

Safety Report for NRC Executive June 2016

Incident

In another region a sculler died during an outing. According to the doctor who certified his death, he was dead before he fell out of his boat and nothing could have been done for him by his friends at the scene. Those friends will need support at this difficult time. A similar incident could happen in our region and we should be ready to support anyone who has a similar experience.

Collisions

Collisions are still the main cause of injuries and boat damage; I would like to take this paragraph out of my reports but I can't until we stop crashing into each other. All crews should keep to their proper course and look around approximately every five strokes to ensure that there is nothing in their way. Also, if a crew is approaching you, call a warning; don't just sit quietly waiting to be hit.

Quick Release Riggers

There have been several incidents where Wintech wing riggers have detached themselves causing the crew to capsize. Most of these have been because the riggers were not correctly fitted, but they are very sensitive to how they are fitted. Oarsport has a video showing how to fit the riggers, which all users should watch before fitting the riggers.

Boat Checking

There is now a BR video on boat checking, with an insert of a few slides on the new rules for heel restraints, at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f-52ajVJzkl&feature=youtu.be>

Heel Restraints

The Rules of Racing were updated on April 1st; heel restraints must now allow the heel to lift no more than 7cms (about the length of a cocktail stick). Please check your boats now; events are not obliged to give you time to make adjustments if you fail Control Commission checks at a regatta. Far too many regattas (all of the local ones and those national ones at which I umpired) have reported that several clubs have not taken action on this.

Feedback

If you have any comments on how safety issues are presented by British Rowing, please let me know. We are trying to get several messages on safety to all members of BR; are we doing it well? How could we improve what we do?

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

John Mulholland
Regional Rowing Safety Adviser
British Rowing Northern Region
e-mail: john.rrsa@jdmulholland.plus.com