

# **Safety Report for NRRC Executive 29 April 2024**

## **Annual Safety Audits**

All racing clubs have completed their audits. Those clubs should now be acting on the items that need improving so that, at the next audit, they will be OK.

## **Weather**

On a recent camp away from home waters, a club didn't correctly interpret the local weather forecast; they were lucky not to lose any rowers in the storm that blew up. All clubs should check the forecast and know what combinations of weather and stream make their water unsafe. When away from home they should ensure that they ask locals about expected conditions.

## **Trailer Loading**

Recently, a stretcher fell off a boat on a trailer damaging the boat below it. As well as ensuring boats are secure on trailers, clubs should ensure that stretchers, seats and hatch covers are secure or are removed and carried separately.

## **Hoodies**

No rower responsible for steering a boat should have their hood up. Hoodies and clothes with pockets on the front are not recommended for rowers.

## **Pollution**

The Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race highlighted the pollution of the Thames. Unfortunately, our rivers have also been affected by rain overwhelming our sewage system. Please wash your hands and faces after every outing. If you feel ill, especially stomach problems, let your doctor know that you have been rowing and may have been splashed with river water.

## **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.

## **RowSafe Updates**

RowSafe has been updated and a list of changes has been published. Clubs should check whether the changes affect them. Changes from the 2023 edition are highlighted in yellow throughout the document and are also listed at <https://www.britishrowing.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/British-Rowing-RowSafe-summary-of-changes-2024.pdf>

## **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](mailto: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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