

Safety Report for NRC Executive June 2024

Control Commission Checks

We have collated the Control Commission (CC) reports for our local heads and regattas from 30th September 2023 Tees LDS to 1st June 2024. The results show that clubs and their crews are taking insufficient care over checking their boats for safety. These checks should be done before every outing for your own safety. If a boat is presented at CC with safety defects, those boats will have been unsafe for some time putting your club members and others at risk of injury or worse.

Heel Restraints

122 boats were presented at CC with loose or missing heel restraints. That can result in crew members being trapped in a capsized boat with their head under water. Ideally, they should not allow the heel to lift more than 50mm. For racing, they are allowed to lift to the horizontal, but that does not guarantee that they will work properly.

Bow Balls

36 boats were presented at CC with loose or perished bow balls. The bows of most boats are sharp and can cause injury to people involved in collisions or walking into the bow in the boathouse. The bow ball should not be able to be deflected to the side, or up or down.

PFDs (Personal Flotation Devices) or life jackets

21 crews presented at CC with PFDs that would not save their lives. The PFD must not lift above the wearer's mouth or nose, or it will not allow them to breathe. The strap should be tightened so that the wearer can get no more than their fist between the strap and their body.

Hatch Covers

19 boats were presented at CC with missing hatch covers. If there is a fitting for a hatch cover, the cover must be fitted.

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.

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