

NORTHERN REGIONAL UMPIRING COMMITTEE

Chairman: Dr. P. Hoare Vice-Chairman: Mr. C. Curtis Secretary: Dr. R. Mortimer
Members: Mr. M. Bell, Dr. D. Jones, Mr. J. Mulholland, Dr. A. Oakenfull, Mrs. L. Pain



Head Races

A head race must be organised and operated according to the British Rowing Rules of Racing.

These provide a basis for safe, fair and equal racing consistently for all events nationally.

Organising Committee – key roles (from an umpiring perspective)

- Chair of Race Committee (who must be a licensed umpire)
- Safety Advisor

Documentation

- Notice of competition (poster) – must be approved by Regional Umpiring Committee prior to publishing.
- Local Rules, including penalties – must be approved by Regional Umpiring Committee prior to publishing.
- Safety instructions – include: circulation patterns; special points of danger; safety boat/first aid positions; medical support arrangements; marshalling instructions.
- Draw (start order) – publish to clubs before the event.
 - There is no concept of a “provisional” start order. The only changes after publish should be due to organising committee “errors” or maybe to confirm boating times/locations. The start order should be fixed once published.

Officials

- Race Committee – at least 3 licensed umpires – appointed by Chair of Race Committee
- Head of Control Commission (umpire) – oversees weighing, crew & boat checks.
- Chief Marshal – responsible for all marshals
- Start Marshal – responsible for getting crews in order ready to start.
- Chief Timekeeper – overall responsible for the timing of crews.
- Race Monitors (ideally umpires but may be experience non-umpires)
 - stationed along the course so that they observe the sections of the course that are not in the jurisdiction of a race umpire.
 - In particular where: there is a turn of more than 45 degrees; a narrow passage that prevents overtaking; locations where local rules prescribe penalties;
 - Monitors note violations of rules/safety breaches & report to race committee chairman; give instructions to avert collision, accident; call rescue/first aid; should be equipped with megaphone, radio etc
- Competition Monitor – NRUC member who observes to highlight good practice and areas for improvement.

Regional Umpiring Committee

- Responsible for training, licensing, monitoring of standards and monitoring adherence to rules.
- Will assist in recruiting umpires and key race officials but is not responsible for staffing a competition.

Key issues to address

- Ensure competitions have appropriate umpire/race monitor staffing levels.
 - If there is a shortfall then need to look at changing the course/length to allow proper staffing.
- Ensure that coxes (and lightweights) are being weighed at each competition; plus boat/crew checks.
- Ensure that event documentation is complete and properly reviewed.
- Ensure that timing teams are properly resourced and trained.
- Regional umpires – as a rule of thumb a club needs to provide 2 umpires for each day of competition (head racing and regatta) that it organises. If we do this then we will have sufficient numbers to meet regional needs.