

Safety Report for NRC Executive September 2023

Annual Safety Audits

The audits will be sent out to clubs on 2nd October. Please ensure that your Club Rowing Safety Advisor is identified on Club Hub, otherwise they will not get the audit. The audit will close on 15th November and any club whose audit has not been accepted by 5th December may be suspended from competition.

Control Commission Checks

It is the owner's responsibility to check that their boat is fit for use. Control Commission umpires at events carry out a random check of competing boats; this should not be the only time the safety equipment on the boat is checked. If you fail a Control Commission check, it is not the umpire's fault, it is yours.

Wintech Shoes

Some Wintech shoes have cloth loops to attach the heel restraints. There have been a few reported cases where the loop has broken, rendering the heel restraint useless. To check any heel restraint, it should be given a vigorous tug (as it would be in a capsized) and replaced if it fails. A picture of one failure is in the HRSA's August report that I circulated on NERowing.

Wild Swimmers

Around the country, there have been several reports of rowers hitting, or nearly hitting, wild swimmers. These swimmers should tow a fluorescent buoy to make them visible to other water users, but many of them don't. Keep a good lookout for people in the water and warn others if you see any.

Bodies Found in the Water

Some rowers have had the distressing experience of finding dead bodies in the water. The emergency services will deal with the bodies, but those who see them can suffer afterwards. Please encourage anyone who is clearly suffering after a distressing incident to get help.

Collisions

Collisions are still the major cause of injury and damage in rowing; please keep a good lookout (ideally every 5 strokes for coxless boats) and keep to the correct side of the river.

CRSA Access to Incident Reports

If CRSAs cannot see their club's incident reports, they may not have put 'Incident Reporting Admin' on their club role in ClubHub.

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.

John Mulholland
Regional Rowing Safety Advisor
British Rowing Northern Region
e-mail: john.rrsa@jdmulholland.plus.com