

# 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

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Report to the Northern Rowing Council Executive 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

### **MEETINGS OF COMMITTEE**

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None since last NRC executive meeting.

### **UMPIRING MATTERS**

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The regatta season is now well under way and indeed almost completed. As anticipated umpire numbers have been at rock bottom and most competitions have struggled to be staffed fully. The NRUC has provided feedback to competitions as appropriate. Some feedback items were those that would have been unnecessary but with the two/three year enforced break some things have been forgotten as would be expected.

Of particular concern has been the standard of boats presented to Control Commission. There are some very basic failures (heel restraints and similar) that should be picked up and corrected in the general course of club operation. It is also worrying that many inflation life jackets have been found to have missing or badly installed gas canisters along with broken firing mechanisms.

The lack of preparedness of crews for racing has also been noted. Crews are unfamiliar with attaching to stakeboats, getting boats straight and general racing etiquette. This really must be something that coaches address when preparing for racing. We understand that many crews are very new to racing but at the same time the umpires should not be expected to teach basic techniques to crews at the start line.

A formal complaint was received regarding umpiring conduct. This is being handled using the National Umpiring Standards Policy and we expect to have completed handling of the complaint by the end of June.

### **RULES OF RACING**

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Following a few questions and extended discussion it is clear that some masters competitors do not understand the masters handicap system and how handicaps are calculated. This appears to be wider than just an umpiring matter and may need wider training/documentation.

### **TRAINING AND RENEWALS**

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Three candidates passed the final practical exam over the Durham City Regatta weekend. Congratulations to Chris Pratt (Lakeland), Duncan Ferguson (Tyne United) and Hilary Cairns (Berwick) and welcome to the umpiring world!

We continue to train our new candidates and many have been making good progress over the regatta season.

### **NATIONAL ISSUES**

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Recruiting for the new National Umpiring Secretary is underway and is expected to complete late June, early July.

### **EQUIPMENT**

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The new bells purchased during the lockdown months have now been put into service. We have a few new leads for supplied of Yellow Umpiring Jackets and are following these up.