



## National Competition Committee

# Guidelines for Application or Change for Regatta and Head Dates

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Rules of Racing

The Rules of Racing which cover regatta dates are set out below.

#### 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, place and conditions have been approved by the National Competition Committee and the regatta has declared its adherence to the British Rowing Guide to Safe Practice in Rowing.

A regatta failing to comply with these rules may be subject to the imposition of sanctions by British Rowing.

*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.

### 1.2 Definition

The word 'regatta' in these notes and in the British Rowing Rules of Racing covers regattas and head races.

### 1.3 Approval of the Regatta Calendar

The Regatta Calendar runs from April to March and is published each year in Rowing & Regatta Magazine, the British Rowing Almanack and the British Rowing website. To meet the deadlines for publication, the calendar must be approved, at the latest, by the November Council meeting. It should be noted that Council only approves the regattas run under British Rowing rules, but not WEARA, HDARA, CARA, WARA, BUCS, SR regattas or HRR and international regattas, for which the listed organisations are responsible. By agreement with them, the dates are included in the calendar for completeness.

British Rowing does not decide regatta dates other than for those events over which it has direct control (National Championships, international events). All other regattas take place on dates of their own choosing, within reason. Within the terms of the rules above, the National Competition Committee approves those dates and seeks to ensure that the dates so chosen provide as fair a range of competition for the market as possible. For example, where regattas have a set rule to determine their dates, these are respected as far as possible, but this cannot always be the case.

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## 1.4 Responsibilities

The primary responsibility for choosing a date rests with the regatta organiser.

In order to provide the checks and balances required by the Rules of Racing, the Regional Councils are responsible for the regattas in their region and the National Competition Committee for the whole calendar.

As stated in the rules, it is the intention to achieve consensus for the dates in the calendar. Whenever there is a dispute, the first course of action is to have the matter resolved between the regattas concerned. If that agreement is not reached, then the Regional Councils concerned should come to an agreement. If this is not successful, the dispute must be referred to the National Competition Committee.

## 1.5 Production of the Calendar

Generally, each year's calendar is based on the one from the previous year. However, each year there are differences influenced by the dates for bank holidays, international events and other factors. Also, the number of regattas has grown and the shift towards multilane regattas has affected the range of competition available. Hence there is a continuously changing set of issues to address. The calendar as a whole is coordinated by the National Competition Committee with the help of designated people in the regions, representing the Regional Councils.

In order to provide visibility for the calendar for the following year, every attempt is made to circulate a draft of the calendar to the Regional Councils as early the previous year as possible, so as to identify any issues between different regattas.

Initially, certain regattas relying on the booking of facilities such as NWSC or on closure of sections of the River Thames are determined and circulated. The Regional Councils submit the dates for the regattas in their region to the National Competition Committee's coordinator, and a draft calendar is circulated. When issues are raised they are dealt with and new versions are produced and circulated until the final version for approval at November Council.

In approving the dates, account is also taken of any regattas which are in arrears for payment or have not returned their results in accordance with the rules. Organisers should seek to ensure that their date is correct and not subject to change, but a mechanism for changing dates must also be in place to take account of some exceptional circumstances such as local authority conditions or cancellation owing to adverse weather.

The guidelines set out below seek to provide a simple process for organisers and Regional Councils to follow to ensure that the calendar is fair and stable.

## 2. New Regattas or Heads

- 2.1 The regatta organiser must check the current regatta calendar to see whether there is potentially already another regatta in their region, in a neighbouring region or anywhere else where there might be a conflict on the same weekend.
- 2.2 If there is another regatta, the organiser must check with that event that they agree that the new event can take place on the proposed date. Any dispute should be referred to the Regional Councils concerned.
- 2.3 The regatta organiser must obtain an Affiliation Form from British Rowing HQ, fill it in and submit it, together with the documentation required for affiliation, to the Regional Council. The required documentation is listed on the 'Notes for Event Affiliation' sheet that goes with the Affiliation Form.
- 2.4 The Regional Council must consider the proposal and approve it by signature of the Regional Water Safety Adviser and Regional Council Chairman.

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- 2.5 The completed form and attachments must be sent to British Rowing HQ for consideration by National Competition Committee, who will advise of the approval.
- 2.6 The Regional Council then adds the date to its regional regatta calendar.

### **3. Existing Regattas**

- 3.1 The regatta organiser must confirm its date to the Regional Council as soon as possible after publication of the previous year's calendar.
- 3.2 The Regional Councils must submit the dates for their region by the end of May each year. So far as possible this list should be complete, but, if it is not, the preferred dates or the reason for the lack of date should be provided.
- 3.3 If possible, the National Competition Committee will make a draft available, for information only, to the June Council. A draft must be available for September Council.
- 3.4 If any issues are raised between regattas, these should be resolved between the regatta organisers concerned. If this is not possible, the Regional Councils representing the regattas must try to resolve this issue. If this is not possible, the issue must be referred to the National Competition Committee.
- 3.5 If any regattas are in arrears with any payments or submission of results, then they will be excluded from the calendar.
- 3.6 The calendar for approval must be submitted to the November Council. Once approved no changes are permitted except those agreed through the change process in 4 below. The approved calendar will be published.

### **4. Changing regatta dates**

- 4.1 The regatta organiser must check the current regatta calendar to see whether there is potentially already another regatta in their region, in a neighbouring region or anywhere else where there might be a conflict on the same weekend.
- 4.2 If there is another regatta, the organiser must check with that event that they agree that the re-arranged event can take place on the proposed date. Any dispute should be referred to the Regional Councils concerned.
- 4.3 The regatta organiser must obtain the approval of the Regional Council. If the change of date is intended to be permanent, then a new affiliation form must be submitted.
- 4.4 The Regional Council must submit the change of date to the National Competition Committee, who will advise of the approval.

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