

# RULES OF RACING CONTENTS

*(The changes to the Rules of Racing that come into effect on 1 April 2016 are underlined>)*

- 1 GENERAL**
- 1.1 Introduction**
  - 1-1-1 Title
  - 1-1-2 Purpose
  - 1-1-3 Interpretation
  - 1-1-4 Scope
  - 1-1-5 Situations NOT Covered
- 1.2 Definitions**
- 2 CONDUCT OF THE RACE**
- 2.1 Race Officials**
  - 2-1-1 Primary Duties of Officials
  - 2-1-2 Safety Adviser
  - 2-1-3 The Race Committee
  - 2-1-4 Duties of the Chairman of the Race Committee
  - 2-1-5 Key Race Officials
  - 2-1-6 Qualifications
  - 2-1-7 Essential Equipment
- 2.2 SAFETY**
  - 2-2-1 Row Safe
  - 2-2-2 Suspending Racing
  - 2-2-3 Safety Information and Circulation Patterns
  - 2-2-4 Proceeding to the Start, Warming-Up, Cooling Down and Practising
  - 2-2-5 Violation of Safety Rules
- 2.3 Control Commission**
  - 2-3-1 Control Commission Composition
  - 2-3-2 Duties of Control Commission
  - 2-3-3 Racing Licence
  - 2-3-4 Crew Composition
  - 2-3-5 Dress
  - 2-3-6 Lightweight Competitors
  - 2-3-7 Coxswains
  - 2-3-8 Equipment Check
  - 2-3-9 Updating Winners' Racing Licences
- 2.4 The Start**
  - 2-4-1 Reporting at the Start
  - 2-4-2 Alignment
  - 2-4-3 Crew Preparation
  - 2-4-4 Start Procedure
  - 2-4-5 Traffic Light Starting Systems
  - 2-4-6 False Start
  - 2-4-7 Failure to Start
- 2.5 The Race**
  - 2-5-1 General
  - 2-5-2 Lanes and Stations
  - 2-5-3 Steering
  - 2-5-4 Umpire's Instructions
  - 2-5-5 Interference
  - 2-5-6 Foul
  - 2-5-7 Action following Repeated Interference or a Foul
  - 2-5-8 Accidents
  - 2-5-9 Outside Assistance
- 2.6 The Finish**
  - 2-6-1 Completing the Course
  - 2-6-2 Umpire's Approval
  - 2-6-3 Duties of the Judges
  - 2-6-4 Dead Heats
- 2.7 Disputes & Disciplinary Procedures**
  - 2-7-1 General
  - 2-7-2 Protests
  - 2-7-3 Misrepresentation
  - 2-7-4 Unsportsmanlike Behaviour
  - 2-7-5 Disciplinary Measures
  - 2-7-6 Appeal Procedure
- 3 COMPETITORS**
- 3.1 General**
  - 3-1-1 British Rowing Standing
  - 3-1-2 The Misuse of Drugs
  - 3-1-3 Classification by Discipline
- 3.2 The Points System**
  - 3-2-1 Senior Classification
- 3.3 Other Classifications**
  - 3-3-1 Lightweight
  - 3-3-2 Juniors
  - 3-3-3 U19
  - 3-3-4 U23
  - 3-3-5 Masters
  - 3-3-6 Rowability
  - 3-3-7 Para-Rowing
  - 3-3-8 Coxswains
- 4 CLASSIFICATION OF EVENTS**
  - 4-1-1 The Main Classes of Events
  - 4-1-2 Qualifying Conditions
  - 4-1-3 Senior Class
  - 4-1-4 Women's Senior Class
  - 4-1-5 Lightweight Class
  - 4-1-6 Junior Class
  - 4-1-7 Masters Class
  - 4-1-8 Rowability
  - 4-1-9 Para-Rowing
  - 4-1-10 Change of Status
  - 4-1-11 Combination of Classes
- 5 REGATTA ORGANISATION**
- 5.1 General**
  - 5-1-1 General Requirements
  - 5-1-2 Role of the Reg. Ump. Committee
- 5.2 Regatta Conditions and Entries**
  - 5-2-1 Notice of the Regatta
  - 5-2-2 Entry Forms
  - 5-2-3 Closing of Entries
  - 5-2-4 Returns to British Rowing after the Regatta
  - 5-2-5 International Regattas and Regattas of other Associations

## 6 HEAD & PROCESSIONAL RACES

- 6-1-1 Scope of this Article
- 6-1-2 Suitable Courses
- 6-1-3 Course Markings
- 6-1-4 Officials
- 6-1-5 Race Monitors
- 6-1-6 Qualifications of Officials
- 6-1-7 The Start (Head Races)
- 6-1-8 Local Event Rules
- 6-1-9 Penalties
- 6-1-10 Role of the Reg. Ump. Committee

## 7 SPONSORSHIP

### 7.1 Sponsorship of Clubs

- 7-1-1 Display of Sponsors' Name, Logo and Messages
- 7-1-2 On Racing Boats

## 1. GENERAL

### 1.1 Introduction

#### 1-1-1 Title

These Rules are established by British Rowing, and shall be known as the British Rowing Rules of Racing.

#### 1-1-2 Purpose

The purposes of these Rules are to:

- provide a basis for safe, fair and equal racing taking account of the guidance in 'Row Safe' and British Rowing's Safeguarding & Protecting Children Policy which together shall take precedence at all times
- provide a consistent framework for the regulation and organisation of Regattas and other rowing events.

#### 1-1-3 Interpretation

These Rules shall be interpreted to effect the purpose described in Rule 1-1-2 above. Wherever possible, provisions of these Rules should be interpreted consistently with each other. Where such interpretation is not possible, the more specific should prevail over the general, and provisions regarding safety shall take precedence over any other provision.

#### 1-1-4 Scope

These Rules shall apply to all rowing and sculling races, events and regattas that are registered by British Rowing.

No member of a club affiliated to British Rowing may compete in any rowing race or event other than one that is subject to the British Rowing Rules of Racing or those of a body recognised by British Rowing or FISA.

It is accepted that affiliated clubs and individual registered members of British Rowing may take part in Festivals, River Pageants, Charity Rows etc.

#### 1-1-5 Situations NOT Covered

In situations not covered by these Rules, Key Race Officials (as defined in Rule 2-1-5) are empowered to make such decisions and to give such instructions as are necessary to carry out their responsibilities, and to effect the purposes described in Rule 1-1-2. Such situations and decisions shall be reported to the National Competition Committee, within five days.

#### 1.2. Definitions

The following definitions shall apply throughout these Rules:

- a. **Attention**, when used by the Starter shall mean: 'You must now be ready to Race'.
- b. **BROE** shall mean British Rowing Online Entry system.

- 7-1-3 On Racing Kit
- 7-1-4 On Oars or Sculls

### 7.2 Sponsorship of Individuals/Crews

- 7-2-1 General
- 7-2-2 Display of Sponsorship Material

### 7.3 Sponsorship of Events, Regattas

- 7-3-1 General

## 8 ERGO COMPETITIONS (to be developed)

**Appendix A:** Essential Equipment

**Appendix B:** Primary Events

**Appendix C:** General Strapping Requirements for Rowability and Para-Rowing events

**Appendix D:** Guidance on the Conduct of Stable (Recreational) Boat Competitions

- c. **British Rowing Sport Class** shall mean the category allocated by the classification process eg, AS, TA or LTA as referenced in 3-3-7.
- d. **Bumping Race** shall mean a processional race where the order of finishing is determined by bumping or overtaking.
- e. **Circulation Pattern** describes the compulsory directions of travel in various areas and lanes in and around a course that are available for competitors' use during racing and practice on the water.
- f. **Coxbox** shall mean apparatus carried by a coxswain to enable him to be heard by his crew and to enable him to measure the speed of the boat and the rating or cadence achieved by his crew.
- g. **Crew** shall mean an entity comprising one or more competing rowers with or without coxswain who group together for the purpose of competing in a race or an event at a regatta. A crew shall be considered an entity subject to these Rules, and members of a crew shall be collectively responsible for its conduct at the race, event or regatta. The club or clubs is/are also responsible for the conduct of crews competing under their names.
- h. **Dead-weight** shall mean that additional weight that a coxswain may have to take with him to bring his total weight up to the required minimum for the event.
- i. **Doping** consists of the use, whether intentional or negligent, of any one or more prohibited therapeutic substances, or of blood or blood products, and/or of pharmacological, physical or chemical manipulation aimed at making these substances difficult to detect as indicated in British Rowing's Misuse of Drugs [Byelaws](#).
- j. **Doubling up** is the process whereby an individual or a crew enters more than one event in the same regatta or Head.
- k. **Event** shall mean a race, series of races or timed event, including all heats, repêchages, finals etc., that together determine the winner and, if appropriate, the order of placement in a particular class of competition.
- l. **FISA** shall mean the 'Fédération Internationale des Sociétés d'Aviron'.
- m. **Head Race** shall mean a race in which the participating crews start to race at different times and where the order of finish is determined by comparison of elapsed times taken to cover the prescribed course.
- n. **Italic type** in these Rules, shall indicate comment or explanation, rather than Rules.

- o. The **Masculine** shall include the feminine and vice-versa, except where the contrary appears specific.
- p. **May** when used in describing the duties of officials in these Rules implies the exercise of discretion and judgement in the light of training, knowledge and experience.
- q. **Not Rowed Out** a verdict used when one or more crews in a race fail to continue racing throughout the course to the finish.
- r. **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 for unsafe behaviour; this 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.
- s. **Organising Committee** The group of people who take responsibility for the organisation and running of a Regatta or an Event.
- t. **Para-Rowing Event** is an event for competitors that have been allocated a Sport Class by the British Rowing classification procedure.
- u. **Personal Ranking Reference Book** means the guide to the Personal Ranking System.
- v. **Personal Ranking** means an individual's ranking as defined in the Personal Ranking Reference Book.
- w. **Primary Event** is defined at Appendix B.
- x. **Private Match** A competition arranged solely between the clubs or competitors concerned. There shall be no advertising for entries and no more than four clubs shall compete unless specific permission has been granted by the National Competition Committee. Organising club(s) should note that the competition requirements of British Rowing's 'Row Safe' still apply and appropriate insurance cover is required.
- y. **Programme or Race Controller** An official appointed by a Regatta Organising Committee to control and adjust the programme of races on the day of the event.
- z. **Public Official Warning** A penalty that may be awarded by the Race Committee or its Chairman which involves the announcement of an 'Official Warning' and the circumstances of the offence and the name of the crew or club involved, over the public address system at the Regatta.
  - aa. **Racing Licence** is the card issued annually to all paid up British Rowing registered members and includes that member's rowing and sculling points at the time of issue.
  - bb. **'Recreational' Boat**. The Chairman of the Race Committee shall determine the definition of a 'recreational' boat in the context of any particular event or regatta.
  - cc. **Regatta** A group of one or more events managed by one Organising Committee.
  - dd. **Rowability Event** is an event for competitors that have been allocated a Rowability grouping by the British Rowing classification procedure.
  - ee. **Row Safe** shall mean British Rowing's 'Row Safe: A Guide to Good Practice in Rowing'
  - ff. **Rowing** shall imply both sweep-oared rowing and sculling, except where the contrary appears specific.
  - gg. **Stable (Recreational) Boat Competition** is informal competition, Guidance for which is given at Appendix D
  - hh. **Standard Para-Rowing boat** means [to be determined]
  - ii. **Umpire** One who is qualified by examination as approved by British Rowing, Scottish Rowing, Welsh Rowing or FISA and is licensed to umpire at British Rowing affiliated Events and Regattas.

## 2. CONDUCT OF THE RACE

### 2.1 Race Officials

#### 2-1-1 Primary Duties of Officials

- a. It is the primary duty of every Race Official to care for the safety of competitors, officials, other water users and the public at large.
- b. Subject to 'a' above, it is the duty of all Umpires to use their best endeavours to ensure that all crews have a fair and equal opportunity of winning.  
*Where a crew has been, or is about to be, affected by unfair advantage or disadvantage, Umpires may act to restore fair racing conditions, and fair and equal opportunities to win. Umpires should be clear that any action they take to restore an opportunity to win should not, ideally, penalise any blameless crew or unnecessarily penalise a clear winner. This is of course not always possible to achieve. Crews must abide by their own mistakes, especially where watermanship, maintenance of equipment or the effects of injudicious doubling up are involved.*

#### 2-1-2 Safety Adviser

Before a Regatta, the Organising Committee shall appoint a Safety Adviser who shall become a member of the Organising Committee and shall advise taking account of the guidance in 'Row Safe'. There is a general commitment that all officials should ensure that racing takes place in safe conditions (2-1-1 and 2-5-1 etc).

#### 2-1-3 The Race Committee

- a. Before a Regatta, the Organising Committee shall appoint a Race Committee consisting of umpires, the minimum number being three, one of whom shall be designated as Chairman. The Chairman of the Race Committee shall be a member of the Organising Committee and shall be responsible to it for the application of the British Rowing Rules of Racing at the Regatta. Where a Regatta is bank-umpired, the Co-ordinating Umpire (see 2-1-5b) shall be a member of the Race Committee.
- b. The Race Committee shall take any decisions on the conduct of racing not in the province of an officiating umpire and shall hear any protests to the Organising Committee; however, the Race Umpire remains responsible for the conduct and outcome of the race.

*Within the Organising Committee the Chairman of the Race Committee should act as the authority on the application of the Rules of Racing and should be ready to advise on any aspect of the preparation for, and running of the Regatta where the Rules have an impact or wherever there is a need to consider 'fair and equal conditions' for racing. During the Regatta, the members of the Race Committee should always be available to any Umpire for support and advice and to receive suggestions for the improvement of conditions for racing.*

*Examples of Race Committee decisions might include:*

- suspension of racing for safety reasons
- alterations to the course following changes to stream or wind
- application of disciplinary measures under the relevant clauses of 2-7-5.

*The Race Umpire is responsible for the conduct of the race and his verdict is final and cannot be overturned; however in hearing a protest taken to the organisers, the Race Committee may draw the attention of the Race Umpire to facts, circumstances and consequences of which he may not have been aware - the umpire may then reconsider if he thinks this to be appropriate.*

#### 2-1-4 Duties of the Chairman of the Race Committee

- a. Ensure that the Organising Committee plans the Regatta in accordance with the British Rowing Rules of Racing.
- b. In collaboration with the Organising Committee shall appoint or approve the appointment of all appropriate race officials, and

- their duties; ensure they are briefed and equipped to carry out their duties.
- c. In collaboration with the Organising Committee shall develop and publish any local rules to supplement the British Rowing Rules of Racing at the regatta or head race, having obtained approval for their implementation from the Regional Umpiring Committee.
- d. Take all decisions concerning racing and the application of these Rules that are not in the jurisdiction of a Race Umpire or another qualified race official, and hear any protest, either himself or with the assistance of all, or any, of the Race Committee, to whom he may delegate such actions.
- If the Chairman, or any member, of the Race Committee acts as a Key Race Official, and a protest arises concerning a decision of his in that capacity, he should delegate the hearing of that protest to other members of the Race Committee.*
- e. Take note of any concerns of the Safety Adviser, and take appropriate action if of immediate concern.
- f. Meet with any Regional or National Umpiring Committee representative attending the Regatta officially, and take note of any concerns or recommendations.

### 2-1-5 Key Race Officials

The following Key Race Officials shall be appointed or approved by the Chairman of the Race Committee:

- a. **Race Umpires** The Race Umpire shall be responsible either for the conduct of the whole race, or for the conduct of a group of races through a section of the course to which he is assigned (bank umpiring).
- b. **Co-ordinating Umpire** Where several race umpires are involved in a race (*as in bank umpiring*) a Co-ordinating Umpire, who shall be a member of the Race Committee, shall be appointed to overhear all communications between umpires and to pass their decisions to the Judge.
- It is usual, depending on the siting of the Co-ordinating Umpire, for protests to the Race Umpire to be directed to him in the first instance, and for him to identify the appropriate umpire and to manage the hearing of the protest.*
- c. **Control Commission** A team of officials who may check that the provisions of the Rules on equipment, and on the classification of competitors, are satisfied. (see 2.3).
- They may also be made responsible for the endorsing of Racing Licences for winners.*
- d. **Head of the Control Commission** The senior member of the Control Commission who organises and supervises his team.
- e. **Starter** The Starter shall start the Race and shall be responsible for the fairness of the Start (see 2.4).
- The Race Umpire may act as Starter.*
- f. **Judge at the Start** The Judge at the Start shall be responsible for the alignment of the bows of competing crews in a race to the line of the Start and shall be primarily responsible for calling any 'false start', though the Starter or Race Umpire may also call it. He shall signal alignment to the Starter by raising a white flag (see 2.4.2).

*The Starter or the Race Umpire may act as their own Judge at the Start. This would be normal in a 'free-start' Regatta. Regattas may advertise themselves as 'stern-on' where the stern of each crew is held on the line of the start; no Judge at the Start is required for such a situation. The Judge at the Start shall be an umpire, however regattas may use assistants to do the actual aligning (but not the calling of false starts), provided a qualified umpire supervises and takes responsibility as 'Judge at the Start'.*

- g. **Chief Judge** The Chief Judge shall, after due consultation with any other judges, and after inspection of photographic or electronic evidence if necessary, decide the order in which the competitors crossed the finish line, and, if required, the distances between the competitors (see 2.6).
- h. **Judges** Further judges may be appointed to assist the Chief Judge. *It is recommended that at least one additional judge is so appointed, and more for multi-lane situations.*

### 2-1-6 Qualifications

Of these Key Race Officials, the following shall hold a British Rowing, Scottish Rowing, Welsh Rowing or FISA umpires licence or be a trainee adopted by their Regional Umpiring Committee and under the direct supervision of an umpire holding one of the aforementioned licences:

- Race Umpire
- Co-ordinating Umpire
- Head of Control Commission
- Starter
- Judge at the Start
- Chief Judge

A trainee adopted by his Regional Umpiring Committee may perform any of these functions under the direct supervision of the relevant umpire who shall remain the responsible umpire.

*It is recommended that the Starter and Race Umpire at a multi-lane competition (racing in four or more lanes) should hold a multi-lane endorsed licence or be a trainee adopted by the Multi-Lane Umpiring Panel and under the direct supervision of a multi-lane endorsed umpire.*

### 2-1-7 Essential Equipment

The Regatta shall provide its officials with all the equipment they need to perform their duties.

*A list of essential equipment to meet most circumstances is given in Appendix A.*

## 2.2 Safety

### 2-2-1 Row Safe

The guidance in 'Row Safe' shall be taken account of at all times. Only crews using equipment prepared in accordance with 'Row Safe' shall be allowed to race and all officials are to use their best endeavours to enforce 'Row Safe' throughout the Regatta. This applies at all times before, during and after racing periods to:

- crews and their boats
- officials and helpers, in work boats or launches
- the start team on pontoons and in stake boats and at all times before, during and after the racing periods.

### 2-2-2 Suspending Racing

The Safety Adviser and the Chairman of the Race Committee shall monitor water conditions throughout the period of the Regatta. If at any time either finds that conditions jeopardise the requirements of safety or of fair racing as outlined in Rule 2-1-1, they shall stop or suspend racing, in total or by class of event, until such time as safe and fair conditions are restored.

*If time permits, they should consult each other, the rest of the Race Committee and the Organising Committee on the situation before taking action and before resuming racing after an enforced break.*

Any of the Key Race Officials associated with a particular race, may and should halt racing if safety or fairness is compromised, and should involve the Safety Adviser and the Chairman of the Race Committee as soon as possible.

### 2-2-3 Safety Information and Circulation Patterns

The Organising Committee in consultation with the Chairman of the Race Committee and the Safety Adviser shall develop and publish

to competing clubs and to officials, detailed diagrams and instructions covering:

- the circulation pattern to be followed at all times during the period of racing and during practice sessions on or in the neighbourhood of the course
- any special points of danger on or near the course
- safety boat and first aid positions and how to summon help
- medical support arrangements
- location of emergency telephones
- marshalling instructions
- when and where crews may practise, warm up and cool down on the water.

A copy of these instructions shall be provided, no later than three days before the regatta, to each club whose responsibility it is to distribute them to the crews. An email including a weblink to the information may be sent to each club which retains the responsibility to ensure that all crews are made aware of it. These instructions shall also be distributed, in advance of the competition, to the Commissioner attending (*in accordance with rule 5-1-2*) and officiating umpires.

#### **2-2-4 Proceeding to the Start, Warming-up, Cooling Down and Practising**

- a. Crews proceeding to the Start must keep clear of the racing lanes and be aware of and leave clear room for the possibility of racing crews straying from their lanes.

*At river regattas other river users going about their business and pleasure should be given precedence and competitors should recognise that the helmsmen of pleasure boats may be inexperienced. Gentle paddling only should be permitted on any section alongside the course which is open to normal river users or is restricted to one lane in width.*

- b. No warm-up or cooling down is permitted on the racing course except where specifically allowed for in the competitors' instructions.
- c. It is forbidden to practise alongside or pace any racing crews.

#### **2-2-5 Violation of Safety Rules**

Any crew that violates the declared circulation pattern, or which violates Rule 2-2-4 above, or which is observed executing a dangerous manoeuvre or acting contrary to the guidance in 'Row Safe' may be awarded an 'Official Warning' (see 2-4-6b).

*This 'Official Warning' may be awarded by any umpire officiating (whether on duty or not) at the event, and should be notified immediately to the Start for application in the next race for the crew involved.*

A serious or repeated offence may be treated as provided for in Rule 2-7-5.

## **2.3 Control Commission**

### **2-3-1 Control Commission Composition**

The Organising Committee shall appoint a Control Commission consisting of one or more suitably experienced persons, the senior member of which on duty at any time shall be an umpire.

### **2-3-2 Duties of the Control Commission**

The Control Commission shall supervise the crew boating areas to check that all relevant Rules pertaining to crew composition and equipment are being observed.

*Where multiple boating areas are involved, it is permissible to establish a single check point to which each competing crew must report, with its boat, before the start of its races.*

### **2-3-3 Racing Licence**

All competitors shall carry their Racing Licence with them to a Regatta. Any competitor who cannot produce this document when requested by a Regatta Official may be disqualified, but can be

replaced by a suitably qualified substitute (*see 2-3-4b*).

If a competitor without documentation is allowed to race, he must agree to produce it within a mutually agreed time to a member of the Organising Committee.

These provisions will not apply to an overseas club.

### **2-3-4 Crew Composition**

- a. Competitors should be identified by checking against the information on the entry form. A competitor's Racing Licence may also be inspected as proof of identity and eligibility for the event entered (age and/or point count).

*The extent to which this should be a 100% check is left to the regatta to decide. All regattas and events should carry out at least a partial check.*

- b. All the rowing members of a crew, and the coxswain, may be substituted until the official close of entries. Thereafter up to half of the rowing members of a crew, and the coxswain, may be substituted before the crew's first race in an event. Any substitute must fulfil the requirements of Rule 3-1-1 and be approved as eligible by the Organising Committee. Each must be a member of the same club as the oarsman he is replacing or, in the case of a composite crew, of any of the clubs entered as the composite, except in the case of Masters crews where a substitute from another club shall also be valid, and must provide a Racing Licence. Coxswains are bound by the same rules of substitution as an oarsman with the exception that a substitute coxswain may belong to a different club.

In the case of Masters crews a substitute shall not be permitted if the age of the substituting oarsman would result in the lowering of the age category of the crew concerned.

- c. Further substitutions will only be permitted on the basis of medical evidence produced by the crew or its club. In the absence of a medical certificate the decision of the Race Committee Chairman will be final. An oarsman substituted on medical grounds may not reclaim his original place in the crew.

### **2-3-5 Dress**

- a. Every competitor, except coxswains, shall wear the racing strip of the club he represents. This shall consist of at least a singlet and shorts combination or an equivalent one-piece garment.

- b. Crews representing a single club shall wear a uniform racing strip. *This Rule shall only apply to the outermost garment worn above the waist; garments worn below the waist and any secondary garment under the racing strip shall not be subject to this rule unless specifically required by the particular regatta's regulations. Minor differences may be overlooked, but major differences (e.g. a mix of diagonal and horizontal stripes) should not be allowed.*

*In exceptional circumstances, where the Head of Control Commission considers it appropriate, crew members may wear a plain colour similar to the base colour of the normal racing strip.*

- c. In composite crews each competitor shall wear the strip of the club he represents.
- d. In mixed crews, men and women may retain the colours they would normally wear.

### **2-3-6 Lightweight Competitors**

A regatta must declare with the draw the regime for weighing-in with regard to the events a competitor may be competing in and must confirm arrangements for the issue of weight certificates.

Competitors shall be weighed in each day not less than one hour and not more than two hours before the scheduled start time of the first race that day of the event in which they are entered.

Competitors need not weigh in on a day on which they are not racing (see 3-3-1e).

A crew that does not meet the weight requirements in 3-3-1a shall not be allowed to race.

*The Chairman of the Race Committee must decide if a competitor entered for more than one event must weigh in for each event or only once. Regard should be given to any potentially unfair conditions resulting from the regatta schedule.*

Competitors should wear racing strip when they weigh in (coxswains: see 2-3-7b).

### 2-3-7 Coxswains

a. Coxswains must wear a life jacket or buoyancy aid in the correct manner and be familiar with the method of operation. In "front-loader" boats coxswains must wear manually operated gas inflation life jackets.

b. All coxswains shall be weighed each day prior to their first race. A coxswain that does not meet the minimum weight requirements in 2-3-7c shall not be allowed to race.

*Coxswains competing in more than one event of a similar category need be weighed once only to qualify for all such events.*

Coxswains shall be weighed in the clothing that they expect to wear in the race, inclusive of buoyancy aids.

*In agreeing what a coxswain might expect to wear, the weather and condition of the course should be borne in mind.*

c. The minimum weight for coxswains shall be: 55kg for Senior Open, Masters Open, J18, J17, J16 and Mixed crews; 50kg for Senior Women, Masters Women, WJ18, WJ17 and WJ16 crews; 45kg for all J15 and younger crews. To make up this weight a lighter coxswain shall carry dead-weight. Any dead-weight carried may be checked after any race in an event.

d. The regatta must confirm arrangements for the issue of weight certificates and confirmation of any dead-weight requirement and the way in which both will be checked.

*Dead-weight should be carried as near to the coxswain as possible - but not on him, nor in a way that might impede his exit from the boat.*

e. Dead-weight shall consist of a single weight, or as few items as possible. *The type of dead-weight carried and its weight should be noted when the coxswain weighs in. Containers of liquid, sand or similar material should only be allowed as dead-weight if the container is sealed and subsequently certified by Control Commission.*

*A coxbox or similar apparatus shall not be counted as part of the coxswain's weight or as part of dead-weight. Such apparatus is deemed to be part of the boat.*

### 2-3-8 Equipment Check

a. It is the responsibility of competitors to ensure that their boats are safe and are prepared in accordance with the guidance in 'Row Safe: Boats and Blades' and are suitable for the crew and the conditions in which they are to be used. Control Commission may undertake spot check inspections of the boats prepared by the competitors, and shall exclude any boat that fails to meet the standard laid down.

b. *Control Commission should pay particular attention to:*

- bow-balls. 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. It is recommended that the bow ball be white as, in most circumstances, this is the most satisfactory colour with regard to judging the finish of a race.

- heel restraints. All boats where "fitted shoes" are employed must have effective heel restraints. These must be properly adjusted (each heel shall be restrained to prevent it from rising higher than 7cm measured at right angles from the footplate) 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.

- Compliance of all boats in Rowability events including:

- Foot stretcher and strapping in the RFS and RUS boats
- Correct fixing of pontoons on RUS boats
- Safety of body strapping of rowers in RUS and RFS boats; additionally
  - Fixed seats in RFS 1x and 2x together with optional stabilising pontoons
  - Fixed seat and upright seat back in RUS1x with mandatory stabilising pontoons that must both be in contact with the water when the boat is level.

- Compliance of all boats with the standard Para-Rowing boats specification, including:

- Safety measures in standard Para-Rowing TA1x/2x boats including fixed seat(s), foot stretcher and strapping with optional stabilisers.
- Safety measures in standard Para-Rowing AS1x/2x including fixed seat with upright back rest and correct fixing of pontoons on AS1x boats to ensure they are secure and are in contact with the water when the boat is level.
- Correct body strapping of rowers in AS and TA sport classes

- coxswains ability to escape from bow-coxed boats
- condition and general maintenance of the boat, including the integrity of any buoyancy compartments. Note: If a compartment is fitted with a method of closing that compartment then the fitment must be in place and intact.

- c. Rowability boats shall comply with the requirements of Rule 4-1-8 b and c.
- d. Para-Rowing boats shall comply with the requirements of Rule 4-1-9 b and c.

- e. All boats being used for racing shall be identifiable by a three letter code, as determined by British Rowing together with a three digit fleet number determined by the club.

- f. No boat shall make use of any substance capable of modifying the natural properties of water to improve performance.

- g. No competitor shall make use of a boat with a sliding or swinging rigger mechanism.

- h. There shall be no restriction on the design of boats or equipment other than as described above.

- e. All boats being used for racing shall be identifiable by a three letter code, as determined by British Rowing together with a three digit fleet number determined by the club.

- f. No boat shall make use of any substance capable of modifying the natural properties of water to improve performance.

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- e. All boats being used for racing shall be identifiable by a three letter code, as determined by British Rowing together with a three digit fleet number determined by the club.

- f. No boat shall make use of any substance capable of modifying the natural properties of water to improve performance.

*British Rowing shall take steps to ensure that the master record of points and master record of registrations shall be kept up to date with regatta returns and reconciled annually with each competitor.*

- e. Competitors holding a Scottish Rowing or Welsh Rowing racing licence must have that licence updated according to the rules governing a British Rowing Racing Licence.

#### **2018 Rule Changes**

The following rule changes will take effect no later than 1st April 2018 though they will also be applicable to those events that are trialing the Personal Ranking System in advance of its introduction. These amended rules replace those like numbered rules that currently still apply to events operating the points system.

#### **2.3-9 Updating Competitors' Ranking Points**

- a. British Rowing will maintain Rowing Licences via [BROE]  
 b. The responsibility for updating the Racing Licences of winners lies with the competitor and the club through the regatta.  
 c. All winners' identification shall be confirmed. Winners who cannot confirm their identity shall not receive any crew or individual prize until their eligibility has been confirmed in 2-3-3.  
 d. Crews whose names and registration details are not on the entry forms shall be disqualified and the case reported to British Rowing. Such situations may be considered by the Chairman of the Race Committee as 'unsportsmanlike behaviour' (see 2-7-4).  
 e. Competitors holding a Scottish Rowing or Welsh Rowing Racing Licence must have that Licence updated according to the rules governing a British Rowing Racing Licence]

## **2.4 The Start**

### **2-4-1 Reporting at the Start**

- a. Each crew is responsible for being at the Start and ready to race two minutes before the scheduled time of the race.  
*Should the starting station not be free at that time, the crew should follow the instructions of the start team, and or keep within hail until called forward to the starting station. Should the Regatta run late, an announcement may be made establishing a differential between regatta time and normal time.*
- b. The Starter shall announce the race, the competing crews, their stations and, where practicable, thereafter the time remaining to the start of the race, ideally at one minute intervals, up to two minutes prior to the start time.
- c. A crew that is not at the Start two minutes before the scheduled time of the race may be disqualified. If it is permitted to start in the race, it shall, at the discretion of the Starter, incur the penalty of one 'Official Warning'. A crew that is not at its starting station and ready to race by the scheduled time of the race may be excluded by the Starter. The start of a race may take place without reference to absentees.
- d. If all the competitors are in position and ready to race, and the Race Umpire and timing (where relevant) are ready, the Starter may start the race up to two minutes early (or earlier if agreed with the crews and the event organisers are advised accordingly).  
*If, through circumstances beyond their control, or because of equipment failure before the start, a crew cannot reach the start in time, or cannot immediately race at race time once there, they may appeal for a delay, through any Key Race Official. Such delay is at the discretion of the Programme Controller and Starter in consultation. They should consider any effect on the other competitors and the programme before granting such a delay, minor running repairs in the start area excepted.*
- e. If the start of a race is delayed, the Starter may:

- hold the crews in the start area while proceeding with the next race
  - announce a new start time
  - require crews to return to the boating area and await further announcements.
- f. If there is only one crew in a race other than a final, that crew may be exempted from rowing over the course.  
*The question of fair and equal conditions for other crews in the event should be considered before exempting a crew from rowing over.*
- g. The Starter may introduce minor changes to the schedule of racing if he considers it necessary due to local conditions at the Start.
- h. The Starter or Race Umpire may change the allocation of lanes prior to the start of a Race, if necessary to preserve the principle of fair and equal conditions for racing (or to increase the separation between crews).  
*The order of the draw should be retained.*

### **2-4-2 Alignment**

*The purpose of alignment is to arrange for the bows of the competing crews to be aligned with the start line. There are no objections to a regatta declaring its course to be 'stern-on start, bows-on finish', and free starts can only be approximately aligned by the umpire. The following apply to other regattas:*

- a. If a Judge at the Start is provided he shall proceed with aligning with the minimum of delay, as soon as any competitors are at their starting stations.
- b. When the Judge at the Start is satisfied with the alignment, he shall raise a white flag as a signal to the Starter.  
*To assist visibility, a red cross may be added to this white flag.*
- c. If the crews go out of alignment, the Judge at the Start shall lower the flag while realigning.
- d. If the start of the race is fair, the Judge at the Start should keep his flag raised for at least 10 seconds to signal a fair start from his perspective.
- e. If a separate Judge at the Start is not provided, the Race Umpire or Starter can act additionally as Judge at the Start, if practicable.

### **2-4-3 Crew Preparation**

Competitors must be attached (where relevant) and ready to race two minutes before race time.

*The only delays on the start should be for alignment and for getting straight. Excess clothing should have been removed and adjustments made by two minutes before race time.*

### **2-4-4 Start Procedure**

- a. At 2 minutes or when all crews are attached whichever is later, the Starter shall announce any 'Official Warnings' that have been given against any crews in the race, including any given by him for being late at the Start. He shall ask for an acknowledgement from any crews so warned.  
*In the event that races are running ahead of regatta timing and with the approval of the Race Committee, the Starter may start the race early by saying 'I propose to start this race early. If you would prefer to wait until race time, please indicate'. If all crews agree, the starter shall call '2 minutes' and proceed with the start procedure given in 2-4-4a*
- b. The Starter shall re-announce the race number, event, and the outcome (if appropriate). *The aim here is that the competitors are sure of the outcome of the race and what result they have to achieve to continue in the event.*  
*Crews must actively get 'straight' and may indicate if they are not ready to go by a raised hand from the steersman.*
- c. After a pause, the Starter shall then carry out the "Roll Call", naming each crew in turn.

*This identification should be simple and brief. The Start Procedure has now begun. Ideally the Roll Call will not begin until aligning is complete because competitors can expect the race to be started at any time after the end of the Roll Call.*

- d. Each crew is responsible for being both straight and ready to race at the end of the Roll Call. The Starter may then take no further notice of any crew which then indicates that it is not ready or that it is not straight.
- e. After the last crew has been named in the Roll Call the Starter shall check that the Judge at the Start has the white flag raised, timing (where relevant) and Race Umpire are ready; and shall then say 'Attention'.
- f. The Starter shall then **slowly and deliberately** raise a red flag. Where it is advised that competitors have a visual impairment, the **Starter** shall say the words 'Red Flag' for all crews to hear whilst raising the flag.
- g. After a further distinct pause, the Starter shall say: 'Go', simultaneously dropping the red flag smartly to one side. *Whenever possible the flag shall be held extended using both hands so that it is extended under tension and its release can be easily seen by competitors and officials alike. The pause between the raising of the flag and the start command shall be variable.*
- h. If, after the red flag has been raised, the Starter decides that the Start should not proceed directly, he shall say: 'As you were' and slowly lower the red flag. When he is again ready to proceed, he will begin again from the word: 'Attention'. *Notwithstanding "d" above, the Starter is responsible for the fairness of the Start, and he should watch that the crews continue to be in a position to start fairly during the final stages before the word 'Go'.*
- i. In exceptional circumstances the Starter may omit the 'roll call' (having told the crews that he is doing so) and begin the Start from the word 'Attention'.

*A white cross may be added to the red flag of the Starter to assist visibility.*

*Variations to the Start Procedure for Masters Handicap races are given in Rule 4-1-7.*

#### 2-4-5 Traffic Light Starting Systems

Where the Start signal is given by traffic lights, the process is as above in 2-4-4 up to, and including, 2-4-4e. After saying "Attention", the Starter shall pause and then switch on the red lights. Where it is advised that competitors have a visual impairment, the Starter shall also say the words 'Red Light' for all crews to hear at the same instant that he presses the button to activate the red light. After a further distinct and variable pause, the Starter shall press the button which will simultaneously switch off the red lights, switch on the green lights and make the audible signal for the Start. If, after the red lights have been switched on, the Starter decides that the Start should not proceed, he shall say "As you were" and then switch off the red lights. When he is ready to proceed, he shall begin again from the word "Attention". In the event of a failure of the traffic light system, the Starter shall use the flag Start system (as described in 2-4-4 above) having first told the crews that he is going to do so.

#### 2-4-6 False Start

- a. A Start shall be deemed 'False' if any boat crosses the start line before the word 'Go'.
- b. A crew causing a 'False Start' shall be given an 'Official Warning'. If a crew incurs two 'Official Warnings' for the same race it shall be disqualified from the event. *'Official Warnings' may be given by any Umpire for a variety of infringements of the rules; an 'Official Warning' from any official*

*source shall be taken into account by the Starter.*

- c. A 'False Start' may be called by the Judge at the Start, the Starter or the Race Umpire. *If a 'False Start' is called, the race shall be stopped by any of the officials at the Start ringing a bell and waving a red flag; the flag should be held at arm's length and moved in a vertical semicircular arc from shoulder to shoulder. These actions should be picked up and repeated by the race umpire and any other start official. The crews may also be told to stop rowing.*
- d. In the event of a 'False Start', the decision to stop the race should be made before the race has progressed too far (*ideally within about 100 metres, there is no need to mark a fixed point*). Once the race has been stopped, the crews shall return to their starting stations immediately. Any crew rowing on deliberately after the race has been stopped shall be awarded an 'Official Warning'.
- e. When the crews are again on their starting stations, the crew, or crews, causing the 'False Start' shall be awarded an 'Official Warning'. *Should the Starter feel that the 'False Start' was caused by a badly executed Start Procedure or by some extraneous sound or action, he may restart the race without penalty to any particular crew on that account.*

#### 2-4-7 Failure to Start

If a crew fails to start on command, then the race will proceed without it, unless, in the opinion of a Start Official, there is a strong reason for the non-start. In that case, the race may be stopped if that is practicable (*even beyond 100 metres*).

## 2.5 The Race

### 2-5-1 General

These regulations shall be so applied as to ensure that all competitors race under safe, fair and equal conditions.

*A competitor, whose opponent is taking unfair advantage of a situation, should have a 'fair opportunity to win' restored wherever that is practicable. A crew that is out of contention may be considered to have no 'opportunity to win' to be restored. A crew that has fairly established a commanding lead might expect some protection from what happens behind it; likewise, crews well behind the main field might anticipate receiving less attention from the umpire than those in contention.*

### 2-5-2 Lanes and Stations

- a. Each crew shall be assigned a lane or station, which shall be the crew's designated water for the duration of the race.
- b. A boat's proper course shall be defined as that which it must follow from start to finish while remaining in its own water on the prescribed course.
- c. Each crew should remain on its proper course throughout the race and it should not:
  - encroach on the proper course of other competitors
  - 'interfere' with other crews (see 2-5-5)
  - leave the limits of the course
- d. A crew continuing out of its proper course after due warning may be disqualified by the umpire if it derives any advantage from so doing.
- e. The Race Umpire shall be the sole judge of a boat's proper course and shall decide all questions relating thereto.

### 2-5-3 Steering

Each crew is responsible for its own steering.

The umpire may call the attention of the racing crew to its steering only if it is about to:

- a. 'Interfere' with a competing crew (see 2-5-5)
- b. 'Foul' a competing crew (see 2-5-6)



- c. Risk disqualification under Rule 2-5-2d
- d. Collide with a temporary obstruction on the course.

*A temporary obstruction may be another boat, an object in the water or any item that should not be there. In these circumstances the umpire should warn the crew in plenty of time so that the crew may take avoiding action; he may, in this case only, give steering advice to the crew. The umpire also has the option of stopping the race and declaring a verdict, or rerowing the race from the start.*

- e. Collide with an obstruction off the course.  
An obstruction could be any structure such as a bridge, pier, pontoon, weir or other river traffic in the navigation channel that may provide a risk of damage or injury to boat, equipment or crew, and may include the bank, staging or heavy buoys. *The umpire may delay stopping a crew for a while, consistent with safety, to give the crew every opportunity to recognise the obstruction themselves. In deciding the point at which a crew should be stopped, the umpire should bear in mind the experience of the crew involved and the speed at which their boat is travelling.*

The instruction to a crew in this circumstance shall be:

- raise a white flag vertically above the head
- name the crew
- give the command 'Obstruction, Stop'

Once they have taken notice of the obstruction the crew may continue with the race.

#### 2-5-4 Umpires Instructions

##### a. Launch Umpires

To warn a crew, the umpire shall:

- raise a white flag vertically above his head
- name the crew
- point the flag, at *arm's length*, in the direction in which the crew is to move. Where it is advised that the competitors have a visual impairment, the Umpire shall also audibly instruct the crew in the direction in which it is to move
- when the crew has responded, the umpire shall drop the flag smartly to the side, out of sight
- if the crew fails to respond, the umpire may repeat the sequence.

##### b. Bank Umpires

To warn a crew, the umpire shall:

- raise a white flag vertically above his head
- name the crew
- audibly instruct the crew in the direction in which it is to move *The commands 'move to starboard' or 'port' should be used first. If this fails the umpire may try 'bowside' or 'strokeside'; or any other words to achieve the desired effect.*
- when the crew has responded, drop the flag smartly to the side, out of sight
- inform all other umpires, judges and the co-ordinating umpire of the warning.

*The organisers shall ensure that each umpire is provided with the facilities to accomplish this.*

##### c. All Umpires

- Where crews are close together in neutral water, the umpire may:
  - raise a white flag vertically above his head
  - name the crews
  - audibly instruct the crews to move apart
  - when the crews have responded, the umpire shall drop the flag smartly to the side, out of sight
  - if the crews fail to respond, the umpire may repeat the sequence
- To stop a crew, but not the race, the umpire shall:

- raise the white flag vertically above the head
- name the crew
- give the command: 'stop'
- To stop a race, the umpire shall:
  - ring the bell
  - wave a red flag
  - give the command: 'stop'

#### 2-5-5 Interference

- a. Interference is defined as conduct by a crew which impedes the legitimate progress of an opponent who is on his proper course.
- b. If the Race Umpire detects Interference, he shall warn the offending crew.
- c. If Interference continues, the Race Umpire may take further action under Rule 2-5-7.

#### 2-5-6 Foul

A Foul is defined as any collision or contact between boats, oars, sculls or persons in the same race.

#### 2-5-7 Action following Repeated Interference or a Foul

- a. Following repeated Interference or a Foul, the umpire may:
  - allow the race to continue (e.g. if the offence, in the opinion of the umpire, will not affect the outcome of the race)
  - disqualify any offending crews, and allow the race to continue if more than one crew remains in the race
  - stop the race, disqualify any offending crews and return the remaining crews to the Start, to rerow the race (*immediately, or at a time to be determined by the Programme Controller*)
  - determine the finishing order
  - adopt a combination of these actions.
- b. No competitor shall be disqualified for Interference unless he has been warned.

#### 2-5-8 Accidents

A crew shall abide by its own accidents except where damage is caused by interference from an outside agency during the race. In the case of such an incident, the umpire may order the race to be rerowed (see also Rule 2-5-3d).

*The Regatta may give discretion to the Starter to allow quick minor repairs to boats arriving in a damaged condition at the Start.*

#### 2-5-9 Outside Assistance

- a. Any communication with a crew during a race, other than by means of an unaided voice, may be deemed outside assistance.
- b. There shall be no following or pacing during the race by other boats or launches other than approved launches.  
Doing so risks action under Rule 2-7-4
- c. Any crew receiving outside assistance may be disqualified from the event and may be subject to further penalties under Rule 2-7-5.

## 2.6 The Finish

### 2-6-1 Completing the Course

- a. A crew has completed the course when its bow, or any part of its hull crosses the line of the finish.
- b. A crew must finish the race with the same complement as that with which it started. If any crew member leaves the boat before the finish the crew shall be deemed not to have finished.

### 2-6-2 Umpire's Approval

When all competing crews have crossed the line, the Race Umpire (Co-ordinating Umpire if bank umpired) shall signal to the judges:

- verbally, or by raising a white flag, if the race is in order and that the sequence in which the crews crossed the finish line is to be declared as the race result. Where it is advised that competitors have a visual impairment, the Umpire shall say the words 'White Flag' for all crews to hear whilst raising the flag.
- verbally, or by raising a red flag, in all other cases. Where it is advised that competitors have a visual impairment, the Umpire

shall say the words 'Red Flag' for all crews to hear whilst raising the flag. The Race Umpire (or Co-ordinating Umpire or Race Committee) will carry out any necessary investigation (e.g., hearing a protest) and instruct the judges on the race result for declaration.

### 2-6-3 Duties of the Judges

- a. The judges must take no account of anything that may have happened before the boats pass the finish, such matters being the responsibility of the Race Umpire and others.
- b. The judges shall determine the order in which the boats pass the finish line, and they may be required to determine distances between boats at the finish and/or approve records of time differentials. There is no minimum separation between crews that may not be recognised. Judges may inspect any official photographic records or electronic records of the Finish before reaching a conclusion.  
*Where a photograph or electronic record is used to decide the order of finish, the Chief Judge shall ensure that any timings reflect separation shown in the photograph or record, rather than the reaction time of the Timekeeper. It is recommended that a sound, audible to the competitors, be provided as each crew passes the line.*
- c. If there is a difference of view between judges on the finish order or the distance to be declared, the view of the Chief Judge shall prevail.
- d. The judges shall acknowledge the signal at the end of the race from the Race or Co-ordinating Umpire with a white flag, or verbally, and take cognisance of any instructions concerning the result.
- e. The Judges shall draw the attention of the umpire to any protest being signalled by any competitor.
- f. Once the umpire's approval has been given, the judges shall declare the result.
- g. The judges shall keep a record of the finish order of each race and of the declared result if different.

### 2-6-4 Dead Heats

- a. If two or more boats cross the finish line simultaneously, the judges shall declare a dead heat between them.  
*The judges shall declare a 'Dead Heat' only if it is absolutely impossible for them to identify a winner or place a crew. There is no minimum distance by which one boat may be judged to lead another at the line.*
- b. If it is necessary to separate the crews that have dead heated, then the Chief Judge shall declare the finish order for any crews not involved and order a rerow for the crews involved.  
*The rerow should normally take place immediately. Both dead heated crews may be passed through to the next round of competition thus avoiding a rerow if the draw and course can accommodate the situation.*

## 2.7 Disputes and Disciplinary Procedures

### 2-7-1 General

- a. The decision of an umpire shall be final and without appeal.
- b. The jurisdiction of a launch based umpire extends over the whole race including the Start and the Finish.  
*A Co-ordinating Umpire may represent the full team of umpires that cover a bank umpired race, but any change of view has to come from the umpire in whose jurisdiction the situation occurred.*
- c. Race Committees and umpires may decide on any situation not covered in these rules.  
A report on such cases shall be sent to the National Competition Committee within five days.

### 2-7-2 Protests

- a. A competitor or crew may make an immediate protest at the end of a race against the umpire's decision, or potential decision. (A protest may be made by an official club representative on their behalf).  
*Ideally, a protest should be signalled to the Race Umpire, if launch based, by the raising of hands or clearly calling 'objection' as soon as the crew has passed the Finish. Protests at a land based regatta may be made through the Chief Judge to the Co-ordinating Umpire.*
- b. Should an immediate protest to the umpire fail, a further protest may be made to the Race Committee.  
*Appellants should realise that the Race Committee cannot overturn a decision of the Race Umpire; its powers in this direction are limited to consideration of any new facts of which the umpire might not have been aware; and bringing these to the attention of the umpire, who may or may not then vary his decision.*
- c. Any dispute or objection not satisfactorily settled between the crew concerned and the Regatta shall be referred in writing, by the Captain of the protesting club, to the Chairman of the Umpiring Committee for the region in which the regatta is held, to act as arbiter, with copies to:
  - the Regional Representative of the Region of the protesting club
  - the Captains of any other Club involved and their Regional Representatives

Should any party involved be dissatisfied with the decision of the Chairman of the Regional Umpiring Committee that party may refer the dispute, within one month, to the Chairman of the National Competition Committee who will arbitrate. *Should a conflict of interest appear during any protest, both parties can agree a replacement arbiter. Appellants should realise that once a protest is taken beyond the immediate time-frame of the race, the chance of anyone being able to restore a position in the event in question is remote. A successful protest involving a poor umpiring or Regatta decision shall be referred to the appropriate Regional Umpiring Committee for discussion and action.*

### 2-7-3 Misrepresentation

- a. No person may impersonate another or adopt a false identity in order to compete in a regatta. No one may compete below his status, as defined in the Rules governing the classification of events (see Articles 3 and 4). Anyone found to be competing under a false identity, or while banned from competition, or competing below their individual status, or in a crew below its collective status, shall be disqualified from the regatta together with the crew, or crews, of which they are part.
- b. The Chairman of the Race Committee may take further action against the individual or club as in Rule 2-7-5c.
- c. The incident shall be reported to the National Competition Committee, which may take further action under Rule 2-7-5d.
- d. Fines – Clubs entering an ineligible crew for an event may be fined all or some of the total entry fees for that event if the event is declared null and void. The fine shall be decided upon, and imposed by, the Chairman of the National Competition Committee following any necessary discussion with the parties involved and is in addition to any penalty imposed under Rule 2-7-5c.

### 2-7-4 Unsportsmanlike Behaviour

Competitors, crews, coaches, groups of club members or supporters of a club who:

- wilfully disobey safety instructions
- set out to subvert the application of the Rules of Racing

- refuse to follow the instructions of an umpire or properly appointed official
- delay the Start without just cause
- physically or verbally threaten or abuse another competitor, regatta official, helper (including stakeboat persons) or members of the public
- use foul or obscene language in the public hearing, or use foul or obscene gestures in the public view
- being competitors, misrepresent themselves as in Rule 2-7-3.
- display any other form of misconduct deemed by an official to be unsportsmanlike shall be considered to have engaged in Unsportsmanlike Behaviour, and be subject to disciplinary measures as indicated in Rule 2-7-5.

#### 2-7-5 Disciplinary Measures

There are four levels of disciplinary measures:

##### a. in the jurisdiction of any Umpire officiating (whether on duty or not) at the event, the Race Committee Chairman or Race Committee

- a caution
- an 'Official Warning'
- disqualification from a race in which the Rules have been infringed

##### b. in the jurisdiction of the Race Committee or its Chairman

- a 'public' official warning
- disqualification of an individual competitor, a crew or a club from all races at the Regatta. *(Any prizes already won must be returned and may be reawarded to the crew finishing second; no entry moneys are refundable).*

##### c. in the jurisdiction of the Race Committee

- a fixed penalty fine of £50 for each individual, or £250 for a club. *This level of action is to be used for serious situations, where the Race Committee feels that the situation warrants action beyond that available in 'a' or 'b' above, or for situations serious enough for 'b' above, but that action would be ineffective because the Regatta is effectively over for the club involved.*

The Chairman of the Race Committee shall conduct an investigation of the incident that day, and prepare a short written summary and conclusion, before leaving the site of the Regatta. The individual competitor, crew or club shall be told of the investigation, and the procedure explained, they must be given the opportunity of providing a written rebuttal of the statement, and the opportunity to take a copy of the Chairman's summary. The statement shall be sent to the Chairman of the National Competition Committee or his representative within two days. Copies shall be sent to the Chairmen of the relevant Regional Umpiring Committee.

The fine shall be lodged with British Rowing pending a possible appeal, but shall revert to the Regatta unless there is a successful appeal. The individual or club cited in the summary shall be banned from competition until the fine is paid.

##### d. in the jurisdiction of the Chairman of the National Competition Committee

- a fine without limit and/or a ban from competition without limit, applicable to individuals or clubs.

*This level of action is to be used for very serious situations, where the individual or club has attempted to cheat and/or misrepresent or has repeated an offence treated under 'c' above, or where the Chairman of the National Competition Committee believes that the offence warrants extraordinary action.*

The facts and the penalty imposed shall be published.

#### 2-7-6 Appeal Procedure

##### a. Appeal to the National Competition Committee

A club or individuals may appeal against any penalty imposed under 2-7-5c direct to the Chairman of the National Competition Committee, or his nominee. Written 'Notice of Appeal' must be received within three days of the Regatta. A date for any appeal hearing will be set, to be not later than three weeks after the date of the Regatta. The appeal will be heard by a subcommittee of the National Competition Committee, which may consider both written and verbal evidence. The hearing shall be informal and closed, and parties shall represent themselves. The result of any appeal shall be reported to Council and subsequently published.

##### Possible Outcomes:

- endorsement or increase of the original fines
- a ban from competition for individuals or the club for a period of time, in addition to, or instead of, any fines
- placing the penalty against the club rather than individuals, or vice-versa
- finding in favour of the appellants. This could involve questioning the decisions of Umpires and provision of these findings to the appropriate Regional Umpiring Committee responsible for the licensing of the Officials named.

##### b. Appeal to Council

Following a disciplinary appeal hearing by the National Competition Committee or direct disciplinary action by the Chairman of the National Competition Committee under Rule 2-7-5d, the appellant or the Regatta involved may make an appeal to the Council of British Rowing.

The hearing shall be at a place and time decided by the Chairman of the Board. The hearing shall be informal and the parties shall represent themselves.

**Possible outcomes** shall be as for an appeal hearing in 'a' above, but the outcome shall be final and without further appeal.

The result of the appeal shall be published.

### 3. COMPETITORS

#### 3.1. General

##### 3-1-1 British Rowing Standing

Except as covered elsewhere in these Rules, only those competitors who are Platinum and Gold registered members of British Rowing and who are members of, and are representing, an affiliated rowing club, or who represent a club affiliated to another Association recognised by British Rowing or FISA, may compete in races and regattas held under these Rules. Silver registered members, including coxswains may also compete in Primary Events described in Appendix B and Stable (Recreational) Boat Competition described at Appendix D. Any competitor misrepresenting their history shall be subject to the penalties as described in Rule 2-7-3. A competitor's history shall take account of any wins at regattas held under the rules of associations other than British Rowing. In areas of dispute a competitor's history shall be examined by British Rowing. Any application for a Racing Licence, or renewal of a Racing Licence, shall include any racing history of the applicant not previously declared. Open affiliated rowing clubs may register one additional racing name with British Rowing, to be used by juniors competing in British Rowing competitions.

*The purpose of this rule is to provide an acknowledgement by name of partnerships and links with local schools and/or local authorities. All competitors using the Registered Junior Racing name must be members of the host club, who will pay the capitation fee at the current rate for each person. The annual fee for a Registered Junior Racing Name will be equal to the current basic club affiliation fee.*

The entry must be made by the Affiliated British Rowing Club on British Rowing Entry Form using the following wording: XYZ Rowing Club competing as ABC Registered Junior Racing Club.

### 3-1-2 The Misuse of Drugs (Doping)

The Misuse of Drugs consists of the use, whether intentional or not, of one or more prohibited substances, or of blood or blood products, and/or of pharmacological, physical or chemical manipulation aimed at making these substances difficult to detect.

All registered oarsmen are bound by British Rowing's Misuse of Drugs Bye-laws as approved by Council and as amended from time to time as specified in the 'Rules of British Rowing Ltd'.

### 3-1-3 Classification by Discipline

Sweep oared rowing and sculling are classified separately and every competitor whatever his or her age, weight, or gender, except coxswains (who are not generally classified) has a separate status in each of the two disciplines. This status, based on points won, determines where the individual fits in senior racing and the total of the points owned by the members of a crew as a whole determines that crew's senior classification. There are other classifications of events to which the points system does not apply, but every crew has a status determined by points in senior rowing.

## 3.2 The Points System

### 3-2-1 Senior Classification

- One point is awarded for a Senior win in a qualifying event (see 4-1-2). Points can also be gained from wins in certain other events (see Section 4).
- A competitor may request, in writing to British Rowing, that one point be deducted from his total if he has not won a qualifying event at Senior level or its equivalent, in the previous calendar year subject to reduction of that competitor's total to a minimum of four points.
- The points of rowers who compete at the Olympic Regatta or World Rowing Championships shall be topped up to twelve for both sweep and sculling disciplines. The points of rowers who compete at the World Rowing Under 23 Championships shall be topped up to twelve for the discipline in which they were competing. The points of rowers who compete at the World Rowing Junior Championships shall be topped up to six in total for the discipline in which they were competing.

#### d. Those competitors who compete for Oxford University or Cambridge University in the Openweight University Boat Races shall have their rowing points topped up to 12.

Those competitors who compete for Oxford University or Cambridge University in the Isis-Goldie or Osiris-Blondie Races shall have their rowing points topped up to 6.

- Those competitors who win events at Henley Royal Regatta shall have their points topped up to the following levels: 'Open' events - 12; 'Intermediate' events - 10; 'Club/Student' events - 9; 'Junior' events - 6.

Those competitors who win events at Henley Women's Regatta shall have their points topped up to the following levels: 'Elite' events - 9; 'Elite Lightweight' events - 8; 'Senior' events - 7; 'Senior Lightweight' events - 6; 'Intermediate' events - 5; 'School/Junior' events - 3.

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

These points shall be applicable only in the discipline in which they are won.

- Status for racing in Senior competition depends on the sum of the points held by the crew as a whole for the appropriate discipline. The maximum number of points that can be held by one person in one discipline is twelve.

### [2018 Rule Changes

The following rule changes will take effect no later than 1st April 2018 though they will also be applicable to those events that are trialing the Personal Ranking System in advance of its introduction. These amended rules replace those like numbered rules that currently still apply to events operating the points system.

### 3-2 The Personal Ranking System

#### 3-2-1 Classification System

The Personal Ranking System is a continually updated classification provided for each competitor based on a function of the final finishing position in each event and the numbers of competitors participating in the event.

The Personal Ranking Index for each competitor on entry into an event will be the ranking determined eight (8) days before the official close of entries for that event e.g. if the entries close at 1pm on Sunday 15th then the Personal Ranking Index is at 00:01 on Saturday 7th. The ranking will be based upon the Personal Ranking issued to all competing members of British Rowing.]

## 3.3 Other Classifications

### 3-3-1 Lightweight

- A competitor is a Lightweight if his or her weight does not exceed 72.5 kg (Open), 59 kg (Women) during the summer period (1st April – 30th September) and 75 kg (Open), 61.5 kg (Women) during the winter period (1st October – 31st March).  
The average weight of a Lightweight crew (excluding coxswain) may not exceed 70 kg (Open) or 57 kg (Women) during the summer period. There will be no average weight requirement during the winter period.
- Single scullers are weighed as individuals.
- Lightweight events may be held at any of the Open Senior or Women's Senior status levels.
- A Lightweight win counts as a normal senior win of similar status for points in the appropriate discipline.
- The weight of Lightweight competitors shall be determined each day not less than one hour and not more than two hours before the scheduled time of the first race that day of the event in which the competitor is entered (see 2-3-6). All members of a crew must report for weighing at the same time. This rule shall not apply to coxswains (see rule 2-3-7b).

*It is recommended that, for identification purposes, competitors carry their British Rowing racing licence or photographic identification when presenting themselves for weighing. Competitors need not weigh-in on a day on which they are not racing (see 2-3-6).*

- No junior shall row in Lightweight events.

### 3-3-2 Juniors

- A junior is a competitor who had not attained eighteen years of age before the first day of September preceding the event.
- Coxswains of junior crews must be juniors.
- Competitors in the age bands J9, J10, J11, J12, J13, J14, J15, J16, J17 and J18 are those who have not attained 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 or 18 years of age respectively before the first day of September preceding the event.
- Coxswains of junior crews are not sub-classified by age.
- Juniors of J14, WJ14 or younger age bands are not permitted to race in sweep-oared events (coxswains excepted).
- Juniors of J14 age band and above are classed as Junior B and on winning a Junior qualifying event, other than Junior Maiden, are Junior A for the rest of their time in the age band of competition at which the qualifying win was achieved. This does not preclude them from competing at Junior A level in their own age band or Junior A or B at a higher age band.

- g. Subject to Rules 3-2-1e and 3-2-1f only the first qualifying win at Sch/J, J18 (A or B), J17 (A or B), J16 (A or B), WSch /J, WJ18 (A or B), WJ17(A or B) or WJ16 (A or B) in any age band counts for one point. No competitor shall gain more than one point in any age band for wins at Junior events.

- h. Subject to rule 3-3-2e, Juniors in J14, WJ14 or younger age groups are not permitted to race in events that are more than one age band category above their own age band nor in Senior events (coxswains excepted).

### 3-3-3 U19

An oarsman or coxswain may compete at U19 level until 31st December of the year in which he reaches the age of 18.

### 3-3-4 U23

An oarsman or coxswain may compete at U23 level until 31st December of the year in which he reaches the age of 22.

### 3-3-5 Masters

- a. All competitors who have attained, or will attain, the age of 27 years old by the end of the calendar year are Masters.
- b. Events for Masters are held in categories depending on the average age of the crew (see 4-1-7). Points are not awarded for Masters wins except as specified in 4-1-7a.

### 2018 Rule Changes

The following rule changes will take effect no later than 1st April 2018 though they will also be applicable to those events that are trialing the Personal Ranking System in advance of its introduction. These amended rules replace those like numbered rules that currently still apply to events operating the points system.

b. Events for Masters are held in categories depending on the average age of the crew (see 4-1-7). Masters competitors will have a Personal Ranking Index allowing them to race at either Masters or Senior levels.

- c. All competitors in a Masters event (other than coxswains) must be Masters.

### 3-3-6 Rowability

Individuals competing in British Rowing Rowability events shall have been assessed, given a Rowability grouping and then allocated to one of the following boat classes:

- **RSS-PD** Rowability Sliding Seat – Physical disability
- **RSS-LD** Rowability Sliding Seat – Learning disability
- **RFS** Rowability Fixed Seat – able to use upper body including trunk
- **RUS** Rowability Upright Seat – able to use arms and shoulders only

### 3-3-7 Para-Rowing

Individuals competing in Para-Rowing competition shall have been allocated a Sport Class by the British Rowing classification procedure:

- **LTA-PD** Leg Trunk and Arms – Physical disability
- **LTA-VI (B1, B2 or B3)** Leg, Trunk and Arms - Visual Impairment
- **TA** Trunk and Arms
- **AS** Arms and Shoulders

### 3-3-8 Coxswains

- a. Must wear a buoyancy aid at all times they are on the water as per Rule 2-3-7a;
- b. Do not accrue points (see 3-1-3);
- c. Need not wear the racing strip of the club they represent (see 2-3-5a); *Coxes should be suitably dressed for the prevailing weather conditions;*
- d. Are not restricted by gender; men may cox women's crews and vice versa;
- e. May be substituted in accordance with Rule 2-3-4b;

- f. Are subject to minimum weight restrictions in accordance with Rule 2-3-7;

- g. Are subject to rules governing Juniors in accordance with Rule 3-3-2, U19 in accordance with Rule 3-3-3 and U23 in accordance with Rule 3-3-4.

## 4. CLASSIFICATION OF EVENTS

### 4-1-1 The Main Classes of Events

Events may be held under the general conditions of any of the following classes:

- Senior - including Novice, Intermediate, Elite, Lightweight, U23, U19, Rowability and Para-Rowing
- Junior
- Masters

and in each of these classes, Open (*regardless of sex*), Women and Mixed (*see 4-1-11*); and in either discipline (*sweep-oared or sculling*).

*See the particular conditions below pertaining to each class.*

Where the class of an event is not specified it shall be interpreted as Senior, and open to either sex.

### 4-1-2 Qualifying Conditions

A qualifying event is one whose result may affect the status of a winning competitor (*e.g. by gaining points*). Two points are awarded for a Senior win in a qualifying event in which at least 9 crews start. One point is awarded for a Senior win in any other qualifying event. The awarding of points for qualifying wins in the Junior Class is covered in Rule 4-1-6c.

An event is deemed to be qualifying when there has been at least one race in which a minimum of two crews have been placed. A crew is not placed if it has been disqualified or has been given a verdict of 'Not Rowed Out'. None of the following is a qualifying event:

- a 'head' or 'bumping' race
- a private match as defined in 1.2x arranged solely between the clubs or competitors concerned
- an event open only to members of one club, or solely to the clubs of one university or other self-contained body
- races limited to Rowability and Para-Rowing competitors
- a fun event generated on the day among existing competitors
- an event held in recreational boats, or limited to competitors J13 or younger, or handicap other than Masters or relay races
- an event where competitors are allocated to crews on the day by the organisers
- an event where special conditions apply and permission has been granted by the National Competition Committee
- an event for mixed crews of men and women (*see note to 4-1-11*)
- primary events as defined in Appendix B

Any of the specific non-qualifying type of events listed above may have their entry conditions varied by local rules (see 2-1-4c and 6-1-8).

### 2018 Rule Changes

The following rule changes will take effect no later than 1st April 2018 though they will also be applicable to those events that are trialing the Personal Ranking System in advance of its introduction. The Pathfinder events will look at the collection of data to establish the Personal Ranking of competitors in addition to the way in which Personal Rankings will be used to create competition, to better inform the implementation of the new system. These amended rules replace those like numbered rules that currently still apply to events operating the points system.

### 4-1-2 Qualifying Conditions

A qualifying event is one whose result may affect the Personal

Ranking of a competitor (e.g. by changing the Personal Ranking). The results from all competition including Head Races will be taken into consideration in the calculation of the Personal Ranking. An event is deemed to be qualifying when there has been at least one race in which a minimum of two crews have been placed. A crew is not placed if it has been disqualified or has been given a verdict of 'Not Rowed Out'. None of the following is a qualifying event:

- An event where special conditions apply and permission has been granted by the National Competition Committee
- A private match as defined in 1.2x arranged solely between the clubs or competitors concerned
- An event open only to members of one club, or solely to the clubs of one university or other self-contained body
- Races limited to Rowability and Para-Rowing competitors
- A fun event generated on the day among existing competitors
- An event held in recreational boats, or limited to competitors J13 or younger, or handicap other than Masters or relay races
- An event where competitors are allocated to crews on the day by the organisers

Those competitors who have not won a qualifying event, including Juniors, will be Novice status. Winning a processional race will not affect Novice status]

**4-1-3 Senior Class**

- a. Subject to 3-3-2h, Senior rowing is open to all registered competitors, whatever their sex, weight or age.
- b. Senior racing is sub-classified by status levels defined by the maximum number of points that may be held by the crew in total, in the appropriate discipline.
- c. Events may be held in the following status levels. The chart below indicates the maximum number of points that may be held by a crew at each status level.

STATUS LEVEL	8o/x	4o/x	2o/x	1x
Elite	no limit	no limit	no limit	no limit
Senior	72	36	18	9
Intermediate 1	48	24	12	6
Intermediate 2	32	16	8	4
Intermediate 3	16	8	4	2
Novice	0	0	0	0

- d. Where the status of an event is not specified, it shall be interpreted as Elite.

**4-1-4 Women's Senior Class**

Events restricted to women may be held at the same status levels as in Senior class, in either discipline.

**4-1-5 Lightweight Class**

- a. Lightweight events may be held at any of the Senior or Women's Senior status levels.
- b. A competitor is a Lightweight if his or her weight does not exceed 72.5kg (Open), 59kg (Women) during the summer period (1st April – 30th September) and 75kg (Open), 61.5kg (Women) during the winter period (1st October – 31st March).  
The average weight of a Lightweight crew (excluding Coxswain) may not exceed 70kg (Open) or 57kg (Women) during the summer period. There will be no average weight requirement during the winter period.
- c. Single scullers are weighed as individuals.

**4-1-6 Junior Class**

- a. Junior events may be held in any of the age classes identified in

Rule 3-3-2c above, and within the J14 age band and above, in status classes A & B (see 3-3-2f).

If the latter subdivision is not specified, the event will be deemed to be A.

- b. Events may be classified as 'School/Junior'. This extends a J18A event to permit pupils in full time secondary education to continue to participate at a junior level representing their school or club up to the date of their nineteenth birthday.  
*This does not permit the inclusion of 'old boys' in a school crew.*
- c. Subject to Rules 3-2-1e and 3-2-1f only the first qualifying win at Sch/J, J18 (A or B), J17 (A or B), J16 (A or B), WSch/J, WJ18 (A or B), WJ17(A or B) or WJ16 (A or B) in any age band counts for one point. No competitor shall gain more than one point in any age band for wins at Junior events.
- d. Junior Maiden events may be offered at J18, J17, J16, J15, WJ18, WJ17, WJ16 and WJ15 levels for junior members who have not yet won any qualifying Junior or qualifying Senior event.

**4-1-7 Masters Class**

- a. Masters events may be held in the following classes, by age. The age restriction is the lower limit for the average age of the crew (excluding coxswain), each crew member's age being measured in whole years attained during the current calendar year.

Class	Age Restriction
A	27
B	36
C	43
D	50
E	55
F	60
G	65
H	70
I	75
J	80
K	85

Masters events will not attract points except that Masters with no points will receive one such point for a qualifying win. *The British Rowing insurance policy covers oarsmen aged 80 and over against third party liability. They are not covered for personal accident.*

- b. Masters crews of different classes may be raced together using a handicap system.

A table of handicaps and working notes on the system is published in the British Rowing Almanack, and these shall be applied to determine the handicap to be used. A regatta shall declare, beforehand, if the handicap system will be used.

- c. The Starter shall declare the handicaps to be applied and shall explain the starting method.

After the explanation has been given, the Starter shall conduct a normal start; but at the 'Go' only the crews with least handicap will start. After the first 'Go', he shall count down the handicap time in whole seconds, starting with one less than the number of handicap seconds to be given and ending with the word 'Go', when the second group of crews will depart.

*Thus to start a handicap race with a 4 second differential, the Starter will use the following words after the first 'Go'...' three' ... 'two' ... 'one' 'Go'.*

*The Red Flag will be raised and dropped for each Start.*

*The countdown shall be made audible to all the crews involved. The crew(s) remaining on the Start after the first 'Go' shall maintain themselves in a state of readiness for the second start. In the event of a 'false start' by any crew, the normal 'false start' procedure shall apply.*

A crew awarded a handicap in its favour may elect to start without advantage.

#### 4-1-8 Rowability

- a. Rowability events may be offered for physical and learning disabilities and for competitors able to use the upper body including trunk (RFS) or those able to use arms and shoulders only (RUS).
- b. British Rowing will determine which boats are eligible for Rowability competition in the RFS and RUS events
- c. Strapping shall comply with the requirements of Appendix C.

#### 4-1-9 Para-Rowing

- a. Para-Rowing events may be offered for physical disability, leg, trunk and arms (LTA-PD) and leg, trunk and arms visual impairment (LTA-VI) together with trunk and arms (TA) and arms and shoulders (AS).
- b. The use of Standard Para-Rowing boats is mandatory for all Para-Rowing TA and AS events. British Rowing will determine which boats are eligible for competition in these events.
- c. Strapping shall comply with the requirements of Appendix C.

#### 4-1-10 Change of Status

- a. Status within Senior and Junior (A & B) classes, shall relate to the beginning of a regatta, and changes of status shall take effect at the end of a regatta.

#### 2018 Rule Changes

The following rule changes will take effect no later than 1st April 2018 though they will also be applicable to those events that are trialing the Personal Ranking System in advance of its introduction. These amended rules replace those like numbered rules that currently still apply to events operating the points system.

#### 4-1-10 Change of Ranking

Status Ranking within Junior and Senior classes shall relate to the ranking eight (8) days before the official close of entries for the regatta and changes of ranking shall take effect at the end of a regatta.

- b. A regatta committee may transfer a crew or sculler whose classification changes between the date of entry and the beginning of the event to another event of appropriate classification.

#### 4-1-11 Combination of Classes

Regatta organisers may offer events which combine the conditions of two or more classes; (e.g. Masters B Intermediate 2 or Masters RSS-PD).

*Masters B Intermediate 2 would be an event conforming to the general conditions of Masters B, but restricted to crews/scullers with a point count applicable to Intermediate 2 conditions. No points would be awarded even if the event is qualifying, as the overriding qualification is Masters. Intermediate 2 Masters B on the other hand would attract points if the event is qualifying. Masters RSS-PD would combine a Masters competitor(s) with Rowability RSS-PD class competitor(s).*

Regattas may also offer events within one of the major classifications, which have additional restrictions; e.g. College 4+. This would, if not otherwise designated, imply an event under the general classification of Elite 4+ with the additional restriction that all competitors should be pupils at a school or college of higher education. Points would be awarded to winners of such an event, if qualifying.

A particular example of combining classes is a **Mixed** event, which may be offered at any status level in Senior rowing and combines men and women rowers or scullers in a crew with a minimum number of women included (assumed to be 50% unless otherwise

stated) (and see 4-1-2). Mixed events may also take place as Junior events in any age category.

## 5. REGATTA ORGANISATION

### 5.1 General

#### 5-1-1 General Requirements

- a. All affiliated regattas shall be held in accordance with the Rules of British Rowing and in accordance with the Rules of Racing.
- b. No regatta shall be held under these Rules unless its date and conditions have been approved by the National Competition Committee and the regatta has taken account of the guidance in 'Row Safe', in the risk assessments and safety documentation required by the regatta.

*The Regatta Calendar is established on a rolling basis looking several years ahead, and is controlled and facilitated by a small subcommittee of the National Competition Committee working through regional councils. Consensus is sought, but preferred dates are rejected if a clash between regattas or events of national significance is foreseen; in the last instance, a regatta date may be imposed.*

A regatta must pay all affiliation money and all necessary fees connected with the event to British Rowing within fourteen days of the event taking place.

- c. If a regatta does not take place on the agreed date, through exceptional or unforeseen circumstances, the Organising Committee may hold it on another date with the approval of the Regional Council concerned and the National Competition Committee.
- d. The regatta shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that all competitors representing clubs affiliated to British Rowing, Scottish Rowing or Welsh Rowing are, themselves, registered members of British Rowing, Scottish Rowing or Welsh Rowing respectively and are in possession of a current Racing Licence (see 2-3-3 and 2-3-9).

#### 5-1-2 Role of the Regional Umpiring Committee

Each regatta in each region should be attended by a Commissioner from the Regional Umpiring Committee to ensure that umpiring standards are being maintained.

*He is able to assist the Regatta, if invited, by:*

- *providing the Race Committee or any other Key Race Official with an experienced second opinion*
- *helping to defuse a situation, particularly one which might escalate to the Regional Umpiring Committee through an appeal*
- *providing independent comment to the Regatta Organisers on aspects of the Regatta which are below the latest standards of best practice*
- *working as a regatta official*

*National regattas shall normally be attended by a member of the National Umpiring Committee.*

### 5.2 Regatta Conditions and Entries

#### 5-2-1 Notice of the Regatta

It is the responsibility of the Regatta Organising Committee to publicise the Regatta. Any Notice of a Regatta shall be approved by the local Regional Umpiring Committee in advance and shall include the following:

- the place, date and time of the Regatta
- the fact that it is to be held under the Rules of British Rowing, and that the British Rowing Rules of Racing will apply
- the events offered, their classification and the types of boats for each
- the length and location of the course
- any special restrictions or conditions, whether or not affecting

the classification of competitors

- the amount of the entry fees and when payable
- the date and time at which entries close, and the date, time and place of the draw
- the address for entries and correspondence and telephone number for enquiries.

A copy of the notice of the event shall be forwarded to British Rowing simultaneously with the distribution to clubs.

#### 5-2-2 Entry Forms

- a. Regattas are advised to require entrants to use BROE or if necessary, standard British Rowing Entry Forms and Summary Forms. The essential information that must be given for each crew, for each event entered is:

- event and category entered
- name of the club represented
- colours of the club
- crew names and registration numbers individual points counts and where applicable, the Rowability grouping or Para-Rowing classification
- individual dates of birth for Juniors or Masters
- a certification, confirmed by the captain of the club, or his representative, attesting that the club is affiliated to British Rowing or another association recognised by British Rowing or FISA, and that the information provided is correct, including crew eligibility, registration numbers and point counts
- details of any doubling up being sought *i.e. notification if any individual or a crew is entered in a second event at the regatta. There is no compulsion on the regatta to accommodate any request for a doubling up entry.*

*Where a club is entering a number of crews for the same regatta, especially where there are complications of doubling up or shared boats or coxswains, it would be helpful if the club would complete a summary form listing the events entered and highlighting the doubling up, if any, being sought. The regatta may require clubs to complete summary forms for complex entries.*

- b. **Rowability Event Entries:** No entry shall be accepted for a Rowability event unless the rower concerned has been grouped in accordance with the British Rowing Rowability grouping procedures or holds a British Rowing Sport Class
- c. **Para-Rowing Event Entries:** No entry shall be accepted for a Para-Rowing event unless the rower concerned has been classified in accordance with the British Rowing classification procedures.

#### 5-2-3 Closing of Entries

- a. Entries shall close at least three clear days before the date of the event.
- b. No official of the Regatta shall disclose the identity of crews entered into any event but the Organising Committee may at its discretion report the state of the entry list for a particular event prior to that list being closed. Notwithstanding this, the Organising Committee is not permitted to disclose details of clubs or the identity of crews entered.
- c. An Organising Committee may investigate any entry and may return or annul an entry at any time subject to notifying the club of its reason whenever possible.
- d. No person may be entered more than once in the same event at a regatta.
- e. If only one crew is entered in an event other than a processional race, the organisers shall cancel the event and shall either refund the entry fee and any other moneys paid, or, if the club or competitor involved agrees, they may transfer the entry to

another event for which the crew is eligible.

- f. Copies of the draw, timetable of racing for the events entered and the safety 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. An email including a web link to the information may be sent to each club which retains the responsibility to ensure that all crews are made aware of it.
- g. The Regatta shall make enquiries of any crew from an association other than British Rowing, to check, as far as they are able, that the crew enters an appropriate event for their experience and crew record.

*Such crews should provide an event with details of their competition history with the understanding that their governing body may be contacted.*

- h. Once the entries have closed, the Entry Forms shall be available for inspection by any interested party.

#### 5-2-4 Returns to British Rowing after the Regatta

- a. The Regatta shall make the following returns electronically to British Rowing, to arrive within five days of the Regatta, in order to record competitors' points and for entry in the British Rowing Almanack:

- a list of those events at the regatta which were qualifying

*A 'highlighted' list of events offered would meet that requirement.*

- confirmation of Winning Crews of qualifying events, certified by the appropriate official to indicate that registration details had been checked, the competitors were as entered, and that Racing Licences had been updated where appropriate. Names should be highlighted where Racing Licences have not been produced.

- overall regatta details; date, location, distance, stream (upstream, downstream or still) start (stakeboat or free) total number of entries.

- a list of those events held showing the number of crews competing, the finalists, their times and distances, and the names of the winning crew.

- Confirmation that the crews which competed are correctly recorded in BROE. Names should be highlighted where no identity check has been carried out on a crew.

The placing of every crew in each event. The information is also required for processional races to facilitate the establishment of Personal Ranking for competitors. Wins at processional races will not affect the Novice status of competitors at Regattas.

Until such times as BROE is closed for substitutions, it remains the responsibility of the crew to ensure that all substitutions made in accordance with Rule 2-3-4b are entered into BROE.

- b. The Regatta shall make such further returns to British Rowing as shall be requested from time to time by British Rowing.

#### 5-2-5 International Regattas and Regattas of other Associations

- a. Any club proposing to enter a crew for an 'International' Regatta (*i.e. one included on the FISA calendar*), other than a Masters regatta, shall apply in the first instance to British Rowing. *Special entry forms for the purpose are held by the British Rowing office, which also holds copies in English of the FISA rules applying to 'International' FISA regattas.*
- b. In the case of other foreign regattas, clubs shall inform the National Competition Committee of their intention to enter.
- c. A win at any regatta of a different association, whether British or foreign shall count for classification as for a similar win under British Rowing rules. Winning competitors shall update their own Racing Licences for their win, and the club shall inform the British Rowing office via BROE to enable the win to be included electronically against the competitor's total and also in the club's record for the British Rowing Almanack at the end of the year.



*Two or more wins at Novice level in an Association that permits it, shall count as one Novice win and one (or two) Senior wins.*

## 6. HEAD AND OTHER PROCESSIONAL RACES

### 6-1-1 Scope of this Article

This Article shall apply to all events that are conducted as processional races, either against the clock (head races) or where the order of finishing is determined by bumping or overtaking. The other Articles of these Rules will also apply to processional races where they are not superseded by this Article or by local rules determined as per Rule 6-1-8.

*In particular, the Rules concerning the appointment of a Race Committee of umpires (see 6-1-6) apply to processional races (see 2-1-3).*

### 6-1-2 Suitable Courses

- a. Processional races shall only be conducted on courses that are wide enough for participating crews to navigate safely; for an overtaking crew to pass another crew safely over the majority of the course (*not applicable to bumping races*); and for other water users and non-participating crews to travel the length of the course without impeding crews involved in the race (*unless the course is closed to such traffic*).
- b. Turns or changes in direction of the racing course shall be limited to those that can be negotiated at a normal racing pace, with conventional steering in unmodified boats.
- c. The starting area shall have ample room above the start line and be clear of all locks and weirs so that all crews in an event or division of an event, can be marshalled safely and turn, without interfering with the start or other water users.
- d. The area below the finish line shall have ample room and be clear of all locks and weirs to allow crews that have finished to clear the finish area without interfering with the course or other water users.
- e. The Safety Adviser shall ensure that the event has a capability of recognising when and where accidents have happened and of recovering distressed competitors quickly and providing timely medical attention.

### 6-1-3 Course Markings

- a. Hazardous areas such as shallows, underwater obstructions, narrow passages, side channels and areas where other water traffic crosses the course shall be conspicuously marked, and identified in the competitors instructions.
- b. The starting line shall be conspicuously marked, and if necessary buoys should be set to guide crews into the start.
- c. The finish line shall be conspicuously marked.

### 6-1-4 Officials

The Chairman of the Race Committee shall appoint or approve Race Officials as follows:

- a. **Chief Marshal.** The Chief Marshal shall be responsible for a team of marshals whose task is to organise the crews' safe journeys to the Start, assembly into race order, their safe passage during the race, and their safe return to their disembarkation points.
- b. **Starter.** The Starter shall be responsible for administering the Start procedures.
- c. **Start Marshal.** The Start Marshal (Head Races) shall be responsible for presenting crews to the Starter (normally at or near racing pace), while maintaining the order of the Start and appropriate intervals between crews.
- d. **Chief Timekeeper (Head Races).** The Chief Timekeeper shall be responsible for a team whose task it is to mark the starting time and finish time for each crew and for calculating the net elapsed times.

- e. **Chief Umpire.** The Chief Umpire, who may or may not be one and the same as the Chairman of the Race Committee and/or the Chief Marshal shall be responsible for the application of racing rules by the team of Race Monitors and for the imposition of penalties following interference, fouls or any other breach of the Rules (British Rowing or Local) that occur during the race.

### 6-1-5 Race Monitors

- a. Race Monitors should be stationed along the course so that between them, they can observe the course in its entirety. In particular Race Monitors should be placed to cover points of the course where:
  - there is a turn of more than 45 degrees
  - a narrow passage might prevent an overtaking crew from passing safely (Heads and Overtaking Races)
  - local event rules prescribe penalties for not maintaining an established course, or where special care needs to be taken for safety reasons.
- b. Race Monitors shall:
  - note any violations of the rules, including interference and breaches of the safety regulations, and report such violations to the Chief Umpire for appropriate penalties
  - give instructions to crews to avert collision or accident and to avoid interference
  - stop a crew if necessary for safety reasons
  - be equipped with megaphones and radios, to pass on note of warnings, and to call for rescue or first aid if necessary
  - in bumping races be responsible for determining when a bump has taken place, or one crew has overtaken another.

### 6-1-6 Qualification of Officials

The Chairman of the Race Committee and the Chief Umpire shall be umpires.

*It is the long term aim that the Chief Marshal and all Race Monitors should become umpires, or that there should be developed an appropriate intermediate qualification for Race Monitors. In the short term, existing Chief Marshals and established Race Monitors who are not umpires, are to be encouraged to become qualified.*

### 6-1-7 The Start (Head Races)

- a. All crews shall be allocated a number which shall be prominently displayed by the crew throughout the race; crews will be addressed by this number during the race.
- b. The Start Marshal will present the crews in order, in procession, to the Start, bringing them individually to race pace as they approach the start line.
- c. The Starter will start each crew with the words: 'Number XY' ... 'Go', the 'Go' being given as or before the crew passes the line of the Start.
- d. The timekeeper shall record the crew number and the time the crew passes the line of the Start.
- e. Should the crews present themselves to the Starter out of order, the Starter shall take them in the order in which they come.

*Should two crews present themselves to the Starter together, the Start Marshal may attempt to hold one back, if he fails the Starter may start both crews together.*

### 6-1-8 Local Event Rules

The Chairman of the Race Committee, in conjunction with the Safety Adviser, Chief Marshal and Chief Umpire, shall prepare and publish a set of Local Event Rules to supplement the Rules of Racing in the light of experience of the course and the volume and quality of the competitors.

*For example, the local rules might establish:*

- *how lateness at the start is to be dealt with*
- *the way in which Control Commission shall work at the Event (NB as a minimum, the identities and eligibility of winning crewmen should be checked, and spot checks made on the safety*

aspects of equipment).

- whether or not the Event is to be divided into Divisions, and if so, how each is to be progressed to its starting position, turned and brought to the start
- whether competitors are to be allowed to row in the same event in different Divisions,
- on what parts of the course, if any, is overtaking to be banned
- is there to be a rule covering which side overtaking crews should go, and the extent to which slower crews should give way
- the extent to which certain types of penalty should be fixed - or varied between fixed limits.

*Note: The steering and coaching of crews is allowed at head races. Communication between coach and crew may be by whatever means is available providing there is no interference or conflict with the running of the event.*

#### 6-1-9 Penalties

The following penalties are available at Head Races Events:

- Rule 2-7-5 penalties
- an additional time penalty - to be added to the offending crews time

There can be no reduction of time for a crew that is offended against.

#### 6-1-10 Role of the Regional Umpiring Committee

The role outlined in Rule 5-1-2 shall apply also to Processional Races. Regional Umpiring Committee Members are asked to be prepared to comment in particular on:

- safety
- the course
- starting on time and dealing with latecomers
- the suitability of Local Event Rules
- numbers, siting and quality of race monitors
- the effectiveness of Control Commission policing and to concern themselves, as always with the quality of umpires and the suitability of the environment.

*The National Umpiring Committee is to be asked to draw together 'best practice' for processional races, and to consider the possibility of a qualification for Race Monitors and Marshals.*

## 7. SPONSORSHIP

### 7.1 Sponsorship of Clubs

#### 7-1-1 Display of Sponsors' Name, Logo and Messages

There are no restrictions to the display of sponsors' names, logos or messages on any item belonging to a British Rowing registered club, other than those that are used at a Regatta during a Race.

#### 7-1-2 On Racing Boats

Sponsors' logos, names or both may be displayed:

- on the boat below the water line
- on the bow and/or stern 'canvasses'
- on each saxboard with a maximum display of:
  - 1 on each saxboard of a scull/pair
  - 2 on each saxboard of a four
  - 4 on each saxboard of an eight

The name of the boat may also incorporate that of the sponsor in letters not more than 10cm high.

*Local navigation bye-laws may impose further restrictions.*

#### 7-1-3 On Racing Kit

The display of sponsors' material is restricted as follows:

- sponsors' names/logos shall be uniformly displayed on the racing vest (or equivalent) and shall cover no more than 100 square centimetres
- the display shall not impair the recognition of a crew by its club colours
- competitors may wear other items of clothing bearing sponsorship material provided they are uniformly dressed.

#### 7-1-4 On Oars or Sculls

Sponsorship material may appear on handles and looms, but not on the spoons.

## 7.2 Sponsorship of Individuals or Crews

### 7-2-1 General

Any crew or individual may be sponsored.

*While British Rowing would prefer that moneys given for sponsorship should be used within the sport, or to defray the costs of training and competing, no specific restrictions are placed on the use of sponsorship funds.*

### 7-2-2 Display of Sponsorship Material

Restrictions on the display of sponsorship material are similar to those for clubs.

## 7.3 Sponsorship of Events or Regattas

### 7-3-1 General

No restrictions are placed on the display of sponsorship material, or on sponsorship promotion during commentaries etc.

*Competitors may be required to wear entry numbers or bibs bearing entry numbers, which also display sponsors' names and/or logos.*

## Appendix A -

### Essential Equipment for Key Officials

*Where an official combines two or more functions, his equipment should contain all that is essential for him to perform all the duties he is allotted.*

#### Race Umpire:

- red flag and white flag and bell
- electric megaphone
- binoculars, if deemed necessary
- information regarding the competitors in each race, what the event is and what the 'outcome' is
- if launch based - a suitable stable but manoeuvrable launch, adequately fast, but of low wash characteristic, with support at chest or waist level, licensed where necessary, driven by an experienced driver, and equipped with the recommended safety equipment in line with 'Row Safe' including an appropriate lifejacket, or buoyancy aid
- if land based - a suitable, marked station, recognisable by the competitors, from where the whole of the section of the course he is to control is visible, without obstruction; from which he can be clearly heard and be seen from all points of that section of the course, equipped with communication equipment to enable discussion between himself and the Co-ordinating Umpire, and messages to be passed quickly to the neighbouring umpires. Ideally, cover should be provided against inclement weather.

#### Co-ordinating Umpire:

- a station where he can see as much of the course as possible, and yet accessible to competitors who wish to lodge a protest
- binoculars, if deemed necessary
- communication equipment such that he can overhear comments from and between race umpires on the progress of the race, details of warnings, circumstances of disqualifications etc. and such that he can discuss a situation with a race umpire, transmit a verdict to the Judges and hold a brief conversation with the race programme controller, and/or the Secretary of the Regatta. *The traditional red and white flags used to signal to the judges may be used, or radio messages may be substituted if he is sited out of view of the judges.*

**Head of Control Commission:**

- crew Entry Forms and Racing Licences, giving the names and registration numbers and points and photograph of each individual competitor
- a weighing machine suitable for accurate weighing of competitors and suitably sited to maintain that accuracy
- means for competitors to put together any necessary dead-weight e.g.: sand, freezer bags and staplers
- paperwork to manage the recognition of checked competitors and boats
- communication facilities with the Starter and with 'Race Control'.

**Starter:**

- traditionally, a red flag and a bell

*Other audible and visual means of signalling the 'Start' may be used with the approval of the National Competition Committee, e.g. traffic lights (with or without an automatic variable pause), and linked hoister*

In multi-lane situations the Starter will require a podium or tower and/or a means of distributing his voice and his visual signals fairly to all competitors

- some means of communication with 'race control' to ensure that he is aware of changes to the race programme and of any penalties (e.g. 'false starts') that have been awarded.

**Judge at the Start:**

- a white flag, a red flag and a bell
- siting marks to allow consistent bows-on aligning and/or a compass
- a megaphone or radio communication with the stakeboats and Starter

*It is perfectly satisfactory to align remotely using, for example, closed circuit television.*

**Chief Judge:**

- a siting line for the finish
- visual and audible signals to the competitors, timing and Race Umpire that the leading crew has crossed the finish line, and to acknowledge umpires signals. A white or chequered flag and a hoister are usual
- a log to provide a written record of the results
- where appropriate, and possible, a camera (e.g. camcorder) and operator to assist in the verdict of close finishes
- communication facilities to transmit verdicts and to receive changes to the order of racing, change of stations etc.
- where the course is wide, binoculars to recognise crews and read boat numbers
- a megaphone

**Appendix B -****Primary Events**

*Primary Events may be incorporated into conventional Regattas or, if there is sufficient support, make up an entire Regatta. They are intended for rowers who are new to the sport (say, in their first year/ 18 months of rowing). They are intended to provide a first taste of side-by-side racing, in a relatively safe and regulated environment. Primary events are non-qualifying, but when competitors are judged by their peers and coaches to be capable of racing in suitable non-primary events then they should transfer to 'normal' open events. If, after a period racing in Primary events, competitors do not wish to take up racing more seriously, then they may continue as recreational rowers. However, it is not envisaged that competitors can continue to race, and win Primary Events year after year.*

**Primary events**

- are limited to newcomers to the sport not holding points
- are limited to registered members of British Rowing (Platinum, Gold, Silver)
- are limited to those not entered into any other events at the same regatta that are not Primary events
- may be offered for competitors in any age band who have not won a qualifying Junior, Senior or Masters event
- shall provide at least two races for one entry fee via any system of the organisers' choice
- shall be raced over courses no longer than 800m
- may be offered in any boat size.

**Appendix C****General Strapping requirements for Rowability and Para-Rowing events**

The purpose of the strapping is for safety and to prevent movement of the lumbar region away from the seat backrest.

- All straps shall be min 50mm wide, manufactured without mechanical buckles and shall be able to be released immediately by the rower with a single quick hand action of pulling on the free end of the strap.
- When more than one strap is used, all shall be released in the same manner and direction.
- Any hand strapping shall be able to be released immediately by quick mouth action.
- Additional strapping may be used by any rower but shall comply with this Regulation.
- It is recommended that all strapping is in a contrasting colour to race strip

**Specific Strapping requirements for Rowability events**

- The RUS 1x boats shall have a chest strap
- Rowers in either the RFS or RUS boats may choose to use additional strapping for safety and/or comfort.
- There are no obligatory strapping requirements for the RFS boat

**Specific Strapping requirements for Para-Rowing events**

In addition to compliance with the general strapping requirements, strapping requirements for Para-Rowing boat classes shall be as follows:

- **TA** Strapping Requirements – rowers shall be secured with a strap to prevent flexion and extension of the knee(s) during rowing. The strap shall be secured under the seat or rails and over the thighs, as close to the knees as possible.
- **AS** Strapping Requirements – rowers shall use a strap that shall be secured to the seat back and around the torso just covering the xiphoid process (bone at the bottom of the sternum). The rower's lumbar region shall remain in contact with the seat when the rower reaches forward when rowing, during training, warm up, cool down and racing. The purpose of the strapping is to prevent movement of the lumbar region away from the seat and it shall be tight enough to do so. The design and placement of the seat and all straps shall allow the lumbar region to be visible from the side during rowing. The straps shall be attached to the seat on both sides. The point at which the strap is attached to the seat should be no lower than the top edge of the supportive portion of the strap at the front of the torso. Straps shall be assessed with the rower in a static position with the spine straightened by bearing the weight of the upper body through the arms while the buttocks and back remain in contact with the seat. The supportive portion of the back rest of the seat shall not be lower than the level of the attachment points of the front strap. If a bracket is attached to the strap it shall not rotate at the attachment. Additionally, the AS1x rower shall be secured with

a strap to prevent flexion and extension of the knee(s) during rowing. The strap shall be secured under the seat or rails and over the thighs, as close to the knees as possible.

## Appendix D

### Guidance on the Conduct of Stable (Recreational)

#### Boat Competitions

##### Principles

As for conventional racing under British Rowing rules, the purpose of these guidelines is to:

- Provide a basis for safe, fair and equal racing taking account of the guidance in 'Row Safe'.
- Provide a framework for the organisation of regattas and other rowing events for stable boats

However Recreational / Explore Rowing races are informal and run primarily for enjoyment and this document is intended to assist organisers rather than to provide a rigid set of rules.

##### Organisation

An Organising Committee should be appointed, the Chairman of which will be responsible for the conduct of the event. *It is recommended that the Organising Committee should include at least one Umpire.*

Unless the Recreational/Explore Rowing event takes place during the course of a head race or regatta held under British Rowing Rules of Racing, race officials are not required to be Umpires. However, the Race Committee should ensure that such officials have the necessary expertise and experience to perform their duties in a safe and professional way.

The Organising Committee shall ensure that the event is covered by appropriate insurance.

##### Safety & Welfare

The Organising Committee shall appoint a Safety Adviser and Welfare Officer, who are responsible for producing a Risk Assessment, Safety and Welfare Plans for the event. These need to be submitted to the Regional Rowing Safety Adviser and relevant waterway authority for approval.

##### Competitors

Recreational rowing or stable boat events are aimed at beginner rowers and more experienced recreational rowers who do not train regularly for fine boat racing under British Rowing Rules of Racing. Organisers should exercise discretion in excluding active competitors with a Gold licence from beginners' events. All competitors including coxes, shall hold at least Silver Membership of British Rowing.

##### Boat Types

To ensure fair racing, the organisers should provide matched pairs of boats, of similar dimensions and weights. These would typically be stable / touring boats, such as provided under the Explore programme although other types could be considered according to the type of event and experience of the crews.

##### Types of Event

Organisers should try to ensure, so far as is practicable, that racing is between competitors of similar competence.

##### Types of Race

Types of racing which could be considered are:

- "Head" races or time trials. Such races may be run over any distance, as determined by the event organisers, but having due regard to the suitability and safety of the course.
- Side by side races. Crews should have the opportunity to race at least twice. This may be achieved by arranging a "round robin" competition or a plate event for first-round losers, at the discretion of the organising committee.

- Skills competitions. These may include (but are not restricted to) any of the following:
  - Slalom around buoys etc
  - Backing down
  - 360 degree turn
  - Emergency stop

At all times the safety of competitors shall be the organisers' first priority. If there is insufficient space for crews to perform such manoeuvres side by side, then they should compete singly and be timed.