

Safety Report for NRC Executive April 2022

Introduction

As we get into the regatta season, please ensure that everyone reads the Instructions for Competitors. They are published to ensure safe and fair racing for all.

Collisions

Please emphasise the need to keep a good lookout; there are more boats on the water with light evenings and better weather, so there are more chances of collisions (the major cause of injury and damage in rowing).

Life Jackets

Life jackets and buoyancy aids are of little use if they are not correctly fitted. If they are too loose, they can come off and provide no buoyancy at all. Life Jackets should be fitted with crotch straps, which prevent the jacket from being lifted off the wearer. Buoyancy aids should be tightened by tightening the bottom strap first and then working up to the top strap.

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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