

# 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 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

### **MEETINGS OF COMMITTEE**

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The NRUC met on 27<sup>th</sup> February for our main annual meeting.

The main item on the agenda was umpire training and recruitment. As previously reported we still need at least 10 extra umpires based within the region to give us sufficient numbers to not be at risk of cancelling competitions. Another 5 to 10 on top of that are required to give us head room to properly staff competitions and then concentrate fully on umpiring standards and development.

Seminars are being arranged for 19<sup>th</sup> April (just before the NRRC meeting) and 24<sup>th</sup> September. The April seminar includes a session on serious incident management and we hope to use this to identify a number of areas where further discussion, training and development may be useful.

Louise Forster is taking the lead on competition documentation review and feedback along with collation of competition monitoring reports. This neatly interacts with the expanded competition co-ordinator role that is aiming to help competition improve aspects that are frequently seen as needing attention.

### **UMPIRING MATTERS**

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The head racing season is now completed and preparations are well under way for the regatta season. After a mostly uneventful head racing season a couple of issues arose in the last few races that are noteworthy.

A few instances of foul and abusive language were observed during some racing/overtaking incidents. The racing incidents themselves were handled as per normal procedures but the Race Committees also took a very dim view of the use of language and disqualified the crews involved for unsportsmanlike behaviour. We understand that the coaches of the crews involved reinforced the point that crews should react to incidents in good grace and allow the umpires to handle it.

Early on the Sunday morning of BUCS 4s & 8s head a serious collision occurred that resulted in serious injury and hospitalisation of one crew member. Whilst this happened prior to the competition taking control of the river it did involve a visiting crew. Organising Committees and host clubs should consider out of competition access to the water by visiting clubs within their risk assessments and corresponding mitigations. John as RRSA will have more to say on this matter in his report.

An issue arose regarding (non-)application of disqualifications incurred during the Saturday racing. This has been discussed with the BUCS organising committee who are happy with their decision. No doubt it will be further discussed at the Northern Regional Umpiring seminar and taken forward as appropriate.

### **TRAINING AND RENEWALS**

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Six candidates have recently completed our Zoom based theory training. We propose to run a theory exam session in the next few weeks, ideally prior to the regional regatta season starting.

Dilwyn is arranging a practical session at Tees RC to give these trainees and those who are ready for practical exams some intensive practice outside of the competitions proper. We hope this will help to mitigate the short (roughly 2 months this year) main regatta season so we stand a better chance of getting candidates ready for exam within a single season.

Louise Forster, has completed the Multi-Lane Endorsement seminar series and begins her multi-lane practical training at the JIRR.

### **NATIONAL ISSUES**

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Applications have been received for a replacement National Umpiring Chair. The applications will be vetted by a sub-committee of the National Umpiring Committee before being put to a vote by the full NUC.

## **RULES OF RACING**

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The 2023 Rules of Racing came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> April. The main changes affecting competitors are:

Cox weights have been simplified to two categories: crews J14 and younger at 45 kg with all others at 55kg.

The new rules clarify that a women's competition is based on the gender recorded in BROE. This removes any competition/umpire deliberation required and any queries/protests would be directed towards British Rowing. Any changes in British Rowing policy would then automatically filter down to the Rules of Racing.

The rules give an example of "mixed ability" events which are designed to make it easier to offer competition for adaptive and para competitors where otherwise it may be difficult to make fair/safe competition.

Competitions may now choose to omit the "two minute" call from the start procedure to reduce confusion when races start with a cadence close to two minutes. The requirement to be on the start promptly and actions associated with that are still in force.

## **EQUIPMENT**

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We have identified a potential supplier for yellow jackets. There is some discussion as to whether these are sufficiently waterproof and this will be taken forward in due course.

