



NORTH WEST ROWING COUNCIL
North West Regional Umpiring Committee

From: Mark Briegal
Chair
NWRUC

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North West Region Club Captains
North West Region Competition Organisers

Dear Captain / Competition Organiser

Local Rules and Safety

The Regional Umpiring Committee reviews competitions regularly to promote high standards of safety and fairness.

We have identified some key issues that continue to cause potential problems at events. We have highlighted some of these before.

The issues are:

- Long hair not being tied up. This is a major concern following the life changing injuries suffered by a rower who became entangled in the rigger of a capsized boat). It also makes it harder for umpires, marshals and others to identify crews.
- Wearing hoodies/loose garments afloat. Pockets may catch oar handles or sculls and hoods may become entangled in riggers or fill with water.
- Wearing Dryrobes afloat. These are very heavy and would become waterlogged in the event of a capsize.
- Inadequate boat buoyancy (4s and 8s). The boat is the major floatation device in the event of a capsize.
- Backstays (all boats other than 1x). Backstays can prevent injury to other rowers in the event of a collision.
- Foul and abusive language. This brings the sport into disrepute.

We believe these issues should be covered by a standard set of Local Rules. We are therefore asking all competition organisers to ensure that these issues are covered by Local Rules at all North West events.

Please highlighting these on event posters publicising the competitions and in the competitor instructions.

We suggest wording as follows:

Local Rules:

1. **Long Hair** is a drowning risk, since it may become entangled in a capsized boat, and therefore must be secured in a bun (it also makes crew numbers hard to read);
2. **Hoodies and other Loose Garments** risk becoming entangled whilst rowing and must not be worn afloat;
3. **Dryrobes** constitute a drowning risk and must not be worn afloat;
4. **Inflated Buoyancy Bags** must be secured under all seats in fours/quads and eights/octuples if there are no watertight compartments present under the seats;
5. **Backstays** must protect the forward port and starboard rigger on all boats except single sculls; and
6. **Foul or Abusive Language** will result in disqualification.

Any competitors not complying with these rules may be prevented from rowing or disqualified.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mark Briegal

Chair

North West Regional Umpiring Committee