

When to warn



When to warn?

Under the British Rowing **Rules of Racing**, an umpire issues a *warning* to a crew when their actions are unsafe, unfair, or in breach of the rules - but not yet serious enough for immediate disqualification.

When to warn? *(as told by ChatGPT)*

Steering / Lane Discipline

A crew **veers out of its lane** and begins to **impede another crew**

Failure to keep a straight course when it **affects another competitor**

Interference

Any action that **disadvantages another crew**

Moving across another crew's line without clear water

Failure to Obey Instructions

Ignoring or reacting slowly to **umpire instructions**

Not complying with start procedures

Safety Concerns

Rowing in a way that creates **danger of collision**

Continuing to race when conditions or positioning are unsafe

When to warn? (from the Rules of Racing)

At the Start

A crew that is not at the Start two minutes before the race time may be disqualified. If it is permitted to start in the race, it shall, at the discretion of the Starter, incur the penalty of one 'Official Warning' [7-3-1 d]

A crew causing a 'False Start' shall be given an 'Official Warning'. If a crew incurs two 'Official Warnings' for the same race it shall be disqualified from the event

'Official Warnings' may be given by any Umpire for a variety of infringements of the rules; an 'Official Warning' from any official source shall be taken into account by the Starter [7-3-6 b].

When to warn? (from the Rules of Racing)

After the Start

In the event of a 'False Start', the decision to stop the race should be made before the race has progressed too far. Once the race has been stopped, the crews shall return to their starting stations immediately. Any crew rowing on deliberately after the race has been stopped shall be awarded an 'Official Warning'. [7-3-6 d]

When the crews are again on their starting stations, the crew, or crews, causing the 'False Start' shall be awarded an 'Official Warning' [7-3-6 e].

When to warn? (from the Rules of Racing)

During racing

A crew continuing out of its proper course after due warning may be disqualified by the umpire if it derives any advantage from so doing [7-5-2 d].

When to warn? (from the Rules of Racing)

During racing

[7-5-3 Steering]

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:

- a. 'Interfere' with a competing crew (see 7-5-5)
- b. 'Foul' a competing crew (see 7-5-6)
- c. Risk disqualification under Rule 7-5-2d.

When to warn? (from the Rules of Racing)

During racing

d. Collide with a temporary obstruction on the course

A temporary obstruction may be another boat, an object in the water or any item that should not be there. In these circumstances the umpire should warn the crew in plenty of time so that the crew may take avoiding action; they may, in this case only, give steering advice to the crew.

The umpire also has the option of stopping the race and declaring a verdict, or re-rowing the race from the start.

When to warn? (from the Rules of Racing)

During racing

e. Collide with an obstruction off the course

An obstruction could be any structure such as a bridge, pier, pontoon, weir or other river traffic in the navigation channel that may provide a risk of damage or injury to boat, equipment or crew, and may include the bank, staging or heavy buoys.

The umpire may delay stopping a crew for a while, consistent with safety, to give the crew every opportunity to recognise the obstruction themselves. In deciding the point at which a crew should be stopped, the umpire should bear in mind the experience of the crew involved and the speed at which their boat is travelling.

The instruction to a crew in this circumstance shall be:

- raise a white flag vertically above the head
- name the crew give the command 'Obstruction, Stop'
- Once they have taken notice of the obstruction the crew may continue with the race.

When to warn (and when NOT to)?

Umpires are not a steering service for competitors!

Temporary obstruction on the course:

- Give every opportunity to restore a crew's safe and fair race.
Warn in plenty of time

Fixed obstruction off the course:

- Delay warnings until such time as crews have to take deliberate evasive action – this will slow them down
- Be mindful of possibility of damage to equipment and also third party property (e.g. cruisers)
- Rules of Racing state that you should stop a crew in this instance, but they may re-start themselves once corrected

How to warn? [7-5-4]

Bank umpiring

- Raise a white flag vertically above the head
- Name the crew
- audibly instruct the crew in the direction in which it is to move
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
- When the crew has responded:
 - drop the flag smartly to the side, out of sight
 - inform all other umpires, judges and the co-ordinating umpire of the warning.

How to warn? [7-5-4]

Launch umpiring

- Raise a white flag vertically above the head
- 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.

How to warn? [7-5-4]

All umpiring

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

- raise a white flag vertically above their head
- name the crews
- audibly instruct the crews to move apart.

If the crews fail to respond, the umpire may repeat the above sequence

When the crews have responded, the umpire shall drop the flag smartly to the side, out of sight.

How to warn? [7-5-4]

All umpiring

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 v. foul?

No competitor shall be disqualified for Interference unless they have been warned [7-5-7 b]

No prior warning necessary in the event of a foul.

Disciplinary measures [8-6]

Four levels

Any umpire officiating at the competition (whether on duty or not), the Race Committee Chair, or the Race Committee, may:

- issue a caution
a verbal advisory that the conduct of a rower or crew is in breach of the rules and may be taken into account when considering an Official Warning for a further breach of the rules. This would be an appropriate measure when the breach does not merit an Official Warning
- issue an 'Official Warning'
a penalty that may be given by any umpire officiating at the competition for any of a number of infringements of the Rules of Racing or for unsafe behaviour; this shall be taken into account at the Start of a crew's next race. Two such warnings for one race shall lead to automatic disqualification from the event
- disqualify a crew from a race in which the rules have been infringed
- issue an additional time penalty for processional races only – to be added to the offending crew's time. There can be no reduction in time for a crew that is offended against.



Questions / Discussion