



BRITISHROWING

National Competition Committee

**Report to Executive 3rd November 2009
and Council 28th November 2009**

A. MEETINGS AND ATTENDANCE

1. The committee has met once since the last report to Council, on 18th October 2009 at the River and Rowing Museum, Henley. The following attended :

C H Llewellyn, Chairman, S Darnbrough (Secretary), B Curtis (for A V Cooke), Mrs D M Ellis, J Elms, A J Evans, M H Groom, R Mallett, P Moore, M Stallard, M J Walker.

B. MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST REPORT

2. Competition Review – Status

Following the request from a Council member to review the status rules for multilane regattas and for the National Championships in particular, the Committee considered the matter again and concluded that further work was needed to determine the best method for implementation. The Committee therefore recommends that no further changes are implemented for next season and that points continue to be monitored.

3. Competition Review – Primary Regattas

Whilst it is acknowledged that a set of restrictive rules for Primary Regattas is undesirable, the Committee agreed that some specification needed to be in place to avoid these regattas encroaching on the established competition structure. A revised specification for a primary regatta is included at Appendix A to this report. If agreed by Council, it is intended to include it as an appendix to the Rules of Racing (see also Appendix B).

4. Rules of Racing

A number of the Rules of Racing have been discussed by the Rules of Racing Subcommittee and considered by the Committee and the amendments agreed are proposed to Council for approval. They are presented in Appendix B in detail and most are summarised below.

The change of names from ARA to British Rowing, SARA to Scottish Rowing and Veteran(s) to Masters will be implemented (these are not detailed line-by line in Appendix B).

A reference to the ARA Safeguarding and Protecting Children Policy has been added to the Rules of Racing in Clause 1-1-2.

The definition of an official warning and rule 2-4-6 have been amended slightly to clarify who is empowered to give official warnings.

With the addition of delaying the start without just cause to the examples of unsportsmanlike behaviour in 2-7-4, the definition in 1-2z has been deleted.

As agreed last year but not yet implemented, the minimum age of competitors for Veteran events is reduced from 31 to 27.

In order to avoid confusion arising from the difference of the definition of a year between senior and junior rowers, it is proposed to use the term “Age Band” to denote a junior’s year of competition (see 3-3-2c).

The requirement that the fixing of a bow ball should not present a hazard has been added to 2-3-8.



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The requirement that the heels should be restrained separately has been added to (2-3-8).

It is clarified that, where a winning competitor already has at least the number of points to which his/her card is to be topped up (where it is less than 12), then the competitor would gain one point.

It is intended to make the rules for lightweights identical in the two places where they appear.

It is also noted that use of GPS in boats is in contravention of rule 2-5.9 except at head races unless a local rule is in place.

It should also be noted that the current Rules of Racing still apply to all affiliated events following the change of name of the Governing Body.

5. Regatta Calendar

Some regions have confirmed their regatta dates very late and changes continue to be made. Council is requested to approve the calendar for 2010-11 which is tabled, subject to any amendments approved by the committee. The approved version of the calendar will be published in Rowing and Regatta Magazine and the Almanack. Any dates not confirmed by the relevant copy dates will not be included.

6. Veteran Rowing

Following analysis of the Tideway veteran heads, an amendment to the handicap tables to correct the anomaly noted in the last report has been agreed by the Veterans Commission and the Committee for publication for next season (from 1st April 2010).

C. NEW BUSINESS

7. Umpiring

The National Umpires Commission reports that John Griffiths of Monmouth and Paul Holmes of Worcester have passed the Multilane Umpiring Endorsement Examination.

The Multi-Lane Umpires Commission Seminar for multi-lane umpires will take place at 10:30 at NWSC, Nottingham on 29th November 2009.

D. RECOMMENDATIONS

8. That the definition of a Primary Regatta attached as Appendix A be approved.

9. That the amendments to the Rules of Racing attached as Appendix B be approved to come into effect on 1st April 2010.

C H Llewellyn, November 2009.



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Appendix A

Definition of a Primary Regatta

These Regattas are intended to cater for Competitors who have 0 points and are relative newcomers to the sport. The following conditions apply:-

- The Regatta must include the word “Primary” in its title and be affiliated to British Rowing.
- The course must be no longer than 800 metres.

The following core events must be offered:-

- Events at Novice level (i.e. 0 points) in at least 4+, 2x, 1x.
- Events at Junior B/Maiden at J15, J14 and J13 in at least 4x+, 2x, 1x.
- Events at Masters Novice in some of 4+, 4x+, 2x, 1x, by age category.
- Events for people new to the sport (these should be encouraged, see note below).

The above events must offer two races to all participants. This may be by plate events, leagues, round robins, repechage, doubling up, relay or team events.

The following additional events may be offered, again, provided that the participants are offered at least two races in the event :-

- Events in the above categories in any other boat types for which there is a market;
- Events for younger juniors.

No winners of these events will be awarded points.

If it is anticipated that insufficient entries would be received for all the core events, then scratch events in committee boats (of any size) may be offered for competitors already holding points. Crews are to be selected either totally randomly, or classified and then randomly drawn. No winners of such an event will be awarded points.

Any organising committee wishing to run a primary regatta must request approval from the National Competition Committee at least three months before the regatta date. The information supplied with the request must include the proposed regatta poster showing the events offered, the method of achieving two races for each competitor and details of the insurance.

Note: Competitors for the core events listed above do not need to have British Rowing racing licences, but the regatta should ensure that it has suitable insurance and take a record of the names and addresses of entrants. This record must be sent to British Rowing Headquarters within five days of the Regatta.

20/10/09



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Appendix B

Amendments to the Rules of Racing

The following amendments are proposed to the Rules of Racing to come into effect on 1st April 2010. Bold type is used to highlight the amendments.

All references to the “Amateur Rowing Association” or the “ARA” are replaced by “**British Rowing**”.

All references to the “Scottish Amateur Rowing Association” or “SARA” are replaced by “**Scottish Rowing**”.

All references to the “veteran” or “veterans” are replaced by “**Masters**”.

Contents

Add “**Appendix B : Definition of a Primary Regatta**”.

1-1-2 Purpose

Replace the first two bullet points by the following :

- “provide a basis for safe, fair and equal racing whilst adhering to the requirements of **British Rowing’s** “Row Safe” document: A Guide to Safe Practice in Rowing and **British Rowing’s Safeguarding and Protecting Children Policy**, which together shall take precedence at all times.”

1-2 Definitions

Delete a. ARA and rename all subsequent definitions.

In p. (to become o.), replace “~~fails~~” by “**fails**”.

Replace q. (to become p.) by the following :

“**p. Official Warning** A penalty that may be given by **any umpire acting as** a Key Race Official for any of a number of infringements of the Rules of Racing or the Water Safety Code, that shall be taken into account at the Start of a crew’s next race. Two such warnings for one race shall lead to automatic disqualification.”

Replace y. (to become x.), by the following :

“**x. Umpire** One who is qualified by examination as approved by **British Rowing, Scottish Rowing, the Welsh Amateur Rowing Association (WARA)** or FISA and is licensed to umpire at British Rowing affiliated Events and Regattas.”

Delete “**z. Unsportsmanlike Conduct or Behaviour ...**” and subsequent text (see amendment to 2.7-4).

2-2-3 Safety Information and Circulation Patterns

Replace “One copy of these instructions must be supplied for each competing crew with the draw” by “**A copy of these instructions shall be sent, no later than three days before the regatta, to each club, whose responsibility it is to distribute them to the crews.**”.



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2-3-6 Lightweight Competitors

In b. replace “(see 2-3-7a)” by “(see 2-3-7b)”.

2-3-8 Equipment Check

Replace the first sentence of a. by the following :

“a. It is the responsibility of the competitors to ensure that their boats are safe and are prepared to the standards required by the British Rowing Guide to Safe Practice in Rowing **and are suitable for the crew and the conditions in which they are to be used.**”

Replace the second bullet point under a. by the following :

- heel restraints. All boats where “fitted shoes” are employed must have effective heel restraints. These must be properly adjusted (**each** heel should be prevented **separately** from rising higher than the lowest fixed point of the shoe) and in working order. Likewise, the foot release from any other type of fitment that may be used must be self-acting and not require the intervention of the athlete or a rescuer.

Replace the rule part of b. by the following :

b. “The bows of racing boats shall be properly protected. A solid ball, of not less than 4cm diameter, made of rubber or material of similar resilience, must be firmly attached to the bows **and the fixing must not itself present a hazard**. Where the construction of the boat, or its composition, is such that the bow is properly protected or its shape does not present a hazard in the event of a collision, this requirement need not apply.

The note remains unchanged.

2-4-6 False Start

b. In the note, replace “Key Race Official” by “**Umpire**”.

2-7-4 Unsportsmanlike Behaviour

Add as fourth bullet point :

- “**delay the Start without just cause.**”

Remove quotation marks from “Unsportsmanlike” and “Unsportsmanlike Behaviour”.

3-2-1 Senior Classification

At the end of d., between the rule and the note, add :

“**If the winner already has this number of points, or more, then he shall be awarded one extra point.**”

3-3-1 Lightweights

At end of a., add “**The average weight of a lightweight crew (excluding coxswain) may not exceed 70 kgs (men) or 57 kgs (women).**”.

After a., add. **b. Single scullers are weighed as individuals.**

Replace the current b. by the following :

c. Lightweight events may be held at any of the Senior or Women’s Senior status levels.

Rename c. to d., and d. to e..



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3-3-2 Juniors

Replace :

“J9, J10, J11, J12, J13, J14, J15, J16 and J18 are competitors who have not attained....” by

“Competitors in the age bands J9, J10, J11, J12, J13, J14, J15, J16 and J18 are those who have not attained....”

3-3-4 Veteran

In a., replace “31” by “27”.

4-1-2 Qualifying Conditions

Replace “None of the following are qualifying events” by **“None of the following is a qualifying event”**.

Add as first bullet point :

- **“a primary regatta (see Appendix B)”**.

In last four bullet points, replace “events ...” by **“an event ...”**.

4-1-7 Veteran Class

In a., replace “31” by “27”.

5-1-1 General Requirements

In b., in the note, replace “dated” by **“dates”**.

At end, add **“Appendix B : Definition of a Primary Regatta”**.

FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION