

Safety Report for NRC Executive September 2017 – V2

All clubs, please ensure that you have your CRSA's contact details registered with British Rowing and notify BR of any changes.

New items

Audits

The audit system will go live on 2nd October and audits must be completed by the end of November. Some questions, e.g. numbers of coaches, have been deleted as they are not safety-related, while others have been added.

Heel Restraints

From 1st April 2018 heel restraints must not allow the heel to lift further than the horizontal. The current 70 mm rule remains in place until then. The shoes must have a single strap or cord that releases both feet from the shoes. While the new rule allows for people with very large feet and inflexible ankles, the heel restraints should be as short as possible for safety. I am 6' 4" tall, have size 11 feet and I'm 63 years old and I can manage with heel restraints 50 mm long; I recommend that to everyone.

Incident Reports

It is now recommended that Incident reports do not contain any athletes' names. The report is intended to allow us all to learn from others' mistakes without blaming anyone. If there are no complications, please use the simple capsized report for capsizes; it will save you time making the report as far less information is requested.

Safeguarding

No under-18's should be employed in a supervisory role, e.g. in sole charge of a launch or in charge of a coaching session. They may drive a launch but, even if they have an RYA Level 2 qualification, they should have an adult with them in the boat; the adult does not have to be a qualified driver.

Events

All regional event, including non-affiliated events, should be notified to the Regional Rowing Council. They should have the same safety documentation as affiliated events to protect the organisers if anything goes wrong. Regional officers, including me on safety, will assist with the documentation if requested.

Club Hub

This is a document on non-rowing safety and it is aimed at club administration. It includes regulatory requirements including, working at heights, fuel storage, hygiene etc. Clubs controlling premises need to consider these regulations but they should not be dumped on the Club Rowing Safety Advisor (CRSA); they are the responsibility of the Club Committee. The Club Hub documents are in draft now and will be issued once they are approved by British Rowing; they will go to clubs through the Secretary, not the CRSA.

Lifejackets

Crewsaver is offering lifejacket servicing; clubs should consider this, especially for older lifejackets.

Feedback

In my last report, I asked if you have any comments on how safety issues are presented by British Rowing. On my recommendation, the British Rowing Safety Committee is initiating a competition to give a prize to the best ideas; watch this space!

Existing Items

British Rowing Safety Resources

There is plenty of safety advice on the British Rowing website; starting from this link: <https://www.britishrowing.org/knowledge/safety/>

Boat Lights

Does anyone know where we can get new white lights with a broad beam, e.g. white versions of bike rear lights? Rowers on the Wear in Durham will continue to use white lights to the bow and red lights on the stern; nobody else uses that stretch of the river. Hexham and Talkin Tarn can use their own local rules. All others must use lights that are compatible with ColRegs; all-round white lights, which may be flashing at the bow to indicate direction of travel.

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.

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>

Emergency Telephone Advice

In the event of a serious incident, e.g. a fatality, at your club or event, please contact BR Comms before making any statements to the media.

Sophie Galasinski, BR Head of Comms and Marketing, has explained to me that the number to ring will vary depending on which weekend the event is as the commitment is split between herself and Kenny Baillie (Director of Partnerships and Comms). Event organisers should confirm the number ahead of their event, by ringing British Rowing HQ on 020 8237 6718 (Sophie's direct line) to confirm who is covering that weekend and the best number to reach them on.

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

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