



BRITISHROWING

# Summary of the Rule changes

From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025

Issue History:  
VI 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025

TEAMWORK | OPEN TO ALL | COMMITMENT

## Summary of the rule changes from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025

These are the changes from the 2024 rules of changes. Differences are highlighted in red.

Rule	Current	Proposed	Rationale
1-2	The purposes of these rules are to:	The purposes of these rules <del>are</del> is to:	Typo
1-2	provide a basis for safe, fair and equal racing taking account of the guidance in RowSafe and of British Rowing's Safeguarding & Protecting Children Policy.	provide a basis for safe, fair and equal racing taking account of the guidance in RowSafe <b>and in British Rowing's Safeguarding Strategy and Policies</b>	There is no longer any such named policy
1-7a	Open affiliated rowing clubs may register one additional racing name with British Rowing, to be used by juniors competing in British Rowing competitions.	Open affiliated rowing clubs may register <b>one Registered Junior Racing Name</b> with British Rowing, to be used by juniors competing in British Rowing competitions.	Typo
2-1-1a	Except as covered elsewhere in these rules, only those competitors who are registered members of British Rowing with Race membership, or have a Day Ticket for a day of the competition (if permitted by British Rowing and accepted by the competition), 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 World Rowing, shall compete in competitions held under these rules.	Except as covered elsewhere in these rules, only those competitors who are registered members of British Rowing with Race <b>or Life</b> membership, or have a Day Ticket for a day of the competition (if permitted by British Rowing and accepted by the competition), 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 World Rowing, shall compete in competitions held under these rules.	Reflects current membership types
2-1-1b	Registered members of British Rowing with Row, Coach or Support membership may also compete in Primary Events described in Appendix C and Stable (Recreational) Boat Competition described in Appendix E.	Registered members of British Rowing, with Row, Coach or <del>Support-Umpire</del> -membership, may also compete in Primary Events described in Appendix C and Stable (Recreational) Boat Competition described in Appendix E.	Reflects current membership types

2-2-1	<p>a. No competitor shall be allowed to compete in Lightweight competition until they have reached the age of 18 years old.</p> <p>b. A competitor is a Lightweight if their 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).</p> <p>c. The average weight of a Lightweight crew (excluding cox) shall not exceed 70 kg (Open) or 57 kg (Women) during the summer period. There will be no average weight requirement during the winter period.</p> <p>d. Single scullers are weighed as individuals.</p>	<p>a. No competitor shall be allowed to compete in Lightweight <del>competition</del> <b>events</b> until they have reached the age of 18 years old.</p> <p>b. A competitor is a Lightweight if their 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).</p> <p>c. The average weight of a Lightweight crew (excluding cox) shall not exceed 70 kg (Open) or 57 kg (Women) during the summer period. There will be no average weight requirement during the winter period.</p> <p>d. Single scullers are weighed as individuals.</p> <p><b>e. For a Head race (not a time trial in a regatta) held at any time of year the winter period weights for lightweights in Rule 2-2-1b will apply.</b></p>	<p>Request from the Scullers Head for winter weights to be used in head races whenever they are held and also type.</p> <p>Make it clear that time trials in a regatta cannot use winter weights</p>
2-2-2	A rower or cox may compete at U19 level until 31st December of the year in which they reach the age of 18.	A rower or cox may compete at U19 level <b>up to and including the</b> 31st December of the year in which they reach the age of 18.	Clarification that they can compete on 31 <sup>st</sup> December.
2-2-3	A rower or cox may compete at U23 level until 31st December of the year in which they reach the age of 22.	A rower or cox may compete at U23 level <b>up to and including the</b> 31st December of the year in which they reach the age of 22.	Clarification that they can compete on 31 <sup>st</sup> December.
2-2-5	Individuals competing in Para-Rowing competition shall have been allocated a Sport Class by the British Rowing classification procedure:	Individuals competing in Para-Rowing <del>competition-events</del> shall have been allocated a Sport Class by the British Rowing classification procedure:	Standardisation

3-2b	A crew is not placed if it has been disqualified or has been given a verdict of 'Not Rowed Out' or if it did not finish.	A crew is not placed if it has been disqualified <del>or has been given a verdict of 'Not Rowed Out'</del> or if it did not finish.	Removed Not Rowed Out verdict
3-2c	In general, all competitions are classed as qualifying including:	In general, all <del>competitions</del> <b>events</b> are classed as qualifying including:	Standardisation
4-2	Senior racing can be sub-classified on ranking points which are defined by the Organising Committee after entries have closed.	Senior racing can be sub-classified by Event Bands <b>(based on ranking points)</b> which are defined by the Organising Committee after entries have closed.	Clarification about how bands are sub-classified
4-3	c. Events may be classified as 'School/Junior'. This extends a J18 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. Events may be classified as 'School/Junior'. This extends a J18 event to permit pupils in full time secondary education to continue to participate at a junior level representing their school or club up to and including the day before their nineteenth birthday. This does not permit the inclusion of former pupils in a school crew.	Clarification that they can not compete on their 19 <sup>th</sup> birthday. Gender neutral
5-1d	The competition 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 digital membership card (see 7-2-3 and 5-5-4).	The competition 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 <del>digital</del> membership card <b>(digital or otherwise)</b> (see 7-2-3 and 5-5-4).	Clarification
5-2	5-2-1 Row Safe 5-2-2 Welfare Officer 5-2-3 Safety Adviser 5-2-4 Safety Instructions	5-2-1 Row Safe <b>5-2-2</b> Safety Adviser <b>5-2-3</b> Welfare Officer 5-2-4 Safety Instructions  And check cross references	Makes more logical sense

5-2-3b	The Safety Adviser shall ensure that the competition has the capability of recognising when and where accidents have happened and of recovering distressed competitors quickly and providing timely medical attention.	The Safety Adviser shall ensure that the competition <b>is capable</b> of recognising when and where accidents have happened and of recovering distressed competitors quickly and providing timely medical attention.	Clarification
5-2-3c	The Safety Adviser shall be responsible for the submission of an Event Safety Plan and Safety Rules together with associated risk assessments and Event Emergency Response Plan in compliance with the guidance in RowSafe in addition to the Welfare Plan to the Regional Rowing Safety Adviser in the region in which the competition is to take place a minimum of four weeks before the proposed competition date	The Safety Adviser shall be responsible for the submission of an <del>Event</del> <b>Competition</b> Safety Plan and Safety Rules together with associated risk assessments and <del>Event</del> <b>Competition</b> Emergency Response Plan in compliance with the guidance in RowSafe, in addition to the Welfare Plan, to the Regional Rowing Safety Adviser in the region in which the competition is to take place a minimum of four weeks before the proposed competition date	Typo and standardisation
5-5-3e	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 crew involved agrees, they may transfer the entry to another event for which the crew is eligible.	If only one crew is entered in an event other than a processional race, the <b>Organising Committee</b> shall cancel the event and shall either refund the entry fee and any other moneys paid, or, if the club or crew involved agrees, they may transfer the entry to another event for which the crew is eligible.	Standardisation
5-5-4a	Competitors whose names and registration details are not on the entry form shall be disqualified and the case reported to British Rowing. Such situations may be considered by the Race Committee Chair as 'unsporting behaviour' (see 8-5).	Competitors whose names and registration details are not on the <b>online</b> entry form shall be disqualified and the case reported to British Rowing. Such situations may be considered by the Race Committee Chair as 'unsporting behaviour' (see 8-5).	Standardisation

6-1-5e	- local event rules prescribe penalties for not maintaining an established course, or where special care needs to be taken for safety reasons.	- local <b>event competition</b> rules prescribe penalties for not maintaining an established course, or where special care needs to be taken for safety reasons.	Standardisation
7-1-3	<i>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.</i>	<i>This 'Official Warning' may be awarded by any umpire officiating (whether on duty or not) at the <b>event—competition</b> and should be notified immediately to the Start for application in the next race for the crew involved.</i>	
7-2-3	Any competitor who cannot produce their digital membership card when requested by an official may be disqualified but can be replaced by a suitably qualified substitute (see 7-2-4b).	Any competitor who cannot produce their <b>digital</b> membership card ( <b>digital or otherwise</b> ) when requested by an official may be disqualified but can be replaced by a suitably qualified substitute (see 7-2-4b).	Clarification
7-2-4a	Competitors should be identified by checking against the information on the entry form. A competitor's digital membership card may also be inspected as proof of identity and eligibility for the event entered.	Competitors should be identified by checking against the information on the <b>online</b> entry form. A competitor's digital membership card may also be inspected as proof of identity and eligibility for the event entered.	Standardisation
7-2-4a	Competitors should be identified by checking against the information on the entry form. A competitor's digital membership card may also be inspected as proof of identity and eligibility for the event entered.	Competitors should be identified by checking against the information on the entry form. A competitor's <b>digital</b> membership card ( <b>digital or otherwise</b> ) may also be inspected as proof of identity and eligibility for the event entered.	Clarification
7-2-4	a. Competitors should be identified by checking against the information on the entry form. A competitor's digital membership card may also be inspected as proof of identity and eligibility for the event entered. <i>The extent to which</i>	a. Competitors should be identified by checking against the information on the entry form. A competitor's <b>digital</b> membership card ( <b>digital or otherwise</b> ) may also be inspected as proof of identity	To clarify the process and remove an error which was introduced last year.

<p><i>this should be a 100% check is left to the competition to decide. All competitions should carry out at least a partial check.</i></p> <p>b. All the rowing members of a crew, and the cox, may be substituted until the official close of entries. Thereafter, until the first race of the crew in the competition has started, up to half of the rowing members of a crew and the cox may be substituted. Any substitute shall fulfil the requirements of Rule 2-1-1 and the Personal Ranking Reference Book, and be approved as eligible by the Organising Committee. Each shall be a member of the same club as the rower they are replacing or, in the case of a composite crew, of any of the clubs entered as the composite, except in the case of crews in Masters, Para-Rowing or Adaptive events where a substitute from another club shall also be valid, and shall provide a digital membership card. Coxes are bound by the same rules of substitution as rowers with the exception that a substitute cox may belong to a different club.</p> <p>c. Any further substitutions after the official close of entries additional to those allowed under Rule 7-2- 4b 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 Chair to allow a substitution will be final. A rower substituted on</p>	<p>and eligibility for the event entered.</p> <p><i>The extent to which this should be a 100% check is left to the competition to decide. All competitions should carry out at least a partial check.</i></p> <p>b. All the rowing members of a crew, and the cox, may be substituted until the official close of entries, <b>including after the Suspension of Entries.</b></p> <p>c. Any substitute shall fulfil the requirements of Rule 2-1-1 and the Personal Ranking Reference Book, and be approved as eligible by the Organising Committee. <b>Single scullers (1x) cannot be substituted.</b></p> <p>d. <del>Therea</del>After the official close of entries, until the first race of the crew in the <b>competition event</b> has started, up to half of the rowing members of a crew and the cox may be substituted.</p> <p>e. Each rower shall be a member of the same club as the rower they are replacing or, in the case of a composite crew, of any of the clubs entered as the composite.</p> <p>f. <del>except</del> In In the case of crews in Masters, Para-Rowing or Adaptive events, <del>where</del> a substitute from another club shall also be valid, and shall provide a <del>digital</del> membership card <b>(digital or otherwise).</b></p> <p>g. <del>Coxes are bound by the same rules of substitution as rowers with the exception</del></p>	
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	<p>medical grounds shall not reclaim their original place in the crew and shall not race in any other crew at the competition.</p> <p>d. 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 7-2-4b are entered into BROE.</p> <p>e. All Masters crews shall race at their age category as shown in the draw and substitutes shall not be permitted if they would result in making the crew ineligible for that age category. <i>For example a D crew can put in substitutes to make it E but it shall still race as D and a D crew in a C/D handicap event cannot put in substitutes to make it C as it would then be ineligible for D.</i></p>	<p><del>that</del> A substitute cox may belong to a different club.</p> <p>h. Any further substitutions after the official close of entries additional to those allowed under Rule 7-2-4d will only be permitted on the basis of medical evidence produced by the crew or its club. In the absence of a medical evidence the decision of the Race Committee Chair to allow a substitution will be final. A rower substituted on medical grounds shall not reclaim their original place in the crew and shall not race in any other crew at the competition.</p> <p>i. 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 Rules 7-2-4d-i are entered into BROE.</p>	
7-2-7f	<p>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 cox 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</p>	<p><del>Dead-weight shall consist of a single weight, or as few items as possible</del> Crews are responsible for providing their own dead-weight which 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 cox 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</p>	Clarification
7-2-8b	<p><i>Note: If a compartment is fitted with a method of closing, that compartment then the fitment shall be in place and intact.</i></p>	<p><i>Note: If a compartment is fitted with a method of closing, that compartment, then the fitment shall be in place and intact.</i></p>	Typo



7-3-1e	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, as provided at 7-3-4a). 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 umpire. 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.	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 <del>event organisers</del> <b>Race Committee Chair</b> are advised accordingly, as provided at 7-3-4a). 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 umpire. 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.	Consistency
7-3-4k	<i>Notwithstanding “f” above, the Starter is responsible for the fairness of the Start, and they should watch that the crews continue to be in a position to start fairly during the final stages before the word ‘Go’.</i>	<i>Notwithstanding “g” above, the Starter is responsible for the fairness of the Start, and they should watch that the crews continue to be in a position to start fairly during the final stages before the word ‘Go’.</i>	Typo
7-5-9a	Any communication with a crew during a race, other than by means of an unaided voice, may be deemed outside assistance.	Any communication with a crew during a race, other than by means of an unaided voice, may be deemed outside assistance. <i>Outside assistance applies in the rule as stated however technology such as telemetry may be used so long as data is not transmitted to, or received from outside, the boat during the race</i>	To allow boats with telemetry to collect data during the race providing no use of it is made during the race

7-6-l	<p>a. A crew has completed the course when its bow, or any part of its hull crosses the finish line.</p> <p>b. A crew shall 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.</p>	<p>a. A crew has completed the course <b>when any part of its hull (usually the bow)</b> crosses the finish line.</p> <p>b. <b>A crew must complete the course with the same complement as that with which it started in order to be placed.</b></p> <p>c. <b>The verdict will be Did Not Finish, if any crew member before the finish leaves the boat, and is unable to return into the boat before it crosses the finish line, or receives physical assistance to return to the boat (including safety personnel).</b></p>	To make it clear that rowers have to be physically in the boat when it crosses the line in order to finish the race
7-6-3d	The judges shall acknowledge the signal at the end of the race from the Race or Co-ordinating Umpire either with a white flag, a white light, or verbally, and take cognisance of any instructions concerning the result.	The judges shall acknowledge the signal at the end of the race from the Race or Co-ordinating Umpire <b>either</b> with a white flag, a white light, or verbally, and take cognisance of any instructions concerning the result.	Typo
8-l d	The jurisdiction of a launch-based umpire extends over the whole race including the Start and the Finish unless zonal umpiring is being used in which case it covers the particular zone allocated to the umpire.	The jurisdiction of a launch-based umpire extends over the whole race including the Start and the Finish, unless zonal umpiring is being used in which case it covers the particular zone allocated to the umpire.	Typo

8-3a	Any protest, dispute or objection not satisfactorily settled between the crew or club concerned and the competition shall be referred in writing, by the Captain of the protesting club, to the Chair of the Regional Rowing Council for the region in which the competition is held, to act as arbiter, with copies to: - the Chair of the Regional Umpiring Committee for the region in which the competition was held. - the Chair of the Regional Rowing Council for the region of the protesting club. - the Captains of any other club(s) involved and the Chairs of their Regional Rowing Councils.	Any protest, dispute or objection not satisfactorily settled between the crew or club concerned and the competition shall be referred in writing, by the Captain of the protesting club, to the Chair of the Regional Rowing Council for the region in which the competition is held, to act as arbiter, with copies to: - the Chair of the Regional Umpiring Committee for the region in which the competition was held. - the Chair of the Regional Rowing Council for the region of the protesting club. - the Race Committee Chair of the competition. - the Captains of any other club(s) involved and the Chairs of their Regional Rowing Councils.	To allow all involved in a dispute to be informed.
8-3b	b. The Chair of the Regional Rowing Council shall resolve the issue or may delegate it to the Chairman of the Regional Umpiring Committee for resolution.	b. The Chair of the Regional Rowing Council shall resolve the issue or may delegate it to the Chair of the Regional Umpiring Committee for resolution.	Gender neutral
8-7	A club or individuals may appeal against any penalty imposed under 8-6c or 8-6d to the British Rowing Disciplinary and Grievance Panel (in accordance with the procedures mandated by British Rowing concerning Disciplinary and Grievance matters).	A club or individuals <sup>s</sup> may appeal against any penalty imposed under 8-6c or 8-6d to the British Rowing Disciplinary and Grievance Panel (in accordance with the procedures mandated by British Rowing concerning Disciplinary and Grievance matters).	Typo
9	Item numbering		There has been a major renumbering of the glossary as items have been added and deleted.

	New definition	<b>m. Day Tickets:</b> a race membership only valid for a day of the competition, if permitted by British Rowing and accepted by the competition. It has public liability insurance for the day of competition only.	No current definition
9ee	<b>Programme Controller:</b> an official appointed by a competition Organising Committee to control and adjust the programme of races on the day of the event. This role may be undertaken with other duties.	<b>Programme Controller:</b> an official appointed by a competition Organising Committee to control and adjust the programme of races on the day of the <b>competition</b> . This role may be undertaken with other duties.	Standardisation
9ll	<b>Registered Member of British Rowing:</b> one who holds one or more of the following British Rowing membership categories: Race, Row, Coach, Support.	Registered Member of British Rowing: one who holds one or more of the following British Rowing membership categories: <b>Community</b> , Row, Coach, <b>Umpire Support</b> , <del>Race</del> , <del>Life</del> .	Reflects current membership types
	New definition	<b>9rr. Suspension of Entries:</b> Entries may be suspended, or subsequently re-opened in BROE at any time before the official close of entries. Renumber the remainder of this section	No current definition
	New definition	<b>9tt Welfare Officer:</b> shall mean the person identified in the British Rowing Safeguarding Strategy as the <b>Event Welfare Officer</b> .	We have defined this new rule using Event Welfare Officer as the Safeguard strategy uses this term despite competition being preferred to event.
9w	Not Rowed Out: a verdict used when one or more crews in a race fail to continue racing throughout the course to the finish.	Delete.	Covered by the Did not finish rule. Examples of crews not trying during a race covered by unsporting behaviour.
9z	<b>Para-Rowing Event:</b> is an event for competitors that have been allocated a Sport Class by the British Rowing classification procedure.	<b>Para-Rowing Event:</b> is an event for competitors that have been allocated a Sport Class by the British Rowing classification procedure.	Typo

13-4	Recreational rowing or stable boat events and competitions 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 Race licence from beginners' events. All competitors shall be registered members of British Rowing.	Recreational rowing or stable boat events and competitions 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 <b>a Race membership</b> from beginners' events. All competitors shall be registered members of British Rowing.	Clarification
13-7	• "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.	• "Head" races or time trials. Such races may be run over any distance, as determined by the <del>event organisers</del> <b>Organising Committee</b> , but having due regard to the suitability and safety of the course.	Consistency
14-3	Beach Sprint competitions are not qualifying events.	<del>Beach Sprint Offshore rowing</del> competitions are not qualifying events.	

14-5-1	<b>Event Safety Adviser</b> The Organising Committee shall appoint an Event Safety Adviser who is familiar with local marine conditions and who has experience of offshore rowing events. The Event Safety Adviser shall be responsible for all communications with the local maritime or navigation authority and shall ensure that all safety requirements, including rescue services, are in place before the start of races and that all local maritime rules and regulations are met. The Event Safety Adviser shall cooperate closely with the Race Committee Chair and shall participate in any decisions in case of adverse weather conditions.	<b><del>Event</del> Competition Safety Adviser</b> The Organising Committee shall appoint an <del>Event</del> Competition Safety Adviser who is familiar with local marine conditions and who has experience of offshore rowing events. The <del>Event</del> Competition Adviser shall be responsible for all communications with the local maritime or navigation authority and shall ensure that all safety requirements, including rescue services, are in place before the start of races and that all local maritime rules and regulations are met. The <del>Event</del> Competition Adviser shall cooperate closely with the Race Committee Chair and shall participate in any decisions in case of adverse weather conditions.	To agree with RowSafe
14-9-3	The Race Committee Chair, in consultation with the Event Safety Adviser and the Organising Committee, shall take all decisions on any delay, postponement or cancellation of races, or of changes to the course, resulting from adverse weather conditions or other matters relating to the safety of competitors and officials on the water or the fairness of the course.	The Race Committee Chair, in consultation with the <del>Event</del> Competition Safety Adviser and the Organising Committee, shall take all decisions on any delay, postponement or cancellation of races, or of changes to the course, resulting from adverse weather conditions or other matters relating to the safety of competitors and officials on the water or the fairness of the course.	To agree with RowSafe