

# **Safety Report for NRC AGM November 2021**

## **Covid-19**

Covid-19 is still with us. Please continue to follow the instructions and guidance put out by British Rowing, whose advice is based on that of the Government.

## **Club Audits**

This year's audit must be completed in time for me to review it by 16<sup>th</sup> November. So far, fewer than half of the clubs in this region have completed their audits. Please get them in soon; your club may be suspended from competition if you are late. Consideration will be given to clubs who cannot complete their audits because of Covid-19. I will discuss the audits with clubs at the Club Development Conference in January.

## **Incident Reporting**

Again, fewer than half of the region's clubs have reported incidents; possibly again due to Covid-19. The best reporters are Durham ARC (21 reports), Hexham RC (15) and Tees RC (11). Please report any incidents as soon as they happen. If you do not report an incident, it may affect your ability to make an insurance claim for injury or damage.

Number of incidents reported in the region; Oct 2020 – Oct 2021 = 99

Number of incidents reported in the region; Oct 2019 – Oct 2020 = 101

Number of incidents reported in the region; Oct 2018 – Oct 2019 = 205

## **Collisions**

The most commonly reported incidents, after simple capsizes (39), were collisions (24). Collisions were also the main cause of injuries and they are avoidable if crews follow the rules of the river and keep a good lookout. All crews should look around approximately every five strokes to ensure that there is nothing in their way. Also, if a crew is approaching you, shout a warning; don't just sit quietly waiting to be hit.

## **Lights**

Boats out in the dark must have adequate lighting. On the Wear at Durham, bike lights may be used (white front and red rear); on all other rivers, ColRegs apply (white lights front and rear). The lights should be visible from the sides, so that boats are visible when turning around. This is a very simple and cheap way of making effective boat lights. See:

<https://sway.com/GG6lmSjnQumioSUo>

## **Boat Maintenance**

Clubs and crews are responsible for the maintenance of their boats. Bow balls, heel restraints, hatch covers etc. should be checked before each outing, whether training or racing. Umpires at events simply ensure that the boats that they check comply with the Rules of Racing; they are not responsible for a crew's boat maintenance.

## **what3words**

what3words is a system for reporting your accurate location anywhere in the world. Clubs whose boathouse doesn't have a postcode should record the code on their safety noticeboard; it is recognised by all Britain's emergency services. Full details are on this Safety Alert <https://www.britishrowing.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Safety-Alert-what3words.pdf>

## **Trailer Towing**

The new rules are not yet in place; the initial date of 15<sup>th</sup> November has not been met. Await further announcements from the DoT.

## **Other River Users**

Since the start of the pandemic, several people have started to use our rivers in various ways, canoeing, paddle-boarding and wild swimming being some of them. Please keep a good lookout for these river users, they also have a right to use the river. If you can, try to make contact with them so you can agree how to avoid danger and impeding each other's enjoyment of sport.

If you want further information on any of the above, please contact me.

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