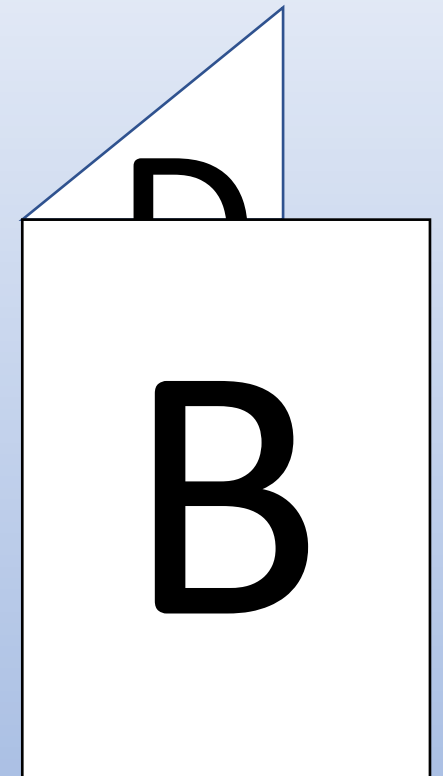
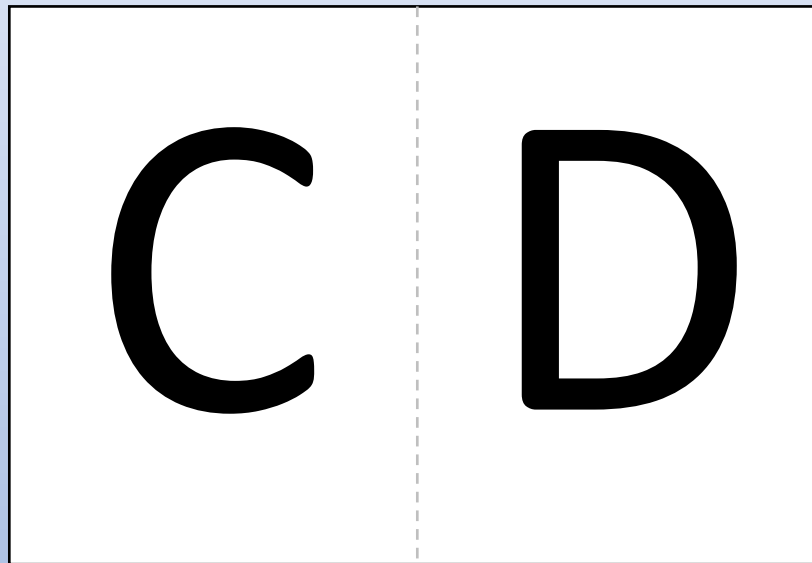
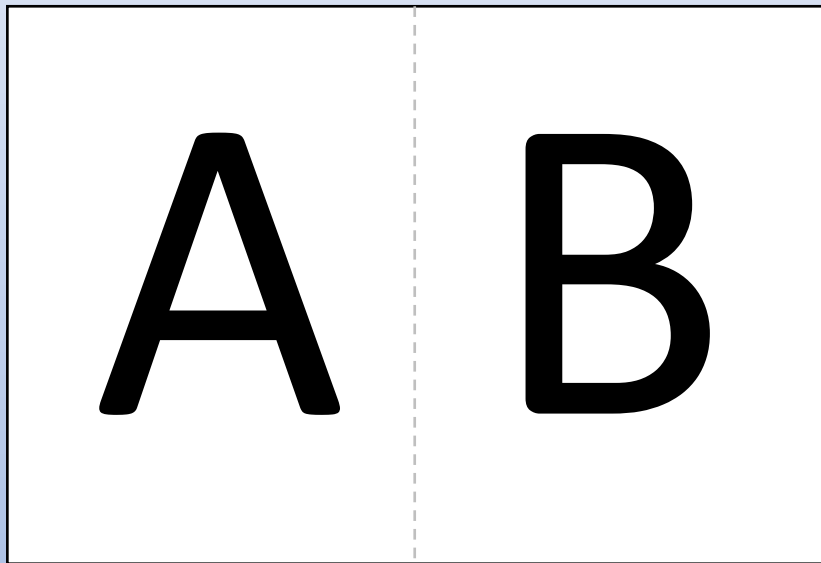


Race Umpiring

British Rowing Rules of Racing section 7-5

Gavin Dods

INTERACTIVE SESSION!!!



What are we here for? Rule 7-5-1

- *These regulations shall be so applied as to ensure that all competitors race under safe, fair and equal conditions*
- *A competitor, whose opponent is taking unfair advantage of a situation, should have a 'fair opportunity to win' restored wherever that is practicable*
- *A crew that is out of contention may be considered to have no 'opportunity to win' to be restored*
- *A crew that has fairly established a commanding lead might expect some protection from what happens behind it; likewise, crews well behind the main field might anticipate receiving less attention from the umpire than those in contention.*

Equipment

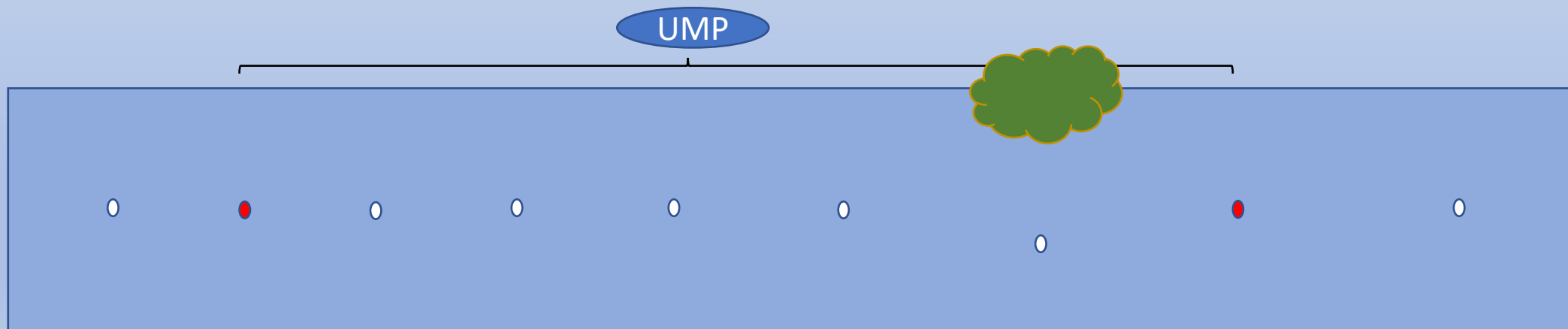
- Pen(s), pencil, clipboard
- red flag and white flag and bell
- electric megaphone
- binoculars, if deemed necessary
- information regarding the competitors in each race, what the event is and what the 'outcome' is
- communication equipment to enable discussions with other officials (e.g. Race Committee Chair or Co-ordinating Umpire) and to allow messages to be passed quickly to neighbouring umpires.

Equipment

- *if land based* - a suitable, marked station, recognisable by the competitors, from where the whole of the section of the course they are to control is visible, without obstruction; from which they can be clearly heard and be seen from all points of that section of the course. Ideally, cover should be provided against inclement weather
- *if launch based* - a suitable stable but manoeuvrable launch, adequately fast, but of low wash characteristic, with support at chest or waist level, licensed where necessary, driven by an experienced driver, and equipped with the recommended safety equipment in line with RowSafe including an appropriate life jacket, or buoyancy aid.

Before your first race in a new position

- Check all equipment present and working
- Establish your area of jurisdiction
 - Map of course sent with instructions
 - Red marker buoy at umpire handover points
- Radio call with adjacent umpires, handover with previous umpire.



Before a race

- Observe crews going up to the start
- Tick off on your draw sheet (if you have time), especially for regattas run in divisions
- Deal with any safety issues you note - e.g. defective bowballs – advise crew and/or Start accordingly
- Ensure crews proceeding to the start follow the circulation pattern and stay clear of any crews racing
- Keep a continual watch over your 'section' and be ready to act on any situations that develop.

During the race – your draw sheet

- When you hear that the Starter advised the next race, **Circle** race number
- Make a note of the race number in the margin so that you have a running list of the order of races (especially for regattas with multiple races on the course at once)
- When you hear the race has started, One tick through the race number
- If you need to warn a crew, mark a **W** (or several **WWW** for multiple warnings) against the crew
- If crew responded to warning, tick the **W**
- When the race has passed, **cross through** your race number tick mark
- When/if you are advised of the finish result, cross off the losing crew
- If you have a long shift/want to be praised by the umpire taking over from you, copy the winning crew number into the “**Winner of race...**” slot of the next race.

During the race

When to warn a crew?

Each crew is responsible for its own steering

The umpire may call the attention of the racing crew to its steering only if it is about to:

- 'Interfere' with a competing crew (see 7-5-5)
- 'Foul' a competing crew (see 7-5-6)
- Risk disqualification under Rule 7-5-2d
- Collide with a temporary obstruction on the course
- Collide with an obstruction off the course.

During the race

Form of warning – land umpired race

- Raise white flag vertically
- Name the crew(s)
- **Give clear instruction of which direction to move**
- When the crew has responded, *drop the flag smartly to the side, out of sight*
- Follow regatta's instructions on advising Co-ordinating umpire of any warnings.

During the race

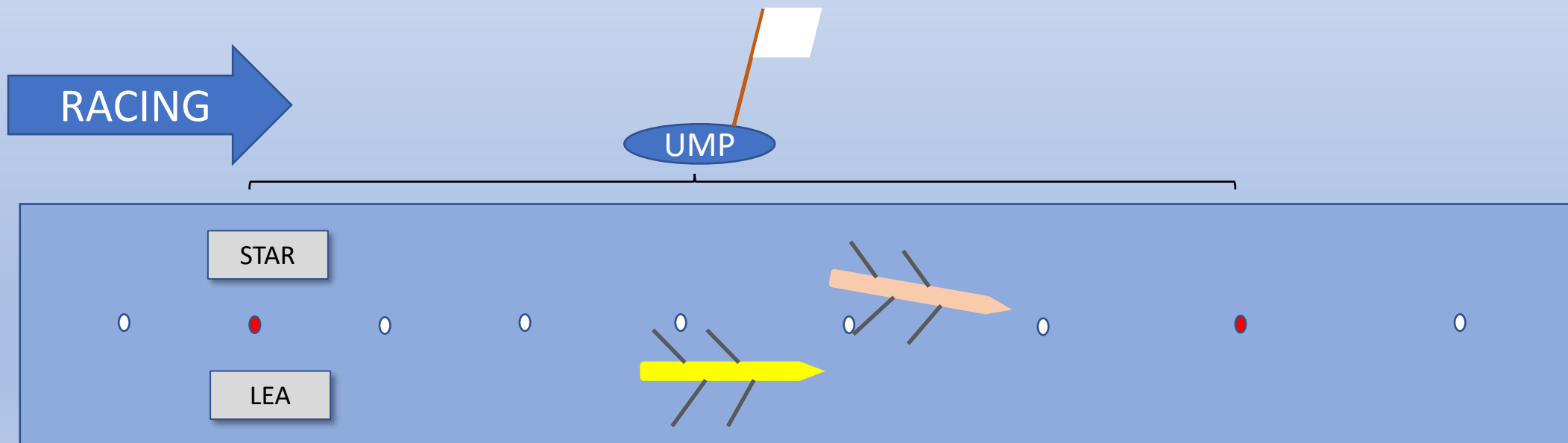
Example

“Star Club, move to starboard”

The commands ‘move to starboard’ or ‘port’ should be used first. If this fails the umpire may try ‘bowside’ or ‘strokeside’; or any other words to achieve the desired effect.

SCENARIO 1: During the race

- A. "Star Club, move to port"
- B. "Star Club, move to starboard"



During the race

Form of warning – launch umpired race

- Raise white flag vertically
- Name the crew
- **point the flag, at arm's length, in the direction in which the crew is to move.** Where it is advised that the competitors have a visual impairment, the Umpire shall also audibly instruct the crew in the direction in which it is to move.
- When the crew has responded, drop the flag smartly to the side, out of sight.

During the race

“Neutral water”

Where crews are close together in neutral water, the umpire may:

- raise a white flag vertically above their head
- name the crews (or say “both crews” in a side-by-side race)
- audibly instruct the crews to move apart
- If the crews fail to respond, the umpire may repeat the above sequence.

Stopping a crew/race

To stop a crew, but not the race, the umpire shall:

- **raise** the **white flag** vertically above their head
- name the crew
- give the command: “stop”

To stop a race, the umpire shall:

- ring the bell
- **wave a red flag**
- give the command: “stop”

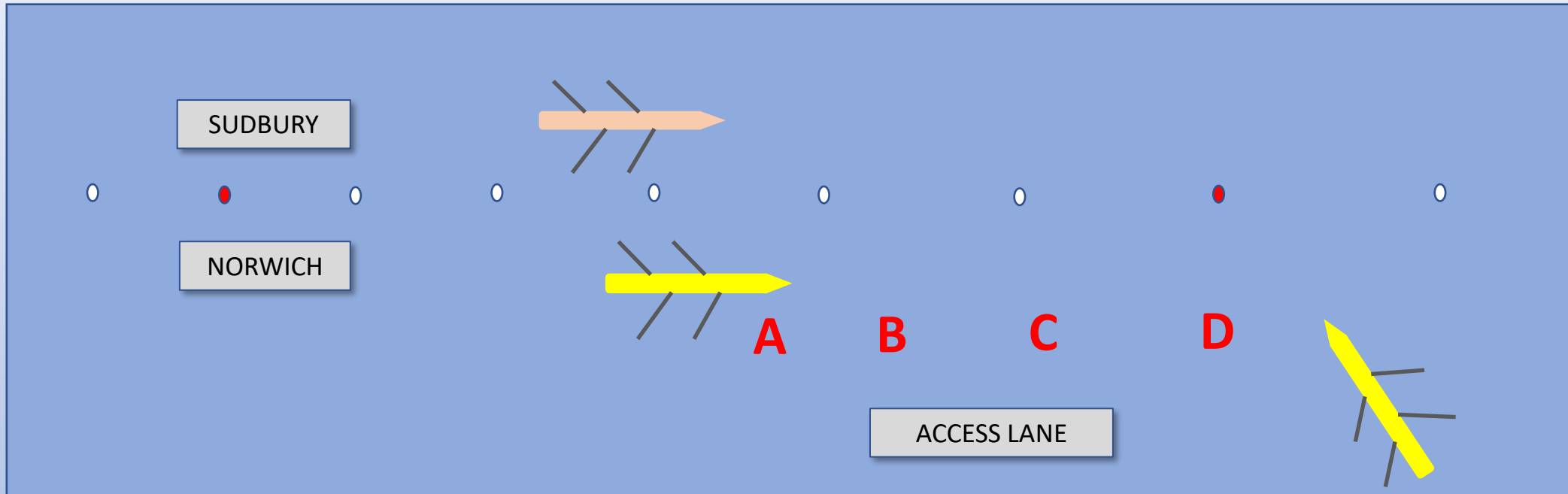
Interference Rule 7-5-5

- Interference is defined as conduct by a crew which impedes the legitimate progress of an opponent who is on their proper course
- If the Race Umpire detects Interference, they shall warn the offending crew.

Foul Rule 7-5-6

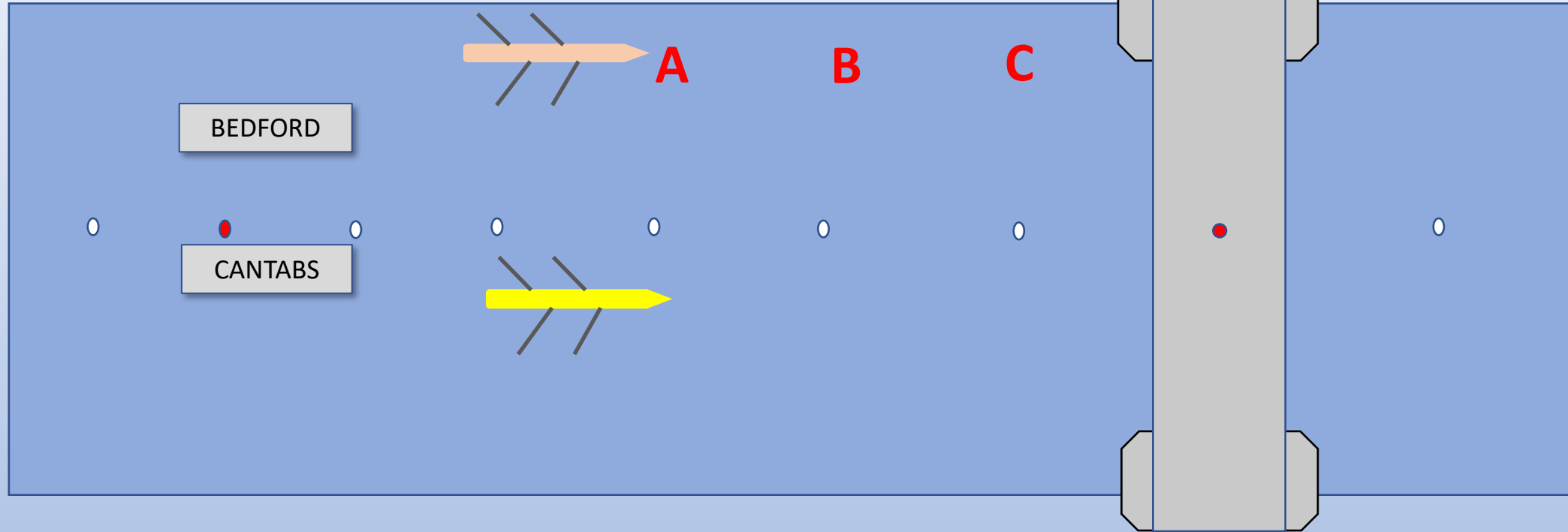
- A Foul is defined as any collision or contact between boats, oars, sculls or persons in the same race.

SCENARIO 2: when to warn?



WHEN DO YOU WARN?

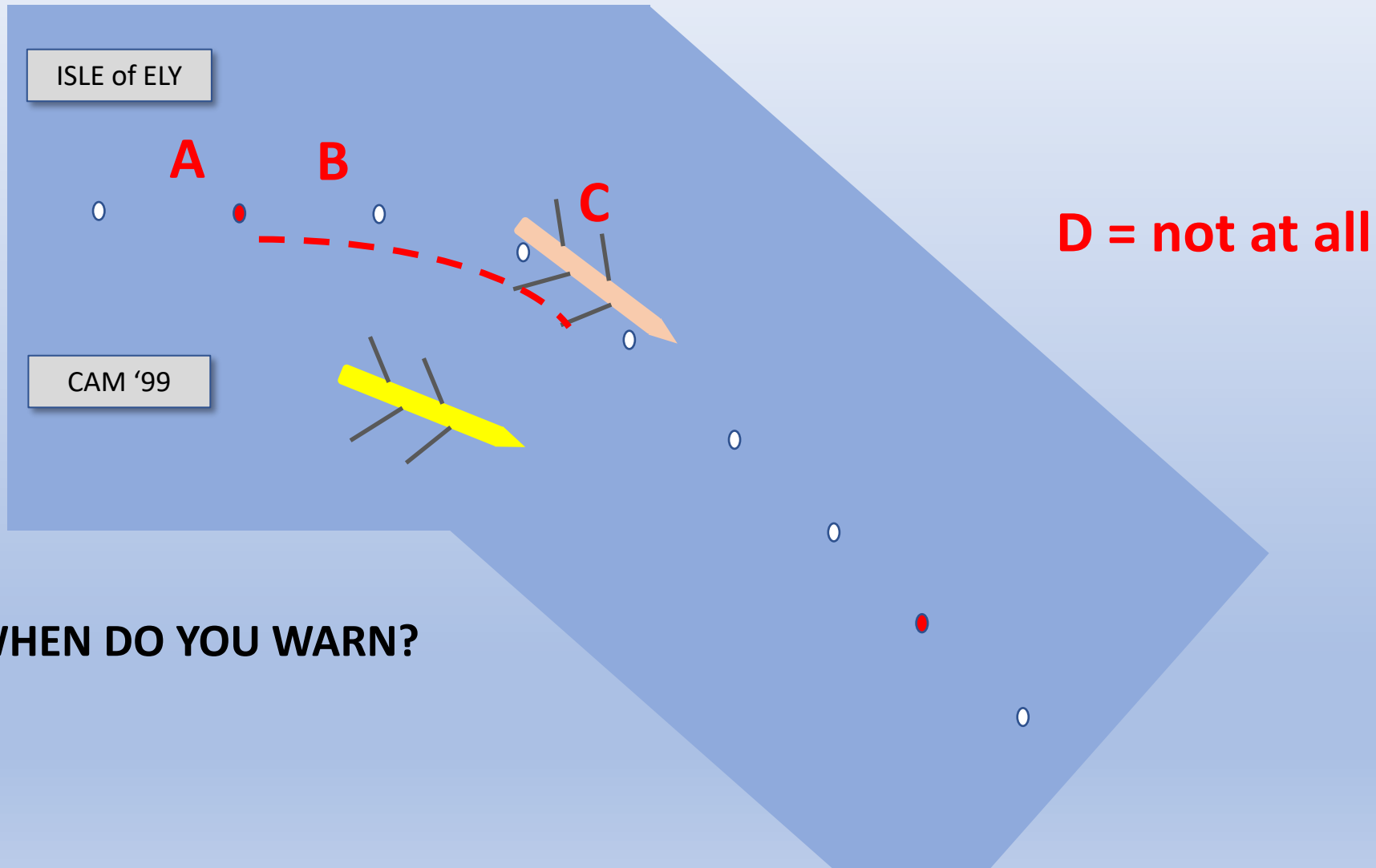
SCENARIO 3: when to warn?



WHEN DO YOU WARN?

D = not at all

SCENARIO 4: when to warn?



Action following Repeated Interference or a Foul

Rule 7-5-7

Following repeated Interference or a Foul, the Race Umpire may:

- allow the race to continue (*e.g. if the offence, in the opinion of the umpire, will not affect the outcome of the race*)
- disqualify any offending crews, and allow the race to continue if more than one crew remains in the race
- stop the race, disqualify any offending crews and return the remaining crews to the Start, to rerow the race (immediately, or at a time to be determined by the Programme Controller)
- determine the finishing order
- adopt a combination of these actions

No competitor shall be disqualified for Interference unless they have been warned.

SCENARIO 5: Accidents Rule 7-5-8

A crew making its way to the start clips the bridge in the access lane in front of your position. You note that bow's blade has broken. There is no coach with the crew.

DO YOU

- A. Tell the crew to make their best haste to the start and let the Starter deal with it
- B. Advise the crew that they are out of luck, their race will go without them
- C. Call Control commission to endeavour to contact the club, get a new blade sent up
- D. Call the Starter to explain the situation and check if there is a space in the schedule to send the crew back to the boating area.

Accidents Rule 7-5-8

- A crew shall abide by its own accidents except where damage is caused by interference from an outside agency during the race.
- In the case of such an incident, the umpire may order the race to be re-rowed (see also Rule 7-5-3d)
- *It must be accepted that it may not be possible to order a head race to be re-rowed*
- *The competition may give discretion to the Starter to allow quick minor repairs to boats arriving in a damaged condition at the Start.*

SCENARIO 6: Outside Assistance Rule 7-5-9

You have a crew in front of you waiting to go to the start, when you observe the cox receiving a phone call from his coach with the finish times that the crews in previous races of the same event have recorded. You check the draw sheets and see that the next round is formed of the winning crew from three heats plus the fastest loser. The cox is sharing this information with the crew.

DO YOU

- A. Admire the crew for their initiative
- B. Give the crew an official warning for unsportsmanlike behaviour, advising the Starter and Co-ordinating umpire
- C. Disqualify the crew for unsportsmanlike behaviour?

Outside Assistance Rule 7-5-9

- Any communication with a crew **during a race**, other than by means of an unaided voice, may be deemed outside assistance
- Any crew receiving outside assistance may be disqualified from the event and may be subject to further penalties under Rule 8-6 (Disciplinary Measures)
- There shall be no following or pacing during the race by other boats or launches other than approved launches. Doing so risks action under Rule 8-5 (Unsportsmanlike conduct).

...and then on
to the finish