

## **ERRC Sharing Good Practice. Notes**

**Open Forums via Zoom session on Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup> 2-4pm & Monday 18<sup>th</sup> 7-9pm**

**Facilitators: Tracy Muir, National Coaching Committee & Lou Rivett, Regional Representative ERRC**

### **Summary of discussions:**

Plans to return to rowing in line with the latest Government Covid 19 guidance and BR Guidance from 13<sup>th</sup> May, vary across the region from waiting until June 1<sup>st</sup> before any activity, to already being open.

Some who were in the process of planning, said that they felt reassured that others were taking a cautious approach.

Some had experienced pressure from members to open before necessary plans were in place.

The following topics were discussed and practices across the Region shared, as well as offers to share individual procedures and systems via the forum facilitator.

### **Club plans / policies / ideas:**

Examples of practices to return to the water across a range of different clubs in the Eastern Region:

- Plans varied from 2 people at a time to 70 rowers per day.
- Only competent scullers as deemed by Club Captain or competency checklist
- Anglian Water not opening lakes for use yet
- Clubs sharing water/facilities facing big challenges to restrict total numbers on water
- Private sculls only
- 3 hour slots with 3 hour 'clearance' time when nobody there
- 15 minute 'slots' throughout day
- Online booking app for slots, max 2 rowers per slot
- Senior singles only or doubles for households
- Cleaning plan and abundance of hand gel available
- Individual club risk assessments / disclaimers
- Induction on procedures by video
- Rowers to take phone and have plan for contacting emergency services
- Survey club members to gauge interest in using club sculls and ideas
- Allocating club sculls and equipment to individuals for their sole use
- Sharing use of club sculls and equipment with cleaning procedures in place
- Keeping boats and equipment outside to avoid going inside
- List created of competent scullers
- Ballot to allocate club sculls for individual use until at least September
- Survey of 'touch points' found to be too high risk for shared equipment to be viable
- One person in boathouse at any one time
- Leaving doors open to access toilets with minimal handling of surfaces

- Tick box form to ensure rower has read the BR capsize and risk assessment guidance
- Requirement for evidence of capsize drill in last 3 years
- Question on online booking form to check for symptoms and exclusion if has
- Face covering and gloves (not necessarily recommended and gloves contraindicated)
- Sectioning off areas in boathouses with one way arrows and floor markings
- Fixing trestles to ground to avoid need to move

### **Health & Safety:**

- Concerns raised about competency of scullers and what would happen in event of capsize and needing rescue
- Clubs using a variety of cleaning products but a need to identify the effectiveness and appropriateness of these. Anti bacterial spray would not be effective for example. Some buying a spray at elevated cost but ? need evidence. May be that simple detergent would work
- Should over 70's and those shielded be included? Difficult to know whether up to individual to take risk, or if Club has right to decide.
- Would people follow the rules? And how would it be policed? Some expressed that often hygiene procedures not adhered to in normal times.
- What First Aid provision should be made?
- What should happen to rubbish?
- Hand sanitiser evaporates outside, this should be considered.
- Some clubs felt they may need to modify their policies for sculling alone and for being rescued. Concerns were raised over this and advice is that policies should not be changed.
- Need to consider policy on whether to allow out if not done recent capsize drill

### **Junior rowing / Safeguarding:**

- No junior rowing seems possible due to 1:1 with coach/other not being compatible with safeguarding requirements. One club considering if possible with parental responsibility.
- Safeguarding guidelines available on BR website which cover digital safety covering recording of training sessions with juniors for example. Generally felt this was a minefield
- One school unable to access marina where boats are launched

### **Adaptive Rowing:**

- Discussions being held on other forums on this group and concluded not safe at present

### **General comments:**

- Insurance concerns over whether insurers would have additional restrictions to add to ensure cover with changing procedures and possible altered risk. Would public liability be affected?
- Concerns over whether it was within the rules of the Constitution for Management Committee to make decisions on change of procedures, without involving wider membership or insurance.
- Lots of useful ideas on keeping members engaged while not on the water (to be covered in survey findings)
- Significant concerns raised about loss of income and membership (also to be covered in survey)
- Club policies, procedures and risk assessments should not be dramatically changed but additions should be made for getting on and off the water and reducing risk of transmission of the Coronavirus during these activities. Suggested read BR's 'Is it safe to go afloat?'
- Differing opinions of best practice with one committee
- Retail and Leisure grants have been successful for many clubs (around £10,000) if businesses and are exempt from paying rates. All eligible clubs encouraged to apply.