

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 29th January 2024.

MEETINGS OF COMMITTEE

The NRUC met via Zoom on 27th November 2023. Agenda items included reviewing the head racing season so far, considering cox weighing regimes and formalising review comments following the regatta season.

NRUC plans to meet in February to prepare for the upcoming regatta season. Date still to be determined.

SEMINAR

The regional spring umpiring seminar is expected to take place prior to the start of the regatta season.

UMPIRING MATTERS

2023 Competition feedback was received by a number of means including via competition wash-up processes; direct umpire feedback and the autumn umpiring seminar. NRUC discussed these at the November meeting and Louise is communicating with relevant Organising Committees via her dual role as NRUC member and NRRC Competitions Co-ordinator.

Cox weighing was raised at the NRRC AGM. NRUC are working through the issues raised and are gathering information with a view to further discussion at the February NRUC meeting before reporting back to NRRC Executive. Briefly the issues are: a request to remove the need for coxes to be weighed at competitions; and the procedures for maintaining privacy, etc., when weighing.

Control commission equipment check failures continue to be a concern both within affiliated competition and in regular use outside of competition. Competitions are being requested to ensure that failure records are passed on in a timely manner so that follow on action can be taken.

Radios have been in short supply over the head racing season and those that were provided have had many failed units. Similar issues were noted over the 2023 regatta season. Organising committees need to ensure that they have proper radio allocation plans and order enough to cope with cover plans with allowances for potential failures.

TRAINING AND RENEWALS

At the end of 2023 thirteen umpires licenses were due to expire. All of these have been renewed for a further three years with no retirements. The planned introduction of an online renewal has been delayed by a year and there are some delays in updating umpiring credentials in the JustGo system but the National Umpiring Committee, NUC, has confirmed that all renewals have been accepted as valid despite this processing delay. Thanks to Dilwyn for shepherding the renewals.

Plans are being put in place for the 2024 trainee cohort to begin training mid to late February. As before we are interested in candidates from any club but particularly from clubs who do not currently have an umpire as one of their members. Trainees must be aged 18 years or over and have British Rowing membership. They will be expected to attend the majority of the Northern Regional regattas held between April and July alongside a number of theory training sessions prior to that. To qualify for a license candidates must successfully pass both theory and practical exams.

NATIONAL ISSUES

The National Umpiring Committee, NUC, met on 6th January with Richard representing the Northern Region. Discussion was wide ranging covering items from insurance, through umpire recruitment and Rules of Racing.

Of particular regional interest was a discussion on weighing coxswains. Once the meeting minutes are available the matter will be discussed at the next NRUC meeting.

Committee Terms of Reference were also discussed and the National Umpiring Chair will be taking the issue forward to relevant national committees. This will hopefully bring a resolution to our long standing request for clarity in this area.

RULES OF RACING

A preliminary copy of the 2024 Rules of Racing was made available in November for comment by the NUC. Comments were fed back to the National Competition Committee and Rules of Racing Panel but no updated rules have been received by the NUC yet. It is however believed that the 2024 rules have been signed off by the British Rowing Board. NRUC will ensure that rules are circulated regionally once published by British Rowing.

Based on early drafts seen no significant changes to the rules are expected in 2024.

EQUIPMENT

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