

# NORTHERN REGIONAL UMPIRING COMMITTEE



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Report to the Northern Rowing Council Executive 29<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

## **UMPIRE NUMBERS**

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As at 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 the Northern Region had 30 licenced umpires recorded on the national register. This is a drop from 34 at the beginning of 2017 despite having 3 newly qualified umpires during 2017. This continues to put the running of our regional competitions in jeopardy as we run a high risk of not being able to fully staff each event.

## **MEETINGS OF COMMITTEE**

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We expect to hold a NRUC meeting within the next month to make preparations for the upcoming regatta season and to finalise plans for training during 2018.

## **ONGOING TRAINING**

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Theory training is expected to happen throughout February with the theory exam in early March. Candidates will then progress to practical training as the regatta season starts.

The NRUC will be asked to discuss and adopt a proposal to limit the number of events that it will support within the region unless the regions clubs can put forward a significant number of candidates for training in 2018 and beyond. Other RRCs are adopting policies where umpire support would be withdrawn from events where the organising clubs(s) do not have a proportional number of umpires in training/qualified. This may be a suitable route to consider in the Northern Region.

In order to work towards a balanced spread of umpires across the regions clubs we suggest the target for additional umpires in-training or qualified by September 2018 be as follows:

Berwick ARC	1
Chester-le-St ARC	1
City of Sunderland/Sund Univ	1
Durham Clubs (ideally from DU)	1
Newcastle Univ	1
Tyne United	2
Tyne ARC	1

We are happy to accept candidates from other clubs but the above will be a good start to addressing the situation and to work towards having 2 umpires per day of competition organised by each club.

## **REGIONAL COMPETITIONS**

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The head racing season continues and Organising Committees should be congratulated on their general improvements to documentation, procedures and overall organisation. There has been a very enthusiastic take-up of the guidance given in September and this is forming a good basis to build upon going forward. The next step is to aim to ensure that each organising committee has at least one local umpire who is available to provide input directly at source. Over time we would hope that some of these can become experienced enough to take on the role of Chair of Race Committee leaving the NRUC more able to concentrate on training, development and monitoring.

## **UPCOMING RULES OF RACING CHANGES**

The 2018 Rules of Racing come into force on 1<sup>st</sup> April. As of now these have not yet received final approval by the various British Rowing Committees. The following key changes are expected and clubs should be prepared for them:

- Competitions will be required to get safety documents approved four weeks in advance of the competition date.
- The old points system will be fully replaced as of 1<sup>st</sup> April. Our head races have mostly followed the new system but a large number of regatta did not so we expect some learning to be required. A regional events meeting would be useful to discuss things as a whole prior to the start of the regatta season.