

Water Safety Roles & Responsibilities



Developing a Culture of Safety throughout Rowing

British Rowing Responsibilities

British Rowing has the responsibility to develop and maintain a culture of safe practice in rowing and to support everyone involved in the sport in their efforts to achieve this.

Regional Responsibilities

Regional Rowing Councils (RRCs) have a responsibility to develop a culture of safety in their Region. The role of the RRC is to support clubs in organising their activities to meet the Minimum Standards, whilst allowing for an interpretation based on the types of clubs, waters used and activities in the Region.

The nature of Regions varies enormously and this will influence how each one approaches its responsibilities. The role of the Regional Water Safety Adviser, working with others, will therefore be influenced by how the Region wishes to develop a positive safety culture.

Club Responsibilities

Clubs have a responsibility for the safety of their members and for the development of a culture of safety in all activities associated with rowing. The primary responsibility for ensuring safe practice within a club lies with the Club Officers and the Club Committee. The Club Committee should appoint a specific individual as a Club Safety Adviser to take the lead in promoting safe practice, but such an appointment does not remove the accountability for safety from the Officers and Committee members. In this respect, every member of a club has an important part to play.

Minimum Standards are described throughout this document and they should be regarded as stronger guidance than the recommendations included under the heading of Further Good Practice. Minimum Standards are not mandatory and each one should be assessed in relation to the specific circumstances represented by the location, conditions, crew composition and any other relevant factors.

The decision to adopt any of the minimum standards of *RowSafe* rests with the club officers and

committee or the event committee and should be based on a thorough risk assessment. It is recommended that where it is decided not to adopt a minimum standard the justification is recorded in the club or event risk assessment documentation

A Club Water Safety Adviser must not be seen as the only person responsible for safety but rather the person who can advise the Committee and work with the Captain, Officers, coaches and others to identify and respond to safety issues by adopting Minimum Standards and good practice. If, for any reason, a Club Safety Adviser is not appointed or does not adequately perform this advisory function the accountability for the provision of adequate safety advice remains with the Officers and Committee.

The nature of clubs varies enormously and this will influence how a club manages safety and addresses the various issues. The approach taken by the club is therefore dictated by the way the Officers and Committee decide to manage safety and adopt the Minimum Standards.

Personal Responsibilities

Everyone involved in rowing has a Duty of Care to ensure their actions both on and off the water are conducted in a manner which does not compromise the safety of others. Adults also have a personal responsibility for their own safety.

Duty of Care

What is it? Duty of Care was described by Lord Atkin in 1932 – “You must take reasonable care to avoid acts or omissions which you can reasonably foresee would be likely to injure your neighbour. Who then is my neighbour? Someone who is so closely and directly affected by my acts or omissions that I ought to have them in mind when directing my mind to the acts or omissions which are called into question”

Who has a Duty of Care in Rowing? – Put in simple terms, everyone connected with the sport

Further good practice

Set aside time in the Club's calendar to provide education and training on safety related issues such as navigation, boat checking, first aid etc.

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Roles, Responsibilities & Actions

