

Safety Report for NRC AGM November 2020

Covid-19

It would be hard to report on 2020 without mentioning Covid-19. Few rowers or safety advisers know much about Covid-19, so please follow the instructions and guidance put out by British Rowing, whose advice is based on that of the Government.

Club Audits

This year's audit must be completed in time for me to review it by 29th November. So far, only quarter of the clubs in this region have completed their audits. Please get them in soon; your club may be suspended from competition if you are late. Consideration will be given to clubs who cannot complete their audits because of Covid-19, especially Durham Colleges. I will discuss the audits with clubs at the Club Development Conference on 24th January.

Incident Reporting

In this reduced season fewer than half of the region's clubs have reported incidents. That is possibly a reflection of the reduced rowing due to Covid-19. The best reporters are Durham ARC (24 reports), Tyne ARC (12), and Hexham RC (10 each). Please report any incidents as soon as they happen. If you do not report an incident, it may affect your ability to make an insurance claim for injury or damage.

Number of incidents reported in the region; Oct 2019 – Oct 2020 = 101

Number of incidents reported in the region; Oct 2018 – Oct 2019 = 205

Number of incidents reported in the region; Oct 2017 – Oct 2018 = 174

Number of incidents reported in the region; Oct 2016 – Oct 2017 = 168

Number of incidents reported in the region; Oct 2015 – Oct 2016 = 111

Collisions

The most commonly reported incidents, after simple capsizes (57), were collisions (17). Collisions were also the main cause of injuries and they are avoidable if crews follow the rules of the river and keep a good lookout. All crews should look around approximately every five strokes to ensure that there is nothing in their way. Also, if a crew is approaching you, shout a warning; don't just sit quietly waiting to be hit.

Regional Danger Spots

The repairs to New Elvet Bridge will cause issues for some time. Please ensure that you know what restrictions are in place and that you comply with them. The River Tyne is getting narrower at the Stella bends at the bottom of Newburn Straight as the river is silting up; please take extra care at low tide.

Lights

Boats out in the dark must have adequate lighting. On the Wear at Durham, bike lights may be used (white front and red rear); on all other rivers, ColRegs apply (white lights front and rear). The lights should be visible from the sides, so that boats are visible when turning around. This is a very simple and cheap way of making effective boat lights. See: <https://sway.com/GG6lmSjnQumioSUo>

Boat Maintenance

Clubs and crews are responsible for the maintenance of their boats. Bow balls, heel restraints, hatch covers etc. should be checked before each outing, whether training or racing. Umpires at events simply ensure that the boats that they check comply with the Rules of Racing; they are not responsible for a crew's boat maintenance.

what3words

what3words is a system for reporting your accurate location anywhere in the world. Clubs whose boathouse doesn't have a postcode should record the code on their safety noticeboard; it is recognised by all Britain's emergency services. Full details are on this Safety Alert <https://www.britishrowing.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Safety-Alert-what3words.pdf>

If you want further information on any of the above, please contact me.

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