

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 25th September 2023.

MEETINGS OF COMMITTEE

The NRUC met via Zoom on 18th September. Agenda items included reviewing the recent regatta season, planning for the head race season, and considering how training may be organised going forwards. The committee is looking to appoint replacements for members who are expected to retire soon.

SEMINAR

The regional autumn umpiring seminar takes/took place on 24th September.

UMPIRING MATTERS

The regatta season has now completed and the first head race has already taken place. With the upcoming Long Distance Sculling Series we are approaching one of the busiest times of the racing calendar. The NRUC continues the ongoing review of competition documentation and approval of local rules. We thank the individual organising committees in advance for their diligence and timely preparation of these documents.

As noted in our last report to NRRC the number of Control Commission Boat Safety Check failures provides cause for concern. These checks prior to boating are intended to act as a final quality assurance check and not as a primary safety mechanism. Clubs are responsible for preparing boats for competition, recreation and training. Over the head race season the NRUC intends to work with Organising Committees and the NRRC to raise the profile of check failures via social media and bring the issue to wider attention. After each competition we will publish a tally of failures both by failure type and club. We hope that clubs will take notice and make steps to take themselves off of the "leaderboard".

TRAINING AND RENEWALS

Congratulations to Harry Longbottom and Chloe Kelly who qualified for a National Umpiring License on Thursday 27th June.

At the close of the regatta season the NRUC is reviewing training procedures and practices to look at how the number of candidates being ready for examination can be increased. The concentration of training around the regatta season is undoubtedly one aspect and this is difficult, if not impossible, to work around but many of those who do start practical training do not complete the training. In recent years we have been flexible with trainees and have allowed practical training to be split over a number of years but we are considering whether setting the expectation that training be completed in one year would actually be a better approach. To successfully complete the exams a candidate must experience a variety of roles, venues and situations and a more condensed schedule may help with this.

NATIONAL ISSUES

The National Umpiring Committee chair took office following ratification by the British Rowing Board on 3rd July. Congratulations to successful candidate Jo Cotgrove.

A series of videos on Start Umpire and bank-based Race Umpire techniques/procedures has been released by the National Umpiring Committee. These will be of use during umpire training and will provide good continuing professional development resources for qualified umpires ahead of each regatta season.

British Rowing has published a document showing insurance policy coverage for members. The NRUC is concerned that this does not show coverage for trainee umpires and training/outreach activities. We are performing a more detailed review of the documentation and will likely take our concerns to British Rowing via the National Umpiring Committee.

RULES OF RACING

As of 11th September British Rowing made changes to the rules on gender eligibility within competition. Briefly Women's events (and the Women's 50% of mixed) are now only available to those assigned as female at birth. All others may compete in the Open category. This is a very emotive subject for many but we must remind all that the national laws regarding gender equality are very strict. In particular any queries regarding individuals eligibility for gender restricted events should be made to the British Rowing Head of Governance Safeguarding and Integrity. Competitions and individuals should not make enquiries themselves and it is not appropriate to publicise or take steps that would embarrass or harm individuals involved. Please consult the full policy via <https://www.britishrowing.org/2023/08/british-rowing-updates-competition-eligibility-policy-and-procedures/>

EQUIPMENT

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