

Sharing Good Practice 25/5/20

Getting on the water:

Most clubs saying only 2 rowers at any one time but some more.

Most using an online booking system or Whatsapp which is generally working well.

Most have private singles back on the water, and some have club singles and doubles (for households) out, ranging from single person use of boat and blades, to shared use, but mostly limited to 2 people per set of equipment, with cleaning protocols in place.

There was a sense that the reality of the procedures that had to take place to get on and off the water was hitting home, and it was taking a lot longer than a normal outing. And that there was perhaps more to be considered than previously thought for some.

It was noticed that rowers were often keen to stay around and chat because some may not have had social contact much during lockdown. 'Booked' slots were usually about 2 hours, but it was highlighted that this may not be clear whether people had to off the premises after that time.

Cleaning and hygiene:

Club's interpretation of cleaning boats and 'touch' points varied.

There did not seem to be clarity over which products should be used, and each club is doing something different. Some using detergent, some disinfectant, but not using both on the whole. There were a variety of products being used, but some concerns raised as to which were the right ones. Much discussion on the BR Guidance and that of Public Health England linked to within that document.

There were concerns (and one incident) that members are not following the clubs' guidance on cleaning and hygiene.

Trestles seemed to be a concern as to how best to clean these or if indeed necessary, as long as strict handwashing in place.

One suggestion that rowing should be limited to start with to prevent blisters which would make applying hand get painful and the wound would be open to infection.

Policies and procedures:

There were significant concerns raised about members who either had been found not to be following the policies, or who it was felt were not taking them seriously. Suggestions were made such as:

- Being held accountable and privileges removed if it happened more than once
- A 'key points' document to send out, as the documents with all the rules were quite long!
- Posters as reminders to stick to rules

An issue was highlighted with shared facilities where policies have not been shared between the clubs involved, so a lot of rowers have turned up at once, not knowing what the others' policies were, risking a potential 'gathering' on the landing stage.

Most found it really helpful to have access to other clubs' documentation and thanked them.

The information on the ERRC website also found helpful, and the BR guidance comprehensive.

Juniors:

BR guidance on juniors discussed and some clubs had tried to get them back on the water, but the 1:1 rule made this impossible for safeguarding reasons.

Some apparent contradiction noted in the BR guidance regarding juniors and whether a risk assessment could be made in some cases if parents could accompany. Discussions concluded that no junior rowing feasible as clubs still hold ultimate responsibility, and the lack of a coaching launch would also add to safety risk. It was pointed out that Nick Hubble in a previous forum had ruled junior rowing out during this phase.

A School Coach suggested it would be helpful to have clear guidance on junior racing dates, and a statement, for example, stating a particular date before which there would be no racing.

General points:

It was noted that clubs may be experiencing loss of volunteers due to reasons such as bereavement, loss of job, and childcare and that some committees are under a lot of pressure. It was recognised and appreciated that this was mentioned in the BR guidance. One expressed that many volunteers simply had other more pressing things to deal with than getting people back in boats.

There were differing views on the BR suggestion of 'sub groups' to manage the changes and guidance as it comes through, some felt that there would be no one available to offer, and others felt that this may bring challenges for the club committees if the group wanted to push through a separate agenda.