

Safety Report for NRC Executive January 2022

Introduction

As the Government relaxes some of the Covid restrictions, we can all get back to enjoying our sport. However, please respect those who are still vulnerable to Covid by wearing a mask indoors, if asked to.

Events

A head race in another region caused distress to several competitors as the weather deteriorated and competitors were left out in the cold for too long. The event documentation was clear and fit for purpose but the organisers did not follow their own rules (a bit like Number 10). They set a limit on the number of competitors but exceeded it by about 50%; this led to delays in landing the first division and boating the second. They ignored worsening weather, which meant that some crews were unable to get into, and hold, their positions at the start for the second division, delaying the start. Crews were instructed to de-kit and get ready to start at the original start time, but the race started half an hour late causing some crews, especially juniors, to become hypothermic.

A well-written set of documents does not, on its own, make for a safe or successful event. An experienced Regatta Committee and sufficient well-briefed volunteers are essential. A fully completed jobs rota is a very useful document. The NRC and the NRUC (umpires) are available to help new event committee members.

Trailer Towing

The Government has changed the law on trailer towing to allow those who took their test after 1997 to tow trailers up to 3,500kg without taking a trailer test. Clubs should ensure that their vehicle insurance covers these drivers and give them appropriate training in towing boat trailers.

Swimming Tests

British Rowing is investigating changing the suggested swimming tests and capsize drills. The intention is to make it easier to get people assessed, given that some pools have restricted capacity and some do not allow boats in for capsize training. We are looking at assessing confidence in the water. Given that we tell people to stay with their boat, it makes little sense to insist on the ability to swim several lengths of a warm pool. It seems more sensible to ensure that they do not panic if they find themselves in water.

Covid-19

BR will continue to publish any changes to the rules based on updated advice from the Government.

BR Safety Reports and Alerts

BR issues safety reports monthly and safety alerts when needed. I circulate these on the Northern Rowing group northernrowing@googlegroups.com If you want to stay up-to-date, please join this group. If you have any questions on any issues raised in the reports or alerts, please feel free to contact me.

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

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