta struggled with a strong headwind through the weekend and that combined with a crew sinking caused the Saturday racing to end up delayed. Lots of umpire feedback has been provided to the Organising Committee.

NRUC members have seen correspondence from a number of clubs that accuse Organising Committees of favouritism, bias and unfairness in entries processes. Some of these communications have been verging on threatening behaviour. This is not acceptable. Individual Organising Committees are encouraged to report these types of messages to either NRRC chair or the NRUC. Similarly if any club believes that they are being treated unfairly they should report that and the matter will be investigated.

CONTROL COMMISSION

Over the past year the NRUC has been concerned about the large number of equipment check failures at competitions. At Durham City Regatta the Organising Committee reported individual failures back to the clubs involved. Prior to Hexham and Durham Regattas two Umpires checked all boats in the Durham College fleets with the exception of Collingwood and University Colleges. A large number of failures were observed but this gave the colleges chance to rectify the situation prior to competition. Collingwood were checked separately prior to Durham Regatta.

See the Regional Rowing Safety Advisors report for a summary of failures.

UMPIRE TRAINING

After a slow start at Durham City, Tees and Wansbeck Regattas we now have a number of trainees regularly on the rotas at Hexham and Durham Regattas. At this stage it is not clear how many will be examined in 2024 but we do hope to run some exams likely after Talkin Tarn Regatta.

NATIONAL ISSUES

Nothing of note.

EQUIPMENT

No progress on purchase of new yellow jackets and other umpiring equipment. These will be actioned in the coming months.