

Safety Report for NRC AGM November 2022

Club Audits

This year's audit must be completed in time for me to review it by 16th 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. 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. The best reporters are Durham ARC (24 reports), Collingwood College BC (19), Tees RC (12) and Hexham RC (10). 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 2021 – Oct 2022 = 118

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 (48), were collisions (26). 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 requirement for drivers to have a special test to tow trailers has changed. Drivers who passed their test after 1 January 1997 can now tow trailers up to 3,500 kgs, but be careful as there are still greater limitations than for those who passed their test before that date.

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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