



ERUC – Annual seminar April 2025

Agenda:

- Welcome to new umpires and retirements, ERRC round up (Dave Porter)
- Changes to the Rules of Racing 2025 (Dave Porter)
- Beach rowing events – why, how & when (Jo Cotgrove)
- Control commission – what is its role (Dave led discussion)
- Handling Complaints / Descalation (Jay Milne led)
- Managing serious incidents – what to do when it is you (Jay & Dave)



ERUC comings and goings:

- Welcome to new umpires
- Resignations, retirements and deaths
- Trainees

ERRC updates:

- New Clubs
- New / returned competitions
- Junior bursaries for national selection
- A full council (nearly) and a broken website



2025 Rules of Racing

Changes and Updates

TEAMWORK | OPEN TO ALL | COMMITMENT

Introduction

In 2025 there are a few major changes and other minor changes.

The main changes are:

- Updating references to policy documents where needed
- Standardisation of wording (Competitions/Events, Membership cards)
- Clarification when Summer and Winter weights apply for Lightweight
- Clarification of when U19, U23 and School/Junior change
- Reorganised order in 5-2 (Competition Organisation – Safety)
- Added what “Suspension of Entries” means (as used in BROE)
- Clarification when Medical Substitutions can be used
- Who provides Deadweights for coxes
- Keeping telemetry data within the boat during racing.
- Made it clear that rowers have to be physically in the boat to finish
- Removed the verdict of “*Not Rowed Out*”
- Race Committee Chair to be included in any dispute
- New definitions

Policy Documents

1-2 Purpose

The purpose of these rules is to:

- provide a basis for safe, fair and equal racing taking account of the guidance in RowSafe **and in British Rowing's Safeguarding Strategy and Policies.**
- provide a consistent framework for the regulation and organisation of rowing competitions.

Standardisation

- The whole regatta/ head is called a **competition**
 - Worcester Head
 - Gloucester Junior & Masters Regatta
- The competition consists of **events**
 - Op 8s
 - W J18 4x-
- Events can be subdivided into **Bands** and **Groups**
 - Bands are separates crews by ability/ Crew Ranking Index
 - Groups are “horizontal” separation of groups of similar ability
- Membership cards can be digital or otherwise.

Lightweight Weights

Definition changed to be type of competition/event rather than date related

- No competitor shall be allowed to compete in Lightweight **events** until they have reached the age of 18 years old.
- A competitor is a Lightweight if their weight does not exceed 72.5 kg (Open), 59 kg (Women) during the summer period (1st April – 30th September) and 75 kg (Open), 61.5 kg (Women) during the winter period (1st October – 31st March).
- **For a Head race (not a time trial in a regatta) held at any time of year the winter period weights for lightweights in Rule 2-2-1b will apply.**

U19 U23 School/Junior

Definition is now “up to and including”

U19

A rower or cox may compete at U19 level up to and including the 31st December of the year in which they reach the age of 18.

U23

A rower or cox may compete at U23 level **up to and including the 31st December** of the year in which they reach the age of 22.

School/Junior

Events may be classified as ‘School/Junior’. This extends a J18 event to permit pupils in full time secondary education to continue to participate at a junior level representing their school or club **up to and including the day before their nineteenth birthday**.

This does not permit the inclusion of **former pupils** in a school crew.

7-2-4 Crew Composition (1)

- a. Competitors should be identified by checking against the information on the **online** entry form. A competitor's membership card (digital or otherwise) may also be inspected as proof of identity and eligibility for the event entered.
- b. All the rowing members of a crew, and the cox, may be substituted until the official close of entries, **including after the Suspension of Entries**.
- c. Any substitute shall fulfil the requirements of Rule 2-1-1 and the Personal Ranking Reference Book, and be approved as eligible by the Organising Committee. **Single scullers (1x) cannot be substituted**.
- d. After the official close of entries, until the first race of the crew in the **event** has started, up to half of the rowing members of a crew and the cox may be substituted.

7-2-4 Crew Composition (2)

- e. In the case of crews in Masters, Para-Rowing or Adaptive events, a substitute from another club shall also be valid, and shall provide a membership card (digital or otherwise).
- f. A substitute cox may belong to a different club.
- g. Any further substitutions after the official close of entries additional to those allowed under Rule 7-2-4d will only be permitted on the basis of medical evidence produced by the crew or its club. In the absence of medical evidence the decision of the Race Committee Chair to allow a substitution will be final. A rower substituted on medical grounds shall not reclaim their original place in the crew and shall not race in any other crew at the competition.
- h. Until such times as BROE is closed for substitutions, it remains the responsibility of the crew to ensure that all substitutions made in accordance with Rule 7-2-4d are entered into BROE.

Coxes Deadweights (7-2-7f)

- Crews are responsible for providing their own dead-weight which shall consist of a single weight, or as few items as possible.
- The type of dead-weight carried and its weight should be noted when the cox weighs in. Containers of liquid, sand or similar material should only be allowed as dead-weight if the container is sealed and subsequently certified by Control Commission.

The Start (Side-by-Side Racing) (7-3-1e)

- If all the competitors are in position and ready to race, and the Race Umpire and timing (where relevant) are ready, the Starter may start the race up to two minutes early (or earlier if agreed with the crews and **the Race Committee Chair** is advised accordingly, as provided at 7-3-4a).

Outside assistance (7-5-9a)

- Any communication with a crew during a race, other than by means of an unaided voice, may be deemed outside assistance.
- *Outside assistance applies in the rule as stated however technology such as telemetry may be used so long as data **is not transmitted to, or received from outside the boat during the race***

7-6-1 The Finish – Completing the course

- a. A crew has completed the course when any part of its hull (usually the bow) crosses the finish line.
- b. A crew must complete the course with the same complement as that with which it started in order to be placed.
- c. The verdict will be **Did Not Finish**, if any crew member before the finish leaves the boat, and is unable to return into the boat before it crosses the finish line, or **receives physical assistance** to return to the boat (**including from safety personnel**).

Not Rowed Out is no longer a valid verdict. It is either covered by “**Unsporting Behaviour**” or “**DNF**”

Disputes or Objections (8-3a)

Race Committee Chair added to list of people needing to be copied in

- the Chair of the Regional Umpiring Committee for the region in which the competition was held.
- the Chair of the Regional Rowing Council for the region of the protesting club.
- **the Race Committee Chair of the competition.**
- the Captains of any other club(s) involved and the Chairs of their Regional Rowing Councils

New Definitions

- **Day Tickets**
 - a race membership only valid for a day of the competition, if permitted by British Rowing and accepted by the competition. It has insurance for the day of competition only.
- **Registered Member of British Rowing**
 - one who holds one or more of the following British Rowing membership categories:
 - Community, Row, Coach, Umpire, Race, Life.
- **Suspension of Entries**
 - Entries may be suspended, or subsequently re-opened in BROE at any time before the official close of entries.
- **Welfare Officer**
 - shall mean the person identified in the British Rowing Safeguarding Strategy as the Event Welfare Officer.

Offshore and Beach Sprints

