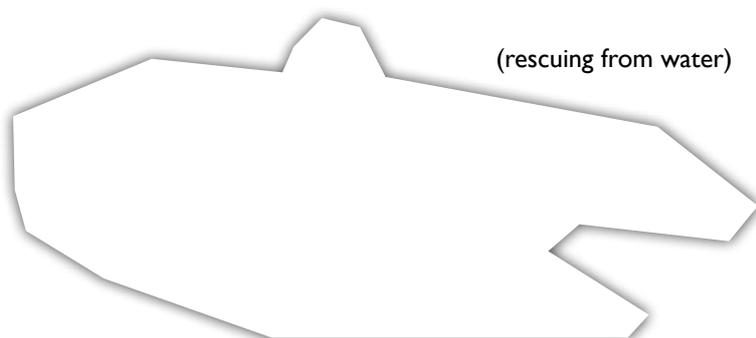


## Recovering a rower from the water

Launch drivers need to be comfortable with the procedures to follow when rescuing someone from the water and taking them to the relevant First Aid personnel if they do not have any First Aid training.



Give priority to any injured or younger rowers, or those that are displaying difficulty in remaining above water.

Instruct coxswains wearing lifejackets to inflate them; they should be the last priority of rescue under normal conditions.

### On approach

Never approach the scene at high speed. Only use high-speed manoeuvres when getting to the scene of an incident or when taking injured rowers to safety.

Maintain control over speed and steering by approaching from downstream/downwind.

Take into account the safety of other river users if approaching the scene at high-speed. Use the klaxon or audible warning device to alert other craft. Give way if necessary.

Make the final approach carefully and at low speed, in order to avoid alarming the person in the water.

### At the scene

- 1 Get in close, stop and speak clearly when communicating from the launch; give the person in the water clear instructions.
- 2 Provide a buoyancy aid (rescue-tube, float or similar) to the person in the water.
- 3 Turn the engine off when bringing the rower aboard. Leaving the gear lever in neutral is not enough as it may easily be bumped whilst attempting to get the rower on board. Use the anchor to hold the launch in position if the speed of the current or other hazards make this precaution dangerous.
- 4 Apply First Aid to assist injured rowers. Determine the best stage of the rescue at which to apply First Aid.
- 5 Assess the circumstances of the rescue; it may not always be necessary to rescue everyone at the same time. For example, larger crews, such as eights, can be ferried in relays of two at a time to the nearest suitable place of safety, if it is safe and practical to do so. Do not increase the risk of hypothermia or drowning by leaving some rowers in the water for a dangerous length of time.