



**O U R C s**

# Captains' Meeting Agenda

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> week Michaelmas Term 2023

7.00pm, 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Doctorow Hall, St Edmund Hall

Chair: Victoria Fletcher (OUBC)

1. **Welcome**

2. **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

Available at <https://ourcs.co.uk/organisation/meetings/>

3. **Matters Arising**

No matters arising

4. **Transfers under A1.2** – Samuel McLoughlin to speak

*Under A.1.2.a:*

*Objections may only be based on the following:*

- Athlete is not a member of the college they are transferring from
- Athlete has never been a member of the college they are transferring to
  - Bessie O'Dell, Brasenose to Christ Church
  - Angelina Marsella, Worcester to Pembroke
  - Kaitlyn Purdie, LMH to Reuben
  - Rachel Hurwitz, St John's to St Hugh's
  - Natalie Hytiroglou, Keble to St Peter's
  - Jacobus Petersen, Wolfson to St Peter's
  - Christian Bosselmann, Exeter to Worcester

*Under A.1.2.b:*

*Objections may only be based on the following:*

- Athlete is not a member of the college they are transferring from
- Athlete has previously competed in an OURCs event for an Oxford colleg
  - Caitlin Mullin, Campion Hall to Wolfson

5. **Motion to Rescind MNR River Closures** – Q Sun to speak

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November (7<sup>th</sup> Week) – 11:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing  
Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November (7<sup>th</sup> Week) – 11:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing  
Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November (7<sup>th</sup> Week) – 11:00 until Closing Time or End of Racing  
Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November (7<sup>th</sup> Week) – Opening Time until Closing Time

*Proposed: Q Sun (OURCs/St Edmund Hall)*  
*Seconded: Hannah Brooks (Linacre)*

6. **Ratification of Typographic Corrections to the Constitution** [Paper 1, appended]

– Q Sun to speak

*Two-thirds majority to ratify*

7. **Ratification of Typographic Corrections to the Code of Conduct** [Paper 2, appended]

8. – Q Sun to speak

9. **Ratification of Typographic Corrections to the Rules of Racing** [Paper 3, appended]

– Q Sun to speak

*Two-thirds majority to ratify*

10. **Changes to the Rules of Racing** [Paper 4, appended] – Q Sun to speak

These updates to the Rules of Racing, specifically centred around improving readability of the rules, and some minor corrections, aim to improve the smooth (and safe) running of OURCs events, particularly Bumps (*i.e.* the Torpids and the Vills). The OURCs Committee discussed these proposed changes during the formally convened Committee Meeting in MT23WK5 and, with extensive consultation with the Senior Umpires and Race Desk alumni (the moniker for experienced Event Committee), the Committee present Paper 4 containing proposed updates to the Rules of Racing.

These rules arrive to the Captains through the current OURCs Committee, but were the brainchild of Race Desk alumni, meaning, collectively, there is almost half a century of Event Committee experience leading to these rules.

*Proposed: Q Sun (OURCs/St Edmund Hall)*  
*Seconded: Samuel McLoughlin (OURCs/Somerville)*

11. **Changes to the Constitution** [Paper 5, appended] – Q Sun to speak

*Two-thirds majority to pass*

This change to the Constitution similarly arrives to the Captains having been discussed during the formally convened Committee Meeting in MT23WK5, but was the brainchild of Race Desk alumni.

*Proposed: Q Sun (OURCs/St Edmund Hall)*  
*Seconded: Samuel McLoughlin (OURCs/Somerville)*

## 12. Motion to Petition Proctors for the Amendment of Rules Committee Regulations 1 of 2017 5.1

– Maksymilian Brzezicki to speak

We submit that Rowing Sabbatical Officer urgently petitions the Proctors' Rules Committee to amend the Regulations Part 5.1 without delay but no later than Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Week of Michaelmas Term 2023 (26<sup>th</sup> November 2023).

The proposed change is as follows (in red):

5.1 No student member (other than a student member currently in residence at All Souls College, Green Templeton College, Kellogg College, Linacre College, Nuffield College, **Reuben College**, St Antony's College, St Cross College or Wolfson College) shall participate in rowing on the river except in a single scull, pair, or double, between the hours of 8.30am and 1pm from Monday to Friday inclusive during Full Term without the prior permission of the Proctors.

*Proposed: Maksymilian Brzezicki (Reuben)*

*Seconded: Jakub Hantabal (Reuben)*

## 13. Extension of Student Status – Samuel McLoughlin to speak

*Two-thirds majority to pass*

- a. **Eimear Conroy (Christ Church):** Eimear has been rowing with Christ Church for 4 years. She has competed in bumps racing with us as a member of W1/2 over the last 4 campaigns. She has submitted her thesis on the 8<sup>th</sup> October 2023 and expects to do the viva in early December 2023. Depending on corrections, she will receive leave to supplicate at some point in late Hilary term, which could be potentially before Torpids. Therefore, we would like to request a pre-emptive extension of student status to cover the Torpids 2024 period. The final day of her student status would be 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024 (assuming leave to supplicate is received before Torpids).

*Proposed: India Marsden (Christ Church)*

*Seconded: Jacob Williams (Christ Church)*

- b. **Linnea Drexhage (Christ Church):** Linnea has been rowing with Christ Church for 4 terms. She has competed in bumps racing with us as a member of W1 in Torpids and Eights 2023 and in M5 as a novice in Eights 2022. She has submitted her thesis on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 and expects to do the viva in late November 2023. Depending on corrections, she will receive leave to supplicate at some point in late Hilary term, which could be potentially before Torpids. Therefore, we would like to request a pre-emptive extension of student status to cover the Torpids 2024 period. The final day of her student status would be 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024 (assuming leave to supplicate is received before Torpids).

*Proposed: India Marsden (Christ Church)*

*Seconded: Jacob Williams (Christ Church)*

#### 14. **AOB**

- **Proctors' Closure** – Samuel McLoughlin to speak

All clubs may now have doubles and pairs on the water during the Proctors' Closure, as well as singles. With the exceptions of Green Templeton, Linacre, St Antony's and Wolfson boat clubs, no fours, quads or eights (or octuples) are allowed out during the closure (8:30 - 13:00 on weekdays during Full Term).

- **Affiliation Fees and Invoices** – Q Sun to speak



## **OURCs Captains' Meeting**

Friday 6th week Michaelmas Term 2023  
17th November 2023

### **Paper 1: Ratification of Typographic Corrections to the Constitution**

These alterations were made to the Constitution for the purpose of correcting typographical, grammatical, formatting and numbering errors by a formally convened OURCs Committee Meeting on 10.11.23.

Changes in red:

# 1. Constitution

## 1.1. Purpose of this Document

This document shall form the Constitution of Oxford University Rowing Clubs (OURCs).

## 1.2. Aims of OURCs

The aims of the Oxford University Rowing Clubs (~~OURCs~~) are to:

- a. ~~S~~upport rowing within the University;
- b. ~~O~~rganise inter-college rowing competitions, and;
- c. ~~A~~ssist member clubs to develop and maintain a safe approach to rowing.

## 1.3. Compliance

- a. OURCs shall be administered in accordance with the regulations for University clubs which are published from time to time in the Proctors' and Assessor's Memorandum ("the Proctors' Memorandum").
- b. The activities of OURCs will at all times be conducted in accordance with the following University policies and codes of practice in force: Integrated Equality Policy, Code of Practice on Harassment and Bullying, and Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech.
- c. Any event or competition which is approved or advertised by OURCs as an official event of OURCs shall first be approved by the Proctors and relevant local authority. OURCs shall submit to the Proctors an event plan and risk assessment, together with documentary evidence of appropriate insurance cover. OURCs shall observe such conditions as the Proctors may then attach to the running of the event.
- d. No Member Club of OURCs shall participate in any activity overseas organised by OURCs, whether during term-time or vacation, unless the plans for such activity have been notified at least one calendar month in advance of the date of departure from the United Kingdom to the Director of Sport. Each Member Club participating in such activities overseas shall observe any conditions imposed by the Proctors on the recommendation of the Director of Sport, e.g. relating to the deposit of contact addresses, fulfilment of health, safety and insurance requirements, and stipulation of coaches, trainers or Senior Members to accompany the trip.

## 1.4. Membership of OURCs

- a. Membership of OURCs shall be open to the University Boat Clubs and College Boat Clubs.
- b. University Boat Clubs shall refer to the following clubs:
  - i. Oxford University Boat Club (OUBC)
  - ii. Oxford University Women's Boat Club (OUWBC)
  - iii. Oxford University Lightweight Rowing Club (OULRC)
  - iv. Oxford University Women's Lightweight Rowing Club (OUWLRC)

- c. College Boat Clubs shall refer to the following clubs:

i. Boat Clubs representing the Colleges and Permanent Private Halls of Oxford University, and;

ii. Osler House Boat Club.

d. Boat Clubs may apply for affiliation to OURCs at a Captains' Meeting upon the presentation of a request signed by a 10 members of the Club, one of which shall be a designated point of contact (as defined in 1.5.b), and another the designated Senior Member.

e. Any motion to disaffiliate a College Boat Club is treated as a constitutional amendment (1.11).

f. College Boat Clubs automatically cease to be affiliated on the 1st October if, in the previous year:

i. they have not entered any OURCs events;

ii. they have not paid British Rowing affiliation fees, or;

iii. they have not submitted a British Rowing Safety Audit.

g. Exceptions to 1.4.f., in cases of bona fide financial, or otherwise, hardship, may be agreed prior to that date with the OURCs Senior Member or Senior Treasurer.

### 1.5. Membership Requirements

a. All Member Clubs, as defined in 1.4, are responsible for ensuring that their members abide by the OURCs Constitution and Code of Conduct.

b. All Member Clubs are required to provide details of points of contact. For University Boat Clubs, this must include their President and their Senior Member. For College Boat Clubs, this must include their Senior Member, and two captains. These points of contact must be confirmed to the OURCs Secretary in writing by the end of 2nd Week Michaelmas Term each year, and any changes to these during the academic year must be notified to the OURCs Secretary within 7 days of the change taking effect.

c. The Senior Member of a College Boat Club must be a member of the College, or be otherwise clearly associated with the Boat Club, with the right to be present at the governing body meetings of that College.

d. All Member Clubs are required to be affiliated to British Rowing. Should a club become suspended by British Rowing they are automatically suspended by OURCs until reinstated by British Rowing.

e. All Member Clubs are required to hold sufficient cover to insure against potential injury to their own members, or claims from Third Parties.

f. All affiliated clubs are required to pay invoices to OURCs within the 30 day credit terms as issued. Any invoice unpaid 30 days after the due date will cause the corresponding club to disaffiliate from OURCs at a date within 44 days of the original due date. This date shall be fixed by the OURCs Treasurer and OURCs Senior Treasurer 30 days after the original due date. If the disaffiliation point falls between 1st July and 30th September of the current calendar year inclusive it shall automatically become ~~12 noon~~ 12:00 on Monday 1st week of the upcoming Michaelmas Term. Exceptions in cases of bona fide financial hardship may be agreed prior to that date with the OURCs Senior Treasurer.

g. All College Boat Clubs are required to pay an affiliation fee to OURCs, which will be used solely to fund the OURCs Sabbatical Officer. College Boat Club affiliations will be based on the number of boats competing in the most recent Eights competition where at least one full day of racing was completed (excluding boats that fail to Row On). The fee per crew must be confirmed in the first Captains' Meeting in Michaelmas Term.

### 1.6. OURCs Committee

a. The OURCs Committee shall further the aims of OURCs, as defined in 1.2.

b. The OURCs Committee shall consist of:

i. ~~F~~the Chair, who shall be the President of OUBC in academic years commencing in even years and the President of OUWBC in academic years commencing in odd years, and whose duty is to Chair OURCs Captains' Meetings;

ii. ~~F~~the Secretary, whose duties are to:

1. ~~M~~manage the affairs of OURCs; and;

2. ~~A~~act, or appoint a suitable deputy in each case to act, as Race Secretary for OURCs events;

iii. ~~F~~the Treasurer, whose duties are to:

1. ~~O~~versee and keep a proper record of the financial transactions of OURCs;

2. ~~I~~ssue invoices which shall fall due for payment 30 days after issue, receipts and payments as authorised;

3. ~~I~~ssue, collect, and keep a record of fines;

4. ~~N~~otify clubs of any fines or other penalties incurred by breach of OURCs rules;

5. ~~E~~collect and keep a record of entry fees for OURCs events;

6. ~~A~~assess and distribute fine income to the University Boat Clubs; and;

7. ~~P~~prepare a quarterly record of the OURCs accounts. This record shall include all credits and expenses and closing balances, categorised as the Treasurer sees fit. The record shall be released via e-mail to the College Captains by the end of 10th week of each term, and at the end of 0th week, Michaelmas Term, for activity over the long vacation. It shall also be appended to the minutes of the subsequent Captains' Meeting (usually, the first meeting of the next term).

iv. ~~F~~the Captain of Coxes, whose duties are to:

1. ~~A~~advise coxswains of the technique of coxing, safety and the rules of the Isis;

2. ~~W~~work with Oxford University Coxswains Society (OUCS) to issue coxing licenses, assess coxswains' status and maintain the register of coxswains; and;

3. ~~A~~advise on penalties to be imposed on individual coxswains for infringements of OURCs rules.

v. ~~F~~the Webmaster, whose duties are to update and manage:

1. the OURCs website;

2. the OURCs mailing lists; and;

3. the entries system.

vi. ~~F~~the ~~s~~Sponsorship and ~~m~~Media ~~e~~Officer, whose duties are to:

1. ~~M~~maintain the relationship between OURCs and its official sponsor(s) as agreed under 1.14;

2. ~~S~~hould advise the ~~e~~Committee on how to best comply with the sponsorship agreement; and;

3. ~~W~~where necessary, help in finding a new sponsor.

vii. ~~F~~the Sabbatical Officer, whose duties are detailed in the OURCs Sabbatical Officer's job description, which is available from the OURCs Secretary or the Oxford University Director of Sport;



viii. ~~F~~the Senior Member;

ix. ~~F~~the Senior Treasurer, who shall oversee the short term financial conduct and long-term financial stability of OURCs; and;

x. ~~N~~no more than ~~fifteen~~ 15 Ordinary Members, who shall assist the Secretary, Race Secretaries, and Captain of Coxes with their duties.

c. Not less than half of the OURCs Committee shall consist of members of the University of Oxford.

d. The following shall be elected Committee members, and shall be elected in accordance with 1.8:

i. ~~the~~ Secretary;

ii. ~~the~~ Treasurer;

iii. ~~the~~ Captain of Coxes;

iv. ~~the~~ Sponsorship and Media Officer, and;

v. ~~the~~ Sabbatical Officer.

e. The following shall be non-elected Committee members:

i. Ordinary Committee Members, appointed as in ~~1.8.5.a~~ 1.8.e.i;

ii. ~~F~~the Chair, as in ~~1.6.2.a~~ 1.6.b.i;

iii. ~~F~~the Webmaster, appointed as in ~~1.8.5.a~~ 1.8.e.i;

iv. ~~F~~the OURCs Senior Member, appointed as in ~~1.8.5.e~~ 1.8.e.iii, and;

v. ~~F~~the OURCS Senior Treasurer, appointed as in ~~1.8.5.e~~ 1.8.e.iii.

f. All ~~N~~non-Elected Committee Members shall be subject to ratification at the next OURCs Captains' Meeting.

### 1.7. Captains' Meetings

a. The OURCs Captains' Meeting shall constitute the General Meetings of OURCs.

b. There shall be at least one Captains' Meeting each Term.

c. Any member of the OURCs Committee may call a Captains' Meeting, although normally it is the duty of the OURCs Secretary or the OURCs Sabbatical Officer.

d. Notice of a Captains' Meeting must be delivered to all College Boat Club Captains and OURCs Committee Members at least 48 hours before the ~~m~~Meeting. The agenda for every Captains' Meeting must be made available and distributed to the general OURCs mailing list at least 48 hours before the ~~m~~Meeting.

e. A Captains' Meeting must be called within two weeks of a written request from five Captains of different College Boat Clubs, to a member of the OURCs Committee. This request shall state the business to be brought before the Meeting, which must be included on the agenda for the Meeting.

f. The quorum for a Captains' Meeting is 5 members of the OURCs Committee ~~plus in addition to~~ Captains from 15 different College Boat Clubs.

g. The OURCs Chair shall normally chair Captains' Meetings, unless resolved otherwise at the Meeting. The ~~e~~Chair may not propose or second motions, and may only vote in the event of a tie.

h. Only the following may propose, second or vote on motions:

i. Captains or designated representatives of College Boat Clubs, with each College limited to two

votes;

ii. ~~M~~members of the OURCs Committee;

iii. ~~M~~members of the University Boat Clubs who have been awarded rowing Blues or Half-Blues in the preceding 12 months, and;

iv. Senior Umpires who have been ratified ~~by~~ ~~at~~ a Captains' Meeting in the preceding academic year.

#### i. Motions

i. Motions may be proposed in advance of the meeting, in which case they shall be included on the agenda. Motions, other than those relating to the Constitution may be raised during the Meeting.

ii. At least one of the proposer and seconder of a motion (preferably the proposer) must be at the meeting before a vote can be called.

iii. Motions that require the use of OURCs' funds for the University Boat Clubs, or any single College Boat Club may not be proposed without the approval of the OURCs Secretary and OURCs Treasurer.

#### j. Voting

i. Except where otherwise stated, all motions shall be decided by a majority of those present and voting.

ii. Each person at the meeting shall exercise only one vote, even if they are eligible to vote on more than one different ground.

k. At least one representative of each College Boat Club shall be required to attend each meeting.

l. Clubs failing to send a representative to a Captains' Meeting shall be charged a penalty of £25 for the first non-attendance. The penalty shall double for each subsequent non-attendance in an academic year.

m. No motion which requires the spending of OURCs' funds shall be passed without the presence of the Treasurer (or appointed deputy).

n. The minutes of each Captains' Meeting will be completed and made publically available by the Rowing Sabbatical Officer, or another member of the OURCs Committee, within 7 days of the meeting.

o. In extraordinary circumstances including, but not limited to, a change in external circumstances which threatens the safe running of racing, an Emergency Captains' Meeting may be called during Torpids or Eights (including the Tuesday before the event). The time, location and agenda for this meeting must be delivered to all College Captains and OURCs Committee Members via email a minimum of 12 hours before the meeting. In the event of the OURCs Chair being unavailable, the OURCs Secretary shall normally chair such a meeting.

### 1.8. Appointment, Election, and Ratification of Committee Members

a. Election (~~E~~elected ~~P~~ositions except Sabbatical Officer)

i. All elections shall occur at Captains' Meetings.

ii. Those eligible to vote at Captains' Meetings shall also be eligible to vote in all elections.

iii. Notwithstanding ~~1.8.1.b~~ 1.8.a.ii, no person may vote if s/he is a candidate in that election. This does not apply to other elections (~~ie i.e.~~; positions) considered at the same Meeting.

iv. Each election must appear as an agenda item for the Meeting at which it is held.

v. All candidates must be nominated and seconded by those entitled to vote.

vi. The incumbent Sabbatical Officer shall act as Returning Officer, and shall determine all election mechanics not specified here (method of voting, presence of candidates during voting, etc.).

vii. If only one candidate stands for a position, s/he shall prevail if achieving more votes in favour than votes opposed.

viii. If two or more candidates stand for a position, the one who achieves an outright majority of votes cast shall prevail. If the case no majority is achieved, a second vote will be taken including only the top two candidates from the initial vote.

ix. In the event of extraordinary outcomes (eg e.g. ~~repeated~~ repeated exact ties), the Returning Officer shall devise a mechanism for determining the winner with the assent of the majority of voters.

x. All elections take effect from the end of the Meeting at which they are held, unless otherwise resolved at the Meeting.

xi. All elected positions are held for a maximum of 4 ~~t~~Terms, starting with the ~~t~~Term in which the post was taken up, unless re-elected following the procedure in ~~1.8.1~~ 1.8.a.

#### b. Campaigning for OURCs Elections

i. Except as explicitly set out below, campaigning is prohibited for all elected positions.

ii. All candidates for every position will be given the opportunity to make a single speech at the Meeting at which the election is held.

1. Each candidate's speech may not exceed three minutes.

2. All opposing candidates for the same position shall leave the room for the duration of each candidate's speech.

3. Candidates' speeches may not make reference to any opposing candidates.

iii. After all speeches, the Returning Officer may open the floor to questions. Each question must be general in nature and addressed to all candidates. Candidates will respond in turn, and response order will be rotated.

#### c. Sabbatical Officer

i. Elections for the Sabbatical Officer will follow the procedures in ~~1.8.1~~ 1.8.a and ~~1.8.2~~ 1.8.b above where they do not conflict with the rules in this section. In case of conflict, the rules in this section have precedence.

ii. Notwithstanding ~~1.8.1~~ 1.8.a.x, elections of the Sabbatical Officer shall take effect at such time as directed by the Director of Sport.

iii. Notwithstanding ~~1.8.2.a~~ 1.8.b.i, candidates for the post of Sabbatical Officer may post a campaign manifesto to the OURCs website following the instruction of the Returning Officer.

iv. In the event of the successful ~~Rowing Sabbatical Officer for Rowing~~ no longer being available, or a similar problem, the ~~e~~Captains authorise the ~~OURCs Senior Member of OURCs~~ to appoint a replacement who will then be ratified ~~by at~~ the next Captains' Meeting.

#### d. Interim Appointment

i. Should any ~~E~~elected ~~P~~position fall vacant between Captains' Meetings, the OURCs Secretary may appoint a suitable person to act in that role until the next Captains' Meeting.

ii. Should the Secretary post fall vacant between Captains' Meetings, the Sabbatical Officer may appoint a suitable person to act in that role until the next Captains' ~~m~~Meeting.

iii. In case of ~~1.8.4.a~~ 1.8.d.i. or ~~1.8.4.b~~ 1.8.d.ii. a new election shall take place at the next

Captains' Meeting.

e. Appointment (~~A~~appointed ~~P~~positions)

i. Ordinary Committee Members and the Webmaster may be appointed by the OURCs Secretary.

ii. Positions appointed under ~~1.8.5.a~~ 1.8.e.i are held for a maximum of 4 ~~t~~Terms, starting with the ~~t~~Term in which they were appointed, unless re-appointed following the procedure set out in ~~1.8.5~~ 1.8.e.

iii. The OURCs Senior Member and Senior Treasurer shall be elected by the OURCs Committee at a Committee Meeting (1.10), and holds the office until they retire, resign, or a new Senior Member or Senior Treasurer is elected by the OURCs Committee. Such a vote requires a two-thirds majority of the voting OURCs Committee Members to pass.

### 1.9. Removal of Committee Members

a. Upon retirement, resignation, or removal, all departing ~~e~~Committee ~~m~~Members must hand over any OURCs documents or property (including intellectual property rights) in their possession.

b. Any Elected OURCs Committee Members may be removed by a majority vote of no confidence at a Captains' Meeting.

i. A vote of no confidence shall be treated as a constitutional amendment in regards to its procedural requirements (published as an agenda item, vote margin to prevail, ~~etc. etc.~~).

ii. If a no confidence motion prevails, its subject will be removed from his/her position with immediate effect.

iii. If a no confidence motion of the Sabbatical Officer prevails, the OURCs Secretary shall direct the Director of Sport to take immediate action in line with University employment policies.

c. Any non-elected OURCs Committee Members may be removed at an OURCs Committee Meeting.

### 1.10. OURCs Committee Meetings

a. A formally convened Meeting of the OURCs Committee has the interim power to interpret the Constitution, Code of Conduct, and Rules of Racing.

b. Any member of the OURCs Committee may call a Committee Meeting, although, normally, it is the duty of the OURCs Secretary.

c. Notice of a Committee Meeting must be given to all OURCs Committee members at least 24 hours before the ~~m~~Meeting.

d. The quorum for an OURCs Committee Meeting is ~~5~~ five members of the OURCs Committee.

e. Normally the OURCs Secretary shall chair the Meeting, unless otherwise resolved at the Meeting.

f. Within 24 hours of any OURCs Committee action at which power granted in this Constitution (for example, appointing or removing a Committee Member; interpreting the Constitution, the Code of Conduct, or a Rule of Racing; ~~etc. etc.~~) is exercised, the Secretary shall ~~Ee~~-mail all College ~~Boat Club~~ Captains abbreviated minutes including at least: the date of the ~~m~~Meeting, the Committee Members present at the meeting, and the actions taken in regard to Constitutional powers at the meeting.

### 1.11. Alteration of the Constitution and Code of Conduct

a. The Council ~~of~~ for Oxford University Rowing (COUR) has the authority to require changes to be made on safety grounds to the Constitution, Code of Conduct, and Rules of Racing. These changes shall be notified to the Captains of Member Clubs within 24 hours of the COUR ~~R~~ruling, and then take effect

immediately. At the next Captains' Meeting a representative of COUR will explain the changes and the reasoning behind them, and record the ~~e~~Captains' response, to be relayed back to COUR.

- i. Any rule changed or instated by COUR may not be subsequently changed, removed, or any exception granted to it, without the consent of COUR.
- b. A formally convened Committee Meeting may alter the Constitution, Code of Conduct, and Rules of Racing for the purpose of correcting typographical, grammatical, formatting and numbering errors, subject to ratification at the next Captains' Meeting.
- c. Changes to the Constitution, Code of Conduct, and ~~the~~ Rules of Racing, other than those listed in ~~1.11.1~~ **1.11.a** and ~~1.11.2~~ **1.11.b**, may only be made at a Captains' Meeting.
- d. Proposed alterations to the Constitution must appear as an item on the agenda circulated at least 48 hours before the Meeting.
- e. Motions to alter the Constitution require a ~~2:1~~ **two-thirds** majority of those in favour to those against, and an overall majority of those present and eligible to vote.
- f. Alterations to the Code of Conduct and Rules of Racing require a simple majority.

### 1.12. Senior Umpires

- a. Senior Umpires shall be appointed for one academic year by the OURCs Secretary and ratified at the next Captains' Meeting.
- b. A person may be eligible for appointment as a Senior Umpire following a suitable period of training by the existing, ratified Senior Umpires.
- c. Senior Umpires are entitled to vote at Captains' Meetings, as specified in ~~1.7.8.d~~ **1.7.h.iv**.
- d. Once ratified, a Senior Umpire shall only be removed by a vote of a Captains' Meeting, except during racing when a Senior Umpire may be removed by the Race Secretary and a majority of the other ratified Senior Umpires ~~acting together~~.

### 1.13. Indemnity

- a. So far as may be permitted by law, every member of the Committee and every officer of OURCs shall be entitled to be indemnified by OURCs against all costs, charges, losses, expenses, and liabilities incurred by him or her in the execution or discharge of his or her duties or the exercise of his or her powers, or otherwise properly in relation to or in connection with his or her duties. This indemnity extends to any liability incurred by him or her in defending any proceedings, civil or criminal, which relate to anything done or omitted or alleged to have been done or omitted by him or her as a member of the Committee or officer of OURCs and in which judgement is given in his or her favour (or the proceedings are otherwise disposed of without any finding or admission of any material breach of duty on his or her part), or in which he or she is acquitted, or in connection with any application under any statute for relief from liability in respect of any such act or omission in which relief is granted to him or her by the Court.
- b. So far as may be permitted by law, OURCs may purchase and maintain for any member of the Committee or officer of OURCs insurance cover against any liability which by virtue of any rule of law may attach to him or her in respect of any negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust of which he or she may be guilty in relation to OURCs and against all costs, charges, losses and expenses and liabilities incurred by him or her and for which he or she is entitled to be indemnified by OURCs by virtue of paragraph 1.

### 1.14. Sponsorship

- a. Sponsorship agreements signed by the ~~OURCs Senior Treasurer, the Senior Member, and Secretary of OURCs~~ **OURCs Senior Member, Senior Treasurer, and Secretary** shall be recognised by OURCs and treated as an agreement between OURCs and the sponsor. Any liability incurred by the signatories when signing as representative officers of OURCs shall be indemnified by OURCs.



O U R C S

## **OURCs Captains' Meeting**

Friday 6th week Michaelmas Term 2023

17th November 2023

### **Paper 2: Ratification of Typographic Corrections to the Code of Conduct**

These alterations were made to the Code of Conduct for the purpose of correcting typographical, grammatical, formatting and numbering errors by a formally convened OURCs Committee Meeting on 10.11.23.

# 2. Code of Conduct

## 2.1. Definitions

- a. The times of Sunrise and Sunset are defined at <https://www.ourcs.co.uk/information/suntimes> (<https://www.ourcs.co.uk/information/suntimes>).
  - i. Opening Time is defined as one hour before Sunrise.
  - ii. Closing time is defined as one hour after Sunset.
  - iii. Twilight Hours are defined as:
    1. ~~The~~ the hour immediately after Opening Time, and;
    2. ~~The~~ the hour immediately before Closing Time.
- b. The time of year classed as either Term, or Vacation.
  - i. Term is defined as the period from Sunday of 0th Week to Saturday of 9th Week, inclusive. Term is further subdivided ~~into~~ into two categories:
    1. Peak Term, which is the period from Thursday of 0th Week to the final day of the major regatta of the term (~~Christ Church Regatta the Novice Regatta~~ in Michaelmas, Torpids in Hilary, and Summer Eights in Trinity), and;
    2. Off-peak Term, which is the period between Sunday and Thursday of 0th week or after the major regatta of the term until Saturday of 9th Week.
  - ii. Vacation refers to any period falling outside of Term.
- c. The Isis is defined as the stretch of water flowing from Osney Lock and Weirs down to the Iffley Lock and Weirs.
- d. The Godstow stretch is defined as the stretch of water flowing from the Godstow Lock and Weirs down to Osney Lock and Weirs.
- e. The term athlete is used to refer to any crewmember, be it rower or cox.
- f. OUCS is defined as the Oxford University Coxing Society
- g. Bow side is regarded as the Starboard side of a vessel.
- h. Stroke side is regarded as the Port side of a vessel.

## 2.2. Scope

- a. The restrictions and guidelines in this document apply all year long, unless specifically indicated below or superseded by applicable Rules of Racing.
- b. The rules written below are enforceable in addition to the Environment Agency (EA) regulations, to British Rowing Row Safe 2017 and any other applicable law.

- c. Adherence to this Code of Conduct is a necessary, but not sufficient, condition for the safe running of College and University Boat Clubs as defined in 1.3. It is necessary for appropriate safe conduct to be

exercised in situations that are not covered by the guidelines below.

- d. All Member Clubs may be subject to additional requirements set by the University or their College(s).
- e. Breach of these restrictions by Member Clubs may result in OURCs taking action against the Member Club.
- f. A breach by a Member Club shall include:
  - i. **A**a breach by the Member Club.
  - ii. **A**a breach by a member of the Member Club,
  - iii. **A**a breach by a person or persons in use of Member Club equipment.

g. In exceptional cases including, but not limited to:

- i. **I**njury;
- ii. **E**quipment failure;
- iii. **F**lag change during an outing, **and**;
- iv. **E**mergency.

, where the safest course of action would contravene some of the rules laid out below, it is expected that Member Clubs use reasonable judgement when deciding how to respond.

### 2.3. Club and Equipment Requirements

- a. All Member Clubs' equipment should comply with EA regulations and with RS, section 7.1. In particular, all boats must:
  - i. carry a valid EA Registration/Exemption plate, unless otherwise registered.
  - ii. have a bow-ball that meets British Rowing standards securely attached to the bow (except tubs). In the event of losing a bow-ball, boats should replace it immediately or return, at light pressure, as directly as possible to their boathouse while keeping within the rules of the river.
  - iii. if fitted with shoes, have intact heel restraints set to prevent the heels rising above the lowest fixed point of the shoes. (In practice, heel restraints can be set much shorter than this.)
  - iv. have water-tight seals on all buoyancy compartments.

### 2.4. Athlete Requirements

- a. All Member Clubs must ensure that their athletes are safe to go on the water. This involves:
  - i. ensuring that all athletes have passed a swim test in the last six years demonstrating their ability to meet the standards laid out in RowSafe, section 1.9, College Boat Clubs should follow the guidance provided by the Sabbatical Officer. All rowers and coxes should be swim tested at the first available opportunity and in any case before their sixth session on the water. No athlete who has yet to pass a swimming test may go out onto the water following their fifth session, or following the failure of such a test until they subsequently pass.
  - ii. ensuring that only those rowers who have taken an OURCs capsized drill, or can prove that they have taken a similar one elsewhere, may use singles, pairs or doubles. A statement, signed by a suitably qualified coach, must be provided to the Sabbatical Officer as proof of a capsized drill taken elsewhere.
  - iii. giving safety briefings to all rowers and coxes at the start of their rowing careers encompassing:

<https://ourcs.co.uk/organisation/conduct/2/12>



2. the OURCs and their College Boat Club's Code of Conduct;
  3. local hazards;
  4. safety provision and procedures on the water and in the boathouse, such as capsize or sudden injury;
  5. how to prevent, recognize, and deal with instances of: cold water immersion and hypothermia, cold shock, dry drowning, post-rescue collapse, swim failure (RS, section 8.1 and 8.7); sunburn, heat stroke, exhaustion (RS, section 8.2); first aid (RS, section 8.3); waterborne diseases (RS, section 8.4).
- iv. maintaining a safety notice board in a prominent place in the boathouse (RS, section 2.1).
  - v. conducting risk assessments (see RS, section 9), and specifying a Code of Conduct based on these, which should be available on the College Boat Club's website and followed on a day-to-day basis.

## 2.5. Additional requirements for coxswains

- a. A coxswain is regarded as the master of a vessel and is responsible for being in charge and in command of said vessel.
- b. The Captain of Coxes shall keep a register of all College coxes with a coxing permit, which shall detail for each cox:
  - i. the date of their registration;
  - ii. their status: 'nNovice', 'eExperienced', or 'sSenior'; and;
  - iii. any penalties imposed on the cox by OURCs.
- c. Newly-registered coxes with no previous experience shall be designated 'novice' status. The Captain of Coxes shall assign newly-registered coxes with previous coxing experience an appropriate status.
- d. Coxes may be granted 'experienced' status after 3 full terms coxing, upon confirmation from their Club that they can cox to a sufficient standard. Early promotion to 'experienced' status may be considered upon written application.
- e. Coxes wishing to be accorded 'senior' status must apply in writing to the Captain of Coxes, detailing their experience. Applications will normally only be considered from coxes with at least 6 full terms coxing.
- f. Coxes with 'novice' status may not cox an outing unless accompanied at all times by a coach, During racing, all coxes must follow the requirements and recommendations set out in the relevant Event Plan and safety Plan, which will supersede this requirement
- g. Any cox who puts their or any other crew:
  - i. in breach of the Code of Conduct
  - ii. in breach of the Rules of Racing
  - iii. in a situation where damage or danger results, or was likely to result
 is liable to have their permit endorsed or suspended.

## 2.6. Outing requirements

- a. Regardless of the subsequent rules, all crews must make their own assessment before boating (see RS, section 9).

- b. Crews rowing on the Isis or Godstow stretches must abide by any restrictions imposed by the respective flag when it is available.
- c. Crews must, at all times:
- i. be aware of what is happening around them;
  - ii. travel at a speed commensurate with that awareness; and
  - iii. be ready and able to take whatever action is necessary - steering, slowing or stopping - to prevent a collision, even if they have right of way. (In the instance of a head-on approach, both crews should move to starboard.)
- d. Crews must keep as far to the starboard side of the river as is safe and practicable. Overtaking crews should
- i. only do so having first checked that the river is clear;
  - ii. pass either by moving towards the centre of the river or by passing on the inside; iii. give clear notice of their location to the crew being overtaken;
  - iv. not impede the crew they are overtaking.
- e. Crews must not slow or stop in locations or at times that impede other crews, unless safety dictates.
- f. Coxes must wear a securely-fastened personal flotation device at all times when on the water, worn on top of all other clothing (see RS, section 7.3).
- g. Crews rowing in an eight must have a Cox. Crews rowing in a Four or Quad must have a Cox, or have the rudder connected to a steering footplate with a steersperson.
- h. When rowing on stretches other than Isis and Godstow, or when the flag is unavailable, crews must conduct risk assessments to decide if it safe to boat, based on the advice of local boat clubs and the EA or other local authority.
- i. Any boat that is on the water during Twilight Hours, as well as in limited visibility (which encompasses fog, even heavy snow and rain), must carry bright white lights attached to the stern and bow, which together are visible through 360 degrees. (See RS, section 7.1)
- j. If fog is dense enough to bring visibility down to below 100m crews are not allowed to be on the water.
- k. At all times, it is the duty of the cox (or the coach if the cox is 'novice' status) to decide whether or not it is safe to boat or to remain on the water. Particular notice should be taken with regard to wind speed and direction, temperature, strength and experience of the cox and crew, and other circumstances not addressed by the flag status.
- l. No crew may row during a lightning storm.
- m. No crew may row if ice has formed on the water.
- n. Rowing crews are forbidden from navigating any locks under red or yellow boards.
- o. As decreed by the Proctors, no member of a Member Club, as defined in 1.3, may row at the following times:
- i. **B**efore Opening Time or after Closing Time.;
  - ii. **B**etween 8.30am and 1.00pm on weekdays between 1st and 8th week inclusive, unless:
    1. from the following College Boat Clubs: Green Templeton, Linacre, St Antony's, Wolfson or (with effect from 08/10/23) St. Benet's Hall, Blackfriars', and Reuben College Boat Club;

2. in a single scull, double, or pair, and;

3. with the Proctors' permission.

p. Crews wishing to use a launch must ensure:

i. the launch is registered with the EA;

ii. all occupants are wearing a personal flotation device at all times;

iii. the launch carries appropriate safety equipment;

iv. the launch displays the correct lighting in poor visibility, and;

v. the driver uses a kill-cord at all times when on the water.

q. Bankriders are required to be appropriately visible, including lights on bikes during hours of darkness or in limited visibility.

r. Launch transits

i. Launches are forbidden to transit locks under red boards.

1. Under the Constitution 1.11.a.i., this rule cannot be changed or removed without the consent of COUR.

ii. Launches may only transit locks under yellow boards following the submission and acceptance of a written risk assessment for the transit to the Rowing Sabbatical Officer. The Senior Member of the College Boat Club and the Bursar of the college must also receive a copy of the Risk Assessment.

1. Under the Constitution 1.11.a.i., this rule cannot be changed or removed without the consent of COUR.

## 2.7. Definition of a Senior crew

a. Within these rules, a Senior crew is defined as an eight or a coxed four with a cox classified as 'Senior' under ~~Rule 2.5.2~~ 2.5.b and at least four rowers with three full Terms' rowing experience, and not containing any rower with less than one full Term of rowing experience.

b. With the written permission of the OURCs Secretary and the OURCs Captain of Coxes, other competent crews may be also be designated 'Senior'.

## 2.8. Rules specific to the Isis

a. Scheduled Closures

i. In addition to the rules above, no member of a Member Club may row ~~between the following times~~ (out of courtesy to other river users), except for the purpose of transiting, with the written consent of the Captains of Oxford Academicals RC, City of Oxford RC and Falcon RC. ~~The written consent, which~~ must be sent to the Secretary at least 24 ~~hrs~~ hours prior to the transit, ~~between the following times:~~

1. ~~B~~etween 8.00am and 1.00pm on Sundays, and;

2. ~~A~~fter 7.00pm on Wednesdays.

b. Scheduled restrictions

Member Clubs must observe the following restrictions:

i. On weekdays before 8.00am, during Peak Term of Michaelmas and Hilary, College Boat Clubs can only

have one crew on the water at any one time, except with the written permission of the OURCs Secretary or having been granted an Extra Slot. On weekdays before 8.00am, during Peak Term in

<https://ourcs.co.uk/organisation/conduct/5/12>

26/09/2023, 11:00 OURCs: Code of Conduct

Trinity, College Boat Clubs can have no more than two 4s or 8s on the water at any one time, except with the written permission of the OURCs Secretary.

- ii. Extra Slots are awarded at the discretion of the OURCs Committee. Applications must be made to the Sabbatical Officer prior to the publishing of the agenda for the first Captains' Meeting of each term and will be announced at that meeting with immediate effect.
- iii. On weekdays between ~~5.00pm~~ 17:00 and ~~7.00pm~~ 19:00, during Peak Term in Trinity, only athletes fulfilling the following conditions may be on the water:
  1. ~~C~~rews entered for the Senior divisions in Eights (as defined by ~~the Rules of Racing A3.2.a.vii~~);
  2. ~~T~~he top crew of the division below the Senior Divisions in Eights;
  3. ~~A~~ll college 1st Vllls, and;
  4. ~~S~~ingle Sculls.

#### c. Boating/ landing

Unless otherwise altered by the circulation rules for an event:

- i. ~~F~~rom Boathouse Island, crews must boat and land pointing upstream;
- ii. ~~F~~rom the Univ raft, crews must boat pointing downstream, but may land either upstream or downstream as long as they do not interfere with other crews. Crews landing upstream must begin their movement to cross the river upstream of the Cherwell Cut entrance and should cross quickly and directly angled to their landing raft, so that they are never at any point rowing on the wrong side directly against normal circulation;
- iii. ~~F~~rom Longbridges, crews may boat and land either upstream or downstream so long as they do not interfere with other crews;
- iv. ~~F~~rom City and Falcon, crews must boat and land pointing upstream, and;
- v. ~~F~~rom the Isis Boathouse, crews must boat pointing downstream under green flag, and upstream under blue or amber flag. Boats may land either upstream or downstream under green flag, but under blue or amber flag it is suggested crews spin upstream of the stage and drift back to land. Crews boating from the Isis Boathouse may spin below the turning post immediately after boating, or while returning to land, but they must begin the spin within a boat-length of their landing step while doing so. At all other times they should share the normal spinning procedure for the stream conditions as defined by ~~2.8.6~~ 2.8.f.

#### d. Full complement

- i. During Term, all boats shall carry their full complement at all times, except with the written permission of the OURCs Secretary.
- ii. The only exception to this rule are boats being transported from City or Falcon landing stages, as long as they do not spin once on the water and can still obey all the relevant sections of 2.8.3. Such crews must not be coxed by a 'nNovice' cox.

#### e. Special rules applying to the gGut

The Gut is defined as the narrow stretch of the Isis between the most downstream bridge below

Longbridges Boathouse and the entrance to the cut adjacent to the Sea Scouts bay.

- i. No 'novice' status cox may go through the Gut until they have completed ten outings. Until that point coxes from boathouses upstream of the Gut should spin at Longbridges, and coxes from boathouses downstream of the Gut should spin in the bay outside the Sea Scouts Boathouse when safe to do so.

<https://ourcs.co.uk/organisation/conduct/6/12>

26/09/2023, 11:00 OURCs: Code of Conduct

- ii. Crews may only proceed slower than normal full crew paddling allows through the Gut if to do so does not obstruct another crew.
- iii. Crews may not easy at any time in the Gut, unless safety dictates.
- iv. Crews may not overtake in the Gut.
- v. Tub boats are not permitted in the Gut during Peak Term.

#### f. Spinning

- i. Under **gGreen fFlag** boats may only spin at the following places during Term:

1. upstream of the second large mooring post (counting from the boathouse island end) on the City side at the Head of the River;
2. at Longbridges, between the upstream end of the Longbridges raft and the downstream bridge, spinning stern towards the towpath, and remaining close enough to the towpath to leave a clear passage for crews entering and leaving the Gut; **and;**
3. below the red and white post on Haystacks Corner (City). A spinning crew must not keep paddling once downstream of this post, and must stay upstream of the white Isis Boathouse post (City) as they spin. Crews must not proceed below the white post unless wishing to transit Iffley Lock or racked at the Isis Boathouse. Crews racked at the Isis Boathouse may use the area just below the white post to boat or land only but are recommended under **Light Blue Flag, Dark blue Flag, or aAmber fFlag** to spin above the post and drift or back down to land.

- ii. Boats must turn singly in order of arrival at the spinning area, unless prior crews have granted permission to spin.

- iii. Having spun, boats must immediately leave the spinning area so as not to obstruct other crews. iv.

Crews must not unnecessarily obstruct the spinning area, for example through coaching or delay. g. The

#### Isis flag

During varying conditions, additional restrictions may be in force on the Isis, as indicated by the online flag.

- i. Red Flag (5 bucks): **F**the Isis is closed to all University and College rowers. Navigation of Osney and Iffley Locks is prohibited.
- ii. Amber Flag (4 bucks): **F**the Isis is closed to all College crews except Senior crews as defined in 2.7. Crews must spin between the red and white posts 100m downstream of Donnington Bridge and on Haystacks Corner and may not spin at Longbridges, except to land immediately afterwards at Longbridges. The river is closed between Folly Bridge and Oxford Canal. Navigation of Osney and Iffley Locks is prohibited. All crews must be accompanied by a bank rider with, in case of emergency, a throw-line and a mobile phone, programmed with the phone number for Iffley Lock, which is 01865 777277.
- iii. Dark Blue Flag (3 bucks): Experienced and Senior status coxes only. Crews must spin between the red and white posts 100m downstream of Donnington Bridge and on Haystacks Corner and may not spin at Longbridges, except to land at Longbridges. The river is closed between Folly Bridge

and Oxford Canal. Navigation of Osney and Iffley Locks is prohibited.

- iv. Light Blue Flag (2 bucks): Experienced and Senior status coxes only. Crews must spin between the red and white posts 100m downstream of Donnington Bridge and on Haystacks Corner and may not spin at Longbridges, except to land at Longbridges. The river is closed between Folly Bridge and Oxford Canal. Navigation of Osney and Iffley Locks is prohibited.

#### 1. Novice status coxes on Light Blue Flag:

<https://ourcs.co.uk/organisation/conduct/7/12>

26/09/2023, 11:00 OURCs: Code of Conduct

In addition, on Light Blue Flag (but not Dark Blue Flag) Novice status coxes with at least one full term of coxing experience may train under the following four conditions:

- a. the outing must occur between Sunrise and Sunset (2.1.a);
  - b. other than the cox, the crew must be a Senior crew as defined in 2.7;
  - c. the cox must be accompanied by a bank rider with, ~~in case of emergency~~, a throw-line and a mobile phone, programmed with the phone number for Iffley Lock, which is 01865 777277, and;
  - d. the names of the full crew, cox, and bankrider and the outing time must be registered with the OURCs executive committee at least 2 hours in advance using the web form at the following URL: <https://forms.gle/4XxUp1GrdtZZhPMi8> (~~<https://forms.gle/4XxUp1GrdtZZhPMi8>~~).
- v. Green Flag: ~~No~~ additional restrictions in force.
- vi. Grey Flag: ~~When a grey flag is displayed~~ the system is not currently being maintained and all crews are responsible for referring to the EA or lock keepers for stream advice.
- vii. The flag may be changed when considered necessary by the OURCs committee for reasons other than the stream at Iffley Weirs. Such a change may be made in practice by any committee member, as long as the decision itself has been taken with at least one of the Secretary, Captain of Coxes, or Rowing Sabbatical, and if possible by all three in conjunction.

#### h. Launches

- i. Between Folly Bridge and Iffley Lock, launches may not follow or coach crews; disrupt crews or other river users; or create significant wash. ~~The OURCs Secretary may grant an exception to the above restrictions, upon written request.~~
- ii. ~~The OURCs Secretary may grant an exception to the above restrictions, upon written request.~~

#### i. Coxes

Coxes of crews on the Isis between the first Coxing Registration Meeting of a Term and the end of Term must be registered members of OUCS, and must carry their OUCS coxing permit, or other suitable identification, at all times whilst coxing.

#### j. Iffley lock

- i. Crews may go through Iffley ~~L~~lock only under a green flag, and during the hours between Sunrise and Sunset.
- ii. Crews who intend to transit Iffley ~~L~~lock should wait for the lock to fill below the white Isis Boathouse post.

#### k. Quiet zone

From Opening Time to ~~9am~~ 09:00 the Isis has two quiet zones where coaches and crews should make all reasonable effort to remain quiet and the use of loud hailers or megaphones is prohibited (except in

an emergency) out of respect for neighbouring residential areas. These areas are:

- i. ~~B~~etween the most downstream part of the most downstream bridge at Longbridges and the black bin upstream of the house next to Longbridges (this includes all of the Longbridges spinning area);
- ii. ~~D~~ownstream of Haystacks corner, including Iffley lock; ~~and~~;
- iii. ~~B~~etween 100m upstream and 100m downstream of the Osney Lock chamber.

#### I. Use of the City of Oxford RC Facilities

Crews using the City of Oxford Rowing Club grounds are expected to comply with all reasonable requests from CORC members relating to the following guidelines:

- i. ~~A~~void using the area at peak times for CORC members, ~~i.e.~~ *i.e.* weekday evenings and weekend mornings;
- ii. ~~O~~nly use the grass areas for rigging/de-rigging, and for leaving boats unattended. Do not use ~~C~~ar ~~P~~arking space, or the ~~as~~phalt areas around the boathouse;
- iii. ~~T~~he landing stage should be occupied as briefly as possible when boating/landing, with priority given to CORC members;
- iv. ~~B~~oat and land pointing upstream whenever possible; ~~and~~;
- v. ~~D~~o not leave trailers in the ~~C~~ar ~~P~~ark for more than 24 hours without permission from the CORC Committee.

#### 2.9. Rules specific to Godstow

##### a. Scheduled closures

In addition to the rules above, no Member Club may row between the following times (out of courtesy to the Medley sailing club):

- i. ~~O~~n Sundays from ~~2.00pm~~ 14:00 to ~~6.00pm~~ 18:00, from March to November inclusive; ~~and~~;
- ii. ~~A~~fter 7.00pm on Wednesdays during Trinity ~~T~~erm.

~~NB N.B.~~: Crews boating from St Edward's School must also abide by the restrictions they place upon the use of the site:

##### b. Spinning

- i. Crews spinning from downstream to upstream above Rainbow Bridge must do so before or opposite the Medley Sailing Club. The stretch opposite Bossoms Boat Yard is not to be used for spinning or coaching.
- ii. Under the Godstow ~~a~~Amber ~~f~~Flag, all crews must spin upstream of Rainbow Bridge.
- iii. Boats must turn singly in order of arrival at the turning point, unless prior crews have granted permission to spin.
- iv. Having spun, boats must immediately leave the turning area so as not to obstruct other crews.
- v. Crews must not unnecessarily obstruct the spinning area, for example through coaching or delay.

##### c. Fast stream conditions

During varying conditions, additional restrictions may be in force on the Godstow stretch, as indicated by the online flag:

- i. Red Flag (4 bucks at Osney Lock, 2 bucks at Godstow Lock or at the discretion of the St Edward's School Boatman): The Godstow stretch is closed to all crews. Navigation of Osney Lock is prohibited.

- ii. Amber Flag (3 bucks at Osney Lock, 1½ bucks at Godstow Lock or at the discretion of the St Edward's School Boatman): The Godstow stretch is closed to all College crews except Senior crews as defined in 2.7. with the exception that experienced status coxes may be used. All crews must be accompanied by a launch. The river is closed below Rainbow Bridge, crews should spin no lower than the sailing club unless landing at the Keble yard. Navigation of Osney Lock is prohibited.

#### d. Coxes

Coxes of crews on the Godstow between the first Coxing Registration Meeting of Term and the end of Term must be registered members of OUCS, and must carry their OUCS coxing permit, or other suitable identification, at all times whilst coxing.

- i. Member eClubs are required to abide by any river closures agreed at a Captains' Meeting.
- ii. In a case of emergency, or where action is required to assist the work of the emergency services or local authorities, the Sabbatical Officer may close a section of the river to OURCs members. Closures are to be imposed only to the extent that safety demands.

#### 2.10. Personal conduct

- a. Member Clubs, their members, their employees and their contractors are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that shows respect for other Member Clubs and the wider public. Member Clubs that cause damage, injury or offence to other parties shall face severe penalty.
- b. The use of foul or abusive language and gestures is prohibited.
- c. Towpath users on rowing business (e.g. e.g. coaches, bank riders, those running with crews) are reminded that they must not put other towpath users at risk, whether during training or racing. Cyclists must to give way to pedestrians.

#### 2.11. Breaches of the eCode of eConduct

- a. Fines and sanctions may be imposed upon a Member Club in the event of a breach of the Code of Conduct in accord with 2.2.6 2.2.f.
- b. Any member of the OURCs Committee may impose fines.
- c. At their discretion, committee members may choose to advise a cox or crew rather than impose a fine. d.

Types of breach of the Code of Conduct are:

- i. Mminor transgressions are defined as those breaches of these rules with only minor safety implications or which only minimally inconvenience other river user:, and;
  1. The first transgression of a certain type in each term will result in a caution and will be recorded. The fine for the second minor transgression of a certain type each term shall be £10.
  2. For each additional offence of the same type within the same term, up to the 5th offence, the value of the fine will keep doubling. If a single Boat Club accrues 5 minor transgressions within 1 term then this will be viewed as a serious incident and acted on as per 2.11.d.ii. Following the meeting for the Club Safety Review, fining for any subsequent transgressions will start at the level of the fine stated in 2.11.d.i.1 unless otherwise determined in the Club Safety Review.
- ii. Sserious incidents are defined as those with potentially serious safety implications; those which cause serious incidents; those which significantly inconvenience other river users; those which give significant training advantages; those committed with deliberate intent; rowing whilst banned (for example by the OURCs flag or a previous penalty); or five minor transgressions.
  1. After any serious incident, a formal OURCs Committee Meeting shall be convened to conduct a Club Safety Review. The purpose of a Club Safety Review is twofold: first, to help the club(s)



involved understand how their own systems contributed to the incident and improve those systems to prevent future incidents; and, second, to foster good relations between the club(s) involved and OURCs committee members who have experience related to the incident and can be resources to the club(s) in the future.

2. The eCaptains of the club(s) involved shall be notified 24 hours before the meeting and may present a statement either in writing or in person. The Senior Member(s) of the club(s) involved may be notified at the discretion of the OURCs Secretary and Sabbatical Officer.
  3. The Club Safety Review may impose fines and or further sanctions on the club(s) involved. Examples include, but are not limited to: recommending suspension or endorsement of the status of cox(es) to the Captain of Coxes, banning crews from the river and/or from OURCs races and/or giving time or position penalties in any OURCs event to the crew(s) involved. The decision of the eCommittee comes into effect immediately but is subject to ratification at the next eCaptains mMeeting.
  4. The minutes of Club Safety Reviews will be circulated to and approved by all those present before being reported to the a Captains' Meeting for ratification.
- e. Violations of any river closures or restrictions described above shall, at the discretion of the OURCs Committee, either: ~~at the discretion of the OURCs Committee;~~
- i. incur a £10 fine for the first offence of this nature in the academic year, but double for each additional offence of any scheduled restrictions within the same academic year, or;
  - ii. be regarded as a serious incident.
- f. Committee mMembers must notify the OURCs Treasurer of cautions or fines they wish to impose. The OURCs Treasurer will then send the College Boat Club concerned details of the fine.
- g. Coxes may (in addition to the fine) face endorsement, or in particularly serious cases withdrawal, of the permit of the cox concerned.
- i. Coxes whose permit is endorsed more than 3 times in any 3 consecutive terms shall have their permits withdrawn for the rest of the term in which the fourth endorsable offence occurred and for the entirety of the subsequent term.
  - ii. Following a period of disqualification, coxes whose permit has been withdrawn shall have to satisfy the OURCs Captain of Coxes that they are competent to cox before they may reapply for their permit.
- h. Appeals against fines or other penalties imposed by OURCs should be directed, in the first case to the OURCs Treasurer and on further dispute, to the OURCs Senior Member, who shall have the final say in all such matters.
- i. Appeals against fines must be registered with the OURCs Treasurer within one week of their issue.
  - ii. The OURCs Treasurer shall take evidence from the college concerned and the OURCs Committee Member(s) who were involved in the original fine.
  - iii. The OURCs Treasurer must report the result of the appeal to the college concerned within one week of the appeal being received. In the event of the OURCs Treasurer being unable to do this, or if they are not neutral in an appeal, they may nominate another member of the OURCs Committee to handle the appeal.
  - iv. If a club wishes to appeal to the OURCs Senior Member, they must state this in writing to the Senior Member, with supporting evidence, within 48 hours of the original appeal result. Such appeals will only be considered on the grounds that OURCs rules have been mis-applied and must state the rule mis-applied.

v. The OURCs Senior Member will notify the club and OURCs Treasurer of the result within seven days of such an escalation, and will have the final say in such matters.

i. Fines under 2.11.d.i.1. shall be suspended from Sunday of 0th week until Sunday of 5th week of Michaelmas term. Repeated transgressions occurring in the subsequent weeks of term will incur fines at the level it would have been if the offences in the first 5 weeks had been fined.

j. Clauses under this sub-section do not apply to racing or administrative fines.



## **OURCs Captains' Meeting**

Friday 6th week Michaelmas Term 2023

17th November 2023

### **Paper 3: Ratification of Typographic Corrections to the Rules of Racing**

These alterations were made to the Rules of Racing for the purpose of correcting typographical, grammatical, formatting and numbering errors by a formally convened OURCs Committee Meeting on 10.11.23.

Changes in red:

# Appendix: Rules of Racing

If the ~~r~~Rules of ~~r~~Racing do not load, they can be found here: <https://bitbucket.org/ourcs/rules/raw/master/rules.json>  
(<https://bitbucket.org/ourcs/rules/raw/master/rules.json>)

## A0. Guiding Principle

1. Safety shall be the overriding principle of all OURCs racing. Crews and coaches not conducting themselves safely while taking part in events are liable to be penalised.

## A1. General rules of racing

### 1. Definitions

a. Members of College Boat Clubs are classified either as:

i. Student ~~m~~Members;

1. Bona fide students (in accordance with University Statute II) of their respective college(s), until such time as:
  - a. they leave or suspend their course of study – in extraordinary circumstances and with the written approval of the college's Senior Tutor, this period may be extended to a given date by a majority vote at a Captain's Meeting; or
  - b. a pass list or class list marking the end of the course is published; or
  - c. leave to supplicate for the degree is granted. In extraordinary circumstances, this period may be extended to a given date by a majority vote at a Captain's Meeting.
2. Students on the Visiting Student Programme holding a valid University Card stating "Visiting Student Programme";, who are affiliated to that college.
3. Students at Oxford University holding a valid University Card or Bodleian Reader's Card upon presentation to the OURCs Sabbatical Officer of a letter from and signed by the respective college's Bursar or Senior Tutor stating their affiliation to that particular college and the duration of that affiliation. The OURCs Sabbatical ~~e~~Officer will keep a record of this letter and the details for the duration, and a list of these Visiting Students with their affiliation will be available on the OURCs website.
4. Student members as defined in ~~i-iii~~ ~~above~~ ~~A1.1.i.1-3~~ who have temporarily suspended their studies in order to take official maternity/paternity leave. This must be supported by a letter from the Senior Tutor confirming that such leave is the sole reason for their current non student status.

ii. Fellowship Members;

1. Senior 'Full' Fellows or Junior Research Fellows of the respective college, only for the time during which this status is enjoyed at the college. ~~{(E~~emeritus, honorary and visiting fellows are excluded).~~}~~

iii. Staff Honorary Members, ~~and~~;

1. At a Captain's Meeting, the eCaptains may choose to grant a person the status of Staff Honorary Member of a College Boat Club for a period of no more than three consecutive terms, subject to the following rules:
  - a. All Honorary Memberships must be brought in accordance with the procedural rules associated with a constitutional alteration under 1.11 of the OURCs eConstitution, but an Honorary Membership is not a constitutional alteration.
  - b. Honorary Staff Memberships may be awarded to those staff with contracts for full time employment (an average of 25 hours a week or more) with a particular college for a period of no less than twelve months.
  - c. The proposal must include:
    - i. Name of the person in question.
    - ii. Details of the type of University card they hold, and the number (if relevant).
    - iii. Their status within the University and the date of the termination of this status.
    - iv. Proof of this status: this requires a copy of their contract counter-signed by the relevant college authority. For the purposes of the motion this must be received and verified by the OURCs Sabbatical Officer prior to the publishing of the agenda
    - v. The date that they wish the Honorary Membership to expire, which shall be no further in the future than 3 consecutive terms (including the term in which the motion is proposed).
  - d. If an Honorary Staff Member wishes to row in their College Boat Club's men's or women's first VIII, they must first seek permission of the Captains by proposing a motion at a Captain's Meeting. Should the motion pass, a note will be made on the relevant record and in the relevant Appendix.

iv. Associate Members.

1. All other members.

b. Respective college

- i. For the above points A1.1.a.i.1.(a-c), respective colleges shall be defined as the College or Private Permanent Hall that Boat Club represents, with the exception of Osler House, which represents Clinical Medical Students. The following boat clubs represent more than one college:
  1. Wolfson College Boat Club also represents St. Cross College.
  2. St. Benet's Hall, Blackfriars', and Reuben College Boat Club represents the former St. Benet's Hall, Reuben College, Blackfriars and St. Stephen's House. This clause will take effect from 31/7/23, after which this sentence will be removed from the Rules of Racing.
  3. Regent's Park College Boat Club also represents female members of Blackfriars.
  4. Linacre College Boat Club also represents Nuffield College.
  5. Queen's College Boat Club also represents Wycliffe Hall.
  6. Wadham College Boat Club also represents Harris Manchester College.
  7. Christ Church Boat Club also represents Kellogg College.
  8. Magdalen College Boat Club also represents All Souls College.

## ii. Exclusivity

1. An athlete may only compete in Bumps as a non-associate member of one College Boat Club in any academic year.
  2. In the ambiguous cases above, Clinical Medical students may choose to compete either for their College Boat Club, or for Osler House.
  3. Female members of Blackfriars may choose to compete for either St Benet's or Regent's Park.
  4. Participation in an event shall be regarded as having decided which College Boat Club to row under as a non-associate.
- c. In addition to university statutes on definitions of 'Transgender', OURCs defines a trans rower as any rower who does not wholly identify with the gender they were assigned at birth, regardless of whether any medical transition steps have been taken or not.
- i. Under no circumstances can any rower be compelled to disclose any medical history to OURCs or the committee of any event run under these rules
  - ii. In accordance with University Policy (time of writing January 2019), 'At less competitive levels trans people should be permitted to participate in their affirmed gender identity'. Rowing at College level is considered by OURCs to be a less competitive level and therefore this standard will be upheld, but athletes are advised if they wish to enter higher level sporting events this may not be the case.
  - iii. The following rule is included in order to comply with BR regulations, but is a standard we do not deem necessary to uphold, and people who do not meet these criteria may still row in the division they align themselves with as stated in A1.1.3 a-b. Athletes that are medically transitioning to Female, in accordance with British Rowing policy, may change their gender records (system currently being looked into and updated in accordance with University standards and Data Protection Rules, The webmaster will be consulted in regards to changing the entry system to allow trans athletes to enter a race as the gender they identify as.) if they are willing and able to provide evidence to the Rowing Sabbatical Officer or appropriate University/Sport Department staff member, as advised by the Rowing Sabbatical Officer, in accordance with British Rowing's Transgender and Transsexual Policy (Reference 2).
    1. A club or other individual may not, under any circumstances, compel an athlete to make this provision, regardless of whether they fulfil this requirement. This rule shall supersede any other rule regarding eligibility of trans athletes and therefore any athlete who has made these provisions will be directed to the general rules of racing.
  - iv. Any athlete assigned female at birth who wishes to compete in open divisions can compete without the need to take any additional steps.

<https://ourcs.co.uk/organisation/racing/> 3/27

26/09/2023, 11:00 OURCs: Rules of Racing

- v. Any athlete assigned male at birth who wishes to compete in women's crews are advised to inform OURCs about their trans status at least 48 hours before the first day of races commences. This is intended to protect trans rowers from discrimination and appeals on the grounds of gender, and deter clubs from abusing these rules.
  1. The athlete is advised to inform a member of OURC's (ideally the ratified event SUs, Secretary or Rowing Sabbatical Officer) before the first event in which they are entered. This is advised to be done with the support of or through a club official, where the

athlete's explicit permission has been given. The athlete shall advise who they are willing to be told about their status and what shall be the response to appeals related to their gender. The athlete shall be made aware that this disclosure may be shared with relevant race desk committee members in case of the original members informed absence during race day, but any disclosure shall be kept to the minimum number of committee members.

2. Any trans athlete that does not wish to disclose their trans status to any member of their boat club committee may contact OURC's through a college or university LGBTQ+ rep, or in the case they do not wish to disclose to any of the above they may directly inform OURCs.
  3. For events under these rules not run by OURCs, the athlete shall inform the event committee (ideally the event secretary) as above. They may inform the event directly, or through their club, an LGBTQ+ rep, or through OURCs, in which case the athlete's explicit permission must have been given. The athlete shall advise who they are willing to be told about their status and what shall be the response to appeals about their gender.
  4. An appeal against an entry on the grounds of ineligibility of a trans athlete before the commencement of racing may only be made to a ratified Senior Umpire, who may choose to consult the University Equality and diversity unit. The appeal may only be made on the grounds that the Rules of Racing have not been adhered to. This decision shall be final unless appealed to and edited by the OURCs Senior Member.
  5. Any appeal or complaint querying the gender of an athlete, where said athlete has informed the event secretary or relevant parties of their trans status, shall automatically be dismissed. In this case, the athlete's desired response to an appeal shall be given to the appealing party. If the athlete has not specified, the appealing party shall be informed no rules have been breached.
- vi. Abuse of rules relating to trans athletes shall be treated as severely as warranted under university policies, and will carry additional penalties enforced by the OURCs committee.
1. Any appeal that queries a women's crew member's gender shall immediately be escalated to a ratified Senior Umpire, who shall apply A1.1.c.v.5 if possible. If A1.1.c.v.5 does not apply, the club captain/president may be contacted to help resolve the appeal. All possible tact and politeness shall be used.

vii. The below are included for reference (valid HT19)

1. The University Policy defines 'Transgender' (trans) as any in the following groups; 'People who are taking or have taken steps to change the gender identity they were assigned at birth. This includes people covered by the Equality Act definition: "A person has the protected characteristic of gender reassignment if the person is proposing to undergo, is undergoing or has undergone a process (or part of a process) for the purpose of reassigning the person's sex by changing physiological or other attributes of sex." People who do not identify with a permanent binary gender identity, including those who identify in other ways, such as genderqueer, gender variant, non-binary or agender. These terminologies are evolving and highly personal and this list is not exhaustive

<https://ourcs.co.uk/organisation/racing/> 4/27

26/09/2023, 11:00 OURCs: Rules of Racing

2. The BR Transexual and Transgender Policy; At time of writing (January 2019), this stated "May compete in her affirmed gender in female or mixed sex domestic competition by providing evidence that her hormone therapy has brought her blood-measured testosterone levels within the range of her affirmed gender."

d. Any motion to amend the above rules must be brought in accordance with the procedural rules associated with a constitutional alteration under ~~1.11.5~~ 1.11.e.

## 2. Transfers

- a. Where a bona fide student, visiting student, or fellow eligible under A1.1.a.ii.1 of college A has been a student member of College Boat Club B (as defined in A1.1.a.i.1) and wishes to have membership of College Boat Club B, the student or fellow may be transferred by the following procedure:
- i. ~~T~~he student or fellow must provide to the OURCs Sabbatical Officer:
    1. ~~T~~heir name;
    2. ~~D~~etails of the type of University card they hold, and the number;
    3. ~~W~~ritten permission of the captains of both College Boat Club A and B. In the event of college A not having an affiliated Boat Club, permission is only required from the ~~e~~Captains of College Boat Club B, and;
    4. ~~P~~roof of academic status, including the finishing date for their course of study or fellowship. An enrolment certificate signed by the Senior Tutor, or equivalent, will be acceptable.
  - ii. ~~A~~t the next Captain's Meeting, the OURCs Sabbatical Officer will include a list of transfers requested under this section on the agenda that have been received before the publishing of that agenda.;
  - iii. ~~A~~t the next Captain's Meeting, the ~~e~~Captains will be given the opportunity to register their objection to the transfer. Objections may only be based upon one of the following:
    1. The student or fellow is not a bona fide student, visiting student, or fellow eligible under A1.1.a.ii.1 of college A; or
    2. The student or fellow has not been a student member of College Boat Club B (as defined in A1.1.a.i.1).
  - iv. ~~I~~n the event of an objection, the OURCs Sabbatical Officer will resolve whether or not the transfer can be brought under this section. This must be resolved before the end of the meeting in which the motion was raised. and;
  - v. ~~T~~ransfers have effect from the end of the Captain's Meeting at which they are announced by the OURCs Sabbatical Officer. The student or fellow will no longer be eligible to row with ~~e~~College Boat Club A in OURCs events except as an associate member, unless they transfer back to the ~~e~~College Boat Club where they are currently a bona fide student, visiting student, or fellow eligible under A1.1.a.ii.1.
- b. A bona fide student, visiting student, or fellow eligible under A1.1.a.ii.1 of a college without a respective College Boat Club (including under rule A1.1.b.i) may transfer to a College Boat Club of his/her choice (hereafter known as College Boat Club A) by the following procedure:
- i. A transfer in this way may only be granted to a student that has not competed in an OURCs event for any College Boat Club previously. Otherwise they should be expected to transfer under A1.2.a.
  - ii. The student or fellow must provide to the OURCs Sabbatical Officer:
    1. Their name;
    2. Details of the type of University card they hold, and the number;
    3. Written permission of the relevant captain of College Boat Club A;
    4. Proof of academic status, including the finishing date for their course of study or



fellowship. An enrolment certificate signed by the Senior Tutor, or equivalent, will be acceptable.

- iii. At the next Captain's Meeting, the OURCs Sabbatical Officer will include a list of transfers requested under this section on the agenda that have been received before the publishing of that agenda.
  - iv. At the next Captain's Meeting, the captains will be given the opportunity to register their objection to the transfer. Objections may only be based upon one of the following:
    1. The student or fellow is not a bona fide student, visiting student, or fellow eligible under A1.1.a.ii.1 of his/her original college; or
    2. The student or fellow has previously competed in an OURCs event for any College Boat Club previously.
  - v. In the event of an objection, the OURCs Sabbatical Officer will resolve whether or not the transfer can be brought under this section. This must be resolved before the end of the meeting in which the motion was raised.
  - vi. Transfers have effect from the end of the Captain's Meeting at which they are announced by the OURCs Sabbatical Officer. The student will no longer be eligible to transfer in this way again, even if he/she does not compete in OURCs events for College Boat Club A, except in extraordinary circumstances (for example, the closure of the ~~b~~Boat ~~e~~Club), where a transfer may be granted following a majority vote at a Captain's' Meeting.
- c. Where a bona fide student, visiting student, or fellow eligible under A1.1.a.ii.1 of ~~e~~College Boat Club A has competed as an associate member of ~~College Boat e~~Club B (as defined in A1.1.a.iv) and wishes to have membership of College Boat Club B, the student may be transferred by the following procedure:
- i. A transfer in this way may only be granted to a student or fellow that has learned to row with College Boat Club B as an associate without student status (in accordance with University Statute II) but has since gained student or fellowship status.
    1. The student or fellow must provide to the Rowing Sabbatical Officer:
      - a. ~~T~~their name;
      - b. ~~D~~etails of the type of University card they hold, and the number;
      - c. ~~W~~ritten permis~~i~~sion of the captains of both College Boat Club A and B. In the event of college A not having an affiliated Boat Club, permission is only required from the ~~e~~Captains of College Boat Club B;
      - d. ~~P~~roof of academic status, including the finishing date for their course of study or fellowship. An enrolment certificate signed by the Senior Tutor, or equivalent, will be acceptable.
    2. At the next Captains' Meeting, the Rowing Sabbatical Officer will include a list of transfers requested this section on the agenda that have been received before the publishing of that agenda.
    3. At the next Captains' Meeting, ~~the a e~~Captain of College Boat Club B presents their case to the assembled ~~e~~Captains, explaining the circumstances of their request and objections can be raised for one of the following reason:
      - a. ~~T~~he student or fellow is not a bona fide student, visiting student, or fellow eligible under A1.1.a.ii.1 of college A; or
      - b. ~~T~~he student or fellow was a bona fide student (in accordance with University Statute

II) of a different college during their time as an associate at College Boat Club B; or

c. ~~F~~the student or fellow had rowed previously to being an associate member of College Boat Club B; or

d. ~~F~~the student or fellow did not compete in an OURCs event for College Boat Club B.

4. If there are no objections, a vote to allow the transfer will be held and passes with a simple majority.

5. In the event of an objection, the Rowing Sabbatical Officer will resolve whether or not the transfer can be brought under this section. This must be resolved before the end of the meeting in which the motion was raised.

6. Transfers have effect from the end of the Captains' Meeting at which they are announced by the OURCs Sabbatical Officer. The student or fellow will no longer be eligible to row with college A in OURCs events except as an associate member, unless they transfer back to the college where they are currently a bona fide student, visiting student, or fellow eligible under A1.1.a.ii.1.

d. Any motion to amend the above rules must be brought in accordance with the procedural rules associated with a constitutional alteration under ~~1.11.5~~ 1.11.e.

### 3. Race Secretary

a. The Race Secretary for each event shall be responsible for the overall organisation of the event. Their duties shall be to:

i. Fix the dates, entry fees, entry deadlines and scratch deadlines for each event, and to obtain permission from the Captains and the local clubs to close the river for the event.

ii. To supply this information to the Captains either via the Rowing Captains' Mailing List or the OURCs website, and to open entries to the event via the OURCs entries system at least 3 weeks before the event (generally entries for Torpids and Eights will open 4 weeks before);

iii. Appoint an Event Committee and nominate the Senior Umpire(s) for the event. Those eligible to be nominated for Torpids and Eights shall have been ratified by a Captains' ~~m~~Meeting within the past academic year, except during racing when a Senior Umpire may be appointed with the agreement of the ratified Senior Umpires and the Race Secretary;

iv. Make crew-lists available for inspection during the event;

v. In conjunction with the Senior Umpire, make modifications to the format of the event either before or during the event to ensure that the maximal amount of racing may take place, ~~and~~;

vi. Maintain a list of fines incurred during the event and to convey these to the OURCs Treasurer, who will notify the relevant clubs.

### 4. Event Committee

a. The Event Committee shall be responsible for the running of each OURCs event. In addition, this committee shall have the authority to:

i. ~~D~~decide, in conjunction with the Senior Umpires, Boatmen, Area Safety Officer (Sport), and on the advice of the EA, whether conditions are safe for the event to be held, and, if necessary, alter the race format to meet safety requirements;

ii. ~~A~~alter the rules of the river for the duration of the event;

iii. ~~R~~require participating Boat Clubs to supply umpires and marshals for specified periods;

iv. ~~R~~require participating Boat Clubs to restrict the number of persons (including cyclists)

- accompanying crews on the towpath side;
- v. **R**require participating coxes and at least one officer from each College Boat Club to attend preparatory meetings;
  - vi. **P**perform identification spot checks to ensure crews comply with the entry and starting requirements as set out in A1.6 and A1.8.
  - vii. **H**impose fines on Boat Clubs for not complying with the above rules or the event plan, such fines to be confirmed by the Race Secretary, who (or another member of Committee, typically the OURCs Treasurer) shall notify the Colleges involved by midnight of that day's racing. Where fines are incurred on the Saturday of a bumps regatta, the clubs must be notified by midnight of the following Saturday.
  - viii. **H**impose other penalties such as disqualification; time penalties, penalty bumps, demotion of coxes, or suspension of a cox (on the advice of the Captain of Coxes) or crew from racing, for dangerous conduct or violations of rules of racing.
  - ix. **A**any member of the Event Committee may make a decision under rules A1.7 (ordinary substitutions), A1.10 (registration of disputes), and A1.10.b (action to be taken upon the registration of a dispute). Decisions made under rules A1.7.c (extraordinary substitutions), A3.14 (technical bumps), A3.15 (penalty bumps), A3.16 (row-overs), A3.7.e (time penalties in Rowing On), and A3.7.f (time bonuses in Rowing On) shall be made by a Race Committee comprised of a minimum of three neutral members of the Event Committee with an appeal lying only to the Senior Umpire in accordance with A1.10 (disputes procedure).

## 5. Senior Umpire

- a. The Race Secretary for each event shall appoint at least one Senior Umpire.
- b. For Torpids and Eights it is presumed that all ratified senior umpires will be appointed.
- c. Once ratified, a Senior Umpire shall only be removed by a vote of a Captains' meeting, except during racing when a Senior Umpire may be removed by the Race Secretary and a majority of the other ratified Senior Umpires acting together.
- d. In accordance with the event plan for Torpids and Eights, a person shall be eligible for ratification as a Senior Umpire following a suitable period of training by the existing ratified Senior Umpires.
- e. At any one point during racing, one senior umpire will be known to be on duty and acting as the Senior Umpire with regard to A1.5.h.ii or A1.5.h.iii.
- f. The ratified senior umpires will consult with each other and act wherever possible collectively and by agreement under A1.5.h.1.
- g. The ratified senior umpires will agree a coordinating senior umpire to act on their behalf as necessary under A1.5.h.iv before racing, though the duty Senior Umpire shall operate A1.5.h during the hours of racing.
- h. The Senior Umpire has the authority to:
  - i. Interpret the OURCs rules in the event of any dispute, such a ruling to be binding;
 

<https://ourcs.co.uk/organisation/racing/8/27>
  - ii. Make the operational decision as to when it is safe for each race to start;
  - iii. Exclude any crew deemed not ready to start at the designated time or with unpaid fines under A1.8.c;
  - iv. With the Secretary, make modifications to the format of racing, either before or during the event, in accordance with the approved event plan and risk assessment to ensure that the

maximal amount of safe racing may take place.

- v. To exclude from racing any crew deemed unsafe or unfit to race.

## 6. Entry Requirements

- a. All crews entered for OURCs events shall:

- i. Represent a single Member Club as recognised under 1.4 unless entering as a composite crew as defined in A1.12
- ii. Consist entirely of members of that Member Boat Club (or in the case of a composite crew, the two member boat clubs) as classified under A1.1.a.
- iii. Accept:
  - 1. the rules of racing;
  - 2. the event plan;
  - 3. the risk assessment;
  - 4. the contingencies specified in the above three items as published on the OURCs website at the start of the event, as binding during the competition.
- iv. Enter entirely at their own risk, taking into account the nature of the event and the Event Plan published on the OURCs website by the relevant Event Committee.
- v. Boat as was named on the entry form, taking in to account any substitutions made in accord with A1.7

- b. Any licenced cox, regardless of gender, may cox any boat.

- c. Anyone, regardless of gender, may row in a Men's boat.

## 7. Substitutions

- a. All substitutes must be recorded as having passed a swim test on the OURCs swim-test database. b. All substitutions must be made and completed before a crew boats for its race.
- c. For events with 'Extra-ordinary' substitutions, a substitution is not considered complete until it has been checked and signed by a member of Event Committee.
- d. It is the responsibility of the captains of member clubs to ensure that such substitutes are legal, noting specifically that the online system may not recognise an illegal substitute. All substitutions approved, whether regular or extra-ordinary, are conditional on the validity of the information provided. In the instance of a substitution being subsequently discovered to be in breach of any of the rules regarding substitutions for that event, the substitute will be considered ineligible to race and the crew will face penalty from the Event Committee.

## 8. Starting Requirements

- a. The crew and boat must conform to the safety requirements as detailed in 2.3, 2.4 of the OURCs Code of Conduct.
- b. The crew must conform to the rules on entry requirements and substitutions.

<https://ourcs.co.uk/organisation/racing/9/27>

26/09/2023, 11:00 OURCs: Rules of Racing

- c. No boat shall be allowed to start in a race with more or less than its full crew and, having started, no crew member may voluntarily leave the boat.
- d. Crews must row with blades recognisable as belonging to their Member Club, unless they have the permission of the Race Secretary to do otherwise.

## 9. Identification

- a. To assist in resolving disputes over crew identification, the following rules will apply:
  - i. Coxswains shall be required to be in possession of identification for all crewmembers while they are on the water. Such identification must contain a picture of the person being identified. A University card or coxing permit will be sufficient.
  - ii. Such identification may be used by the Event Committee for adjudication in the event of a dispute concerning crew composition.
  - iii. Lack of identification may result in automatic loss of a dispute over crew composition.
  - iv. Complaints about crew composition must be made while the allegedly offending crew is still on the water.

## 10. Disputes Procedure

- a. Registration of complaints or appeals can be made directly to the Event Committee at Race Desk, or via a marshal with a radio.
- b. The procedure for handling complaints or appeals is as follows:
  - i. Complaints against other crews must be registered with the Event Committee within 10 minutes of the end of the race.
  - ii. Appeals against routine Event Committee decisions (i.e. excluding those treated as resolutions of disputes) must be registered with the Event Committee within 10 minutes of the announced decision. The Captain, or nominated representative of the appealing boat club may withdraw the appeal up until the appeal is decided by the Race Committee.
  - iii. Having been notified of a complaint or an appeal, the Event Committee shall inform all crews whose result is affected by the appeal, who must send their representative(s) to Race Desk to provide evidence for their case. In exceptional circumstances, people can contact Race Desk by phone or by other means such as the Race Secretary may announce. The Event Committee shall collect evidence as follows:
    1. Evidence will be formally accepted and initialled by a member of the Event Committee.
    2. Written evidence must be provided within 20 minutes of the announcement of the appeal.
    3. Photographic or video evidence must be registered with the Event Committee within 20 minutes of the announcement of the appeal and provided as soon as possible thereafter.
    4. If evidence delays will disrupt later races, the Event Committee may impose a deadline for providing evidence no shorter than the 20 minute window.
    5. In all other cases, the Event Committee shall consult each provider of evidence and then set a reasonable deadline for providing the evidence which, under most circumstances, should be early enough for the dispute to be resolved before the opening of the river after racing.

<https://ourcs.co.uk/organisation/racing/> 10/27

26/09/2023, 11:00 OURCs: Rules of Racing

6. Additional evidence may be submitted after the passing of a deadline or without prior registration if such evidence has been directly and independently requested by the race committee that is sitting to resolve the appeal or at the request of the Senior Umpires if they

believe additional evidence should be considered for an appeal being made to them.

- iv. All disputes shall be resolved by a Race Committee comprised of a minimum of 3 neutral members of the Event Committee. When ruling on an initial appeal, the Race Committee shall treat the appeal as a challenge to the original decision at first instance. Evidence must be provided that supports the need to overturn or to re-consider it (including an error by the original decision-maker or new evidence). In the absence of such evidence, the original decision should stand.
  - v. The only grounds for appeal against the Race Committee ruling on a complaint or initial appeal are if the OURCs rules have not been adhered to, in which case the appeal must be registered with the Senior Umpire, stating the rule(s) in question, within 10 minutes of the Race Committee ruling.
  - vi. In the event of the Senior Umpire not being neutral in an appeal against a Race Committee ruling (including the grounds of having been involved in the original ruling), another Senior Umpire or an agreed member of the Event Committee shall be appointed to act as Senior Umpire to rule on the appeal.
  - vii. The Senior Umpire shall have the authority to interpret the OURCs rules, and may make a ruling as to whether the race committee decision adheres to those rules. The SU may re-submit the appeal to the race committee to re-decide within the rules, or order it to be considered by an alternative race committee if appropriate. Nothing in A1.10 shall be read as permitting a Senior Umpire at appeal to decide the facts, nor validates a decision by any person or persons that is outside of the rules.
- c. Appeals against racing fines must be registered with the OURCs Treasurer within 24 hours of being issued. No appeal will be considered after this point.

## 11. Equipment

- a. Use of any electronic device which facilitates communication with a racing crew by any person not in the boat is prohibited, with the exception of the following:
  - i. On-duty members of the event committee
  - ii. With the permission of the race secretary
- b. Cyclists shall not use any item or device (such as a mobile telephone or hand-held video camera) that prevents them from paying due care and attention to their cycling. Cyclists shall have all hands available to control their bicycle at all times while cycling during a race.

## 12. Composite Crews

- a. Two College Boat Clubs as defined in 1.4 may form a composite crew which must consist of four athletes who are members of one boat club and five athletes who are members of the other boat club.
- b. The Race Secretary shall decide whether composites will be permitted in a given regatta and shall inform the captains of their decision before entries open.
- c. A boat club may only enter one composite boat per gender per regatta.
- d. Written permission from the captains of both boat clubs to form the composite must be received by the Race Secretary before the entry deadline. Any composite crew for which permission from both clubs has not been received by the entry deadline shall be automatically scratched

<https://ourcs.co.uk/organisation/racing/> 11/27

- e. Composites must be clearly indicated as such on the Entry System, with the two clubs forming the composite also noted.

- f. Composites are expected to be entered on the Entry System as, and use the equipment of, the constituent club that the cox is a member of unless they have informed the Race Secretary of their intention to do otherwise.

## A2. Rules of Autumn Fours:

## A3. Rules of bumps racing:

### 1. Dates

- a. Unless resolved otherwise by a Captains' Meeting,
- i. Torpids shall be held from Wednesday to Saturday of 7th week of Hilary Term, except for those years in which it clashes with the Women's Eights Head when it shall be held from Wednesday to Saturday of 6th week of Hilary Term.
  - ii. Eights shall be held from Wednesday to Saturday of 5th week of Trinity Term.

### 2. Divisions

- a. Unless resolved otherwise by a Captains' Meeting or the Event Committee:
- i. Torpids shall consist of 6 Men's divisions and 6 Women's divisions. The top 4 Men's divisions and the top 4 Women's divisions shall be designated "Fixed Divisions" and the remainder "Rowing On Divisions";.
  - ii. Eights shall consist of 7 Men's divisions and 7 Women's divisions, with the top 4 Men's divisions and the top 4 Women's divisions designated "Fixed Divisions", and the remainder "Rowing On Divisions".
  - iii. Fixed Divisions shall consist of 12 boats, plus the "Sandwich Boat". Rowing-On Divisions shall be of variable size not exceeding 12 boats plus the sandwich boat (or in the bottom division, 13 boats), depending on entry numbers, to be determined and announced by the Event Secretary and Senior Umpires following the close of entries. Men's and Women's Rowing-On Divisions for a given event need not be of the same size.
  - iv. Divisions to be raced in descending order numerically with Men's and Women's divisions in alternating order.
    1. Under normal circumstances, the Race Secretary shall alternate the gender of the last scheduled division between Torpids and Summer Eights, and between academic years.
  - v. The boat that finishes first in each division may row as "Sandwich Boat" at the bottom of the next highest division in the same day's racing.
  - vi. The boat finishing at the bottom of each division shall row at the head of the next lowest division the next day.
  - vii. Divisions 1, 2, and 3 shall be designated "Senior Divisions".
  - viii. All boats competing shall be stern-coxed Eights.

### 3. Eligibility

- a. In addition to the general entry requirements for OURCs events listed in A1.6:
- i. University squad rowers and coxes are not allowed to compete in Torpids if they have been selected for a Boat Race crew (this does not include designated spares), or if, in the instance of their squad not having made its selection before Torpids, they are still in contention for a seat in a crew. A squad rower may compete in Torpids as a cox and a squad cox may compete as a rower.

- ii. No person may row in two crews or cox two crews, although it is permitted to row in one crew and cox another. This does not include crews which have failed to row on under rule A3.7.
- iii. All crewmembers must be listed as having passed on the OURCs swim test database.

#### 4. Composite Crews

<https://ourcs.co.uk/organisation/racing/> 13/27

26/09/2023, 11:00 OURCs: Rules of Racing

- a. In addition to the Composite Crew rules in A1.12, composite crews in a bumps regatta:
  - i. must be coxed by a full member of one of the two boat clubs forming the composite unless:
    - 1. permission has been granted by the Race Secretary and OURCs Captain of Coxes for the crew to be coxed by an associate member of one of the two boat clubs. Permission for an associate cox shall only be given on safety grounds. The Race Secretary and Captain of Coxes must be informed of the need for an associate cox on safety grounds at least a week before Rowing On is scheduled to take place. An associate cox in a composite boat shall not count towards the associate limit of either of the two constituent clubs.
    - 2. by extraordinary substitution, as detailed in A3.5e.
  - ii. must consist entirely of rowers who are full members of one of the two constituent boat clubs
  - iii. shall only be permitted in Women's divisions
  - iv. must be the lowest Women's boat for both constituent clubs
  - v. may only enter as a Rowing On crew
  - vi. will be removed from the Finishing Order and shall not retain their place from year to year.
- b. One additional seat may be filled by an athlete who is a full member of one of the two constituent boat clubs for one day of racing as an extraordinary substitution, as detailed in A3.5e.

#### 5. Substitutions

- a. Substitutions fall under two categories; regular and extra-ordinary.
- b. If substitutes conform to the entry requirements, then that substitute is considered regular. Any substitution that does not so conform is to be considered extra-ordinary. This includes swapping a rower between crews.
- c. Coxing substitutions that are within the defined coxing restrictions, which may be relaxed for poor conditions, are deemed regular but must still be done in accordance with A1.7. All coxes must be on the OURCs cox database.
- d. Regular substitutions will be approved by the Event Committee upon receipt of the information required and having confirmed that they conform to the rules of racing.
- e. Extra-ordinary substitutes may be permitted at the discretion of a Race Committee in circumstances including, but not limited to, sudden injury:
  - i. The Race Committee shall first determine whether the circumstances presented by the college are defined as extraordinary and, once this test is passed, shall apply either A3.5.e.ii (in the case of coxes) or A3.5.e.iii to A3.5.e.vi (in the case of rowers). Following that process, A3.5.e.vii to A3.5.e.ix shall be applied in all cases.
  - ii. The Race Committee should be provided with a summary of the proposed cox's experience, and have the right to reject the substitution if the cox does not have the necessary experience for the division they will race in. Where an extraordinary coxing substitution is required, full member coxes will be permitted to cox more than one boat from their club on any one given



day. Associates may be allowed to cox boats in fixed divisions at the Race Committee's discretion, provided they otherwise meet the requirements of the event and the club has demonstrated they have no suitable full-member coxes.

iii. If a rower in a given boat is injured, it is encouraged that a rower from a lower boat is substituted up; further consequential substitutions of this type are equally encouraged such that the vacant seat is in the college's lowest boat. It is not expected that men's crews substitute a rower from a fixed division boat in a women's division.

<https://ourcs.co.uk/organisation/racing/> 14/27

26/09/2023, 11:00 OURCs: Rules of Racing

iv. It is expected that this vacancy is then resolved by the use of a regular substitution; examples include: the use of any associate rowers; or the use of rowers of either gender (where applicable) that failed to Row On.

v. If the college's lowest boat for that gender is in a Rowing On division, and all three associate member slots are in use, a fourth associate member will be permitted. If this boat is in a fixed division, an associate member may be permitted at the discretion of the Race Committee.

vi. In each of the cases in A3.5.e.iii-A3.5.e.v, the associate member must provide the Race Committee with a summary of their previous rowing experience. If this is judged to be an enhancement to the crew, then the substitution will be refused.

vii. If this associate member is eligible to row with another college boat club as a non-associate as detailed in A1.1.a, then written or oral permission must be given by the relevant club captain, and the decision is still at the discretion of the Race Committee.

viii. If an extra-ordinary substitution is permitted, this must be announced, most often through the tannoy, between 60 and 5 minutes before the relevant division(s) are due to start. Appeals may be lodged at any point until 10 minutes after the results have been announced.

ix. It is at the discretion of the Event Committee to allow any person who has been moved to a higher-ranked boat to move back down to their original boat on subsequent days. This permission will not be granted in the case of Rowing On

f. Where a competitor for any day (excluding Rowing On) has a race time which clashes with a university examination or viva, an 'examination substitution' will automatically be permitted under the extraordinary substitution rules, under the following conditions:

i. A clashing examination or viva is defined as an exam or viva which finishes within 90 minutes of the expected division start time or starts within two hours of the expected start time of the affected competitor's division.

ii. A copy of the affected competitor's timetable must be submitted to the race committee by either a time and date explicitly declared prior by the event committee, or 23:59 on the Sunday prior to the first BUMPs race affected. Submission must occur along with a cover note explaining the timings of the clash and the intended substitution or chain of substitutions.

iii. The substituting competitor must be eligible to row in the crew they are substituting into under the normal rules of racing.

iv. The substituting competitor must be ordinarily competing with a lower-ranked crew of the same college.

v. Competitors being substituted under this rule can only compete in one crew on any given racing day.

vi. Further chains-of-substitutions needed to fill resulting gaps in lower-crews can be approved and submitted as a slate subject to the same criteria in A3.5.f.ii through to A3.5.f.v.

vii. Competitors substituted under this rule will be allowed to return to their original crews on

later days.

- viii. Applications made under this rule will be approved by the Race Committee unless they have a reason to believe it is being made in bad faith or to gain an unfair competitive advantage.

## 6. Associate Members

- a. Associate Members' of College Boat Clubs may compete in bumps races subject to the following restrictions:

<https://ourcs.co.uk/organisation/racing/> 15/27

26/09/2023, 11:00 OURCs: Rules of Racing

- i. Each College Boat Club is permitted three seats filled with associate members in its Men's crews, and three seats filled with associate members in its Women's crews.
  - ii. Associate members may only compete in Rowing On crews, unless a College Boat Club has no qualified Rowing On crews, not including composite crews, for that gender.
  - iii. If a College Boat Club has no qualified Rowing On crews, not including composites, for a given gender, associate members may only compete in the College Boat Club's lowest crew of that gender provided it is not in a Senior Division, including Sandwich boats, at the start of the competition.
  - iv. If a College Boat Club's lowest crew for a given gender is in a Senior Division at the start of the competition, specific permission to compete as an associate member in that crew must be given by a majority vote at a Captain' meeting. The Associate Member(s) in question must be named in the proposed motion. All other Associate Member rules must still be followed.
  - v. Anyone wishing to appear as an Associate Member for one College Boat Club who is eligible to appear for another College Boat Club must have the signed written permission of both College Boat Club Captains concerned, specifically given for that event/regatta.
- b. Associate Members must be indicated as such on the OURCs Entry System.
- c. Associate members may not compete in composite crews other than as specified in A3.4 7.

## Rowing On

- a. All crews who did not finish in a fixed division in the final finishing order of the previous competition including insertions (as described by A3.17.b) will be required to qualify by 'Rowing On'.
- b. Rowing On races shall be held as an OURCs event under the jurisdiction of the Event Committee with the powers defined in A1.4.
- c. Rowing On races shall normally take place on the Friday before Torpids, and the Saturday before Summer Eights.
- d. Rowing On races shall be timed rows with a rolling start, measured from Longbridges raft to a semaphore placed approximately midway between Univ Boathouse and the Head, with the fastest crews to qualify.
- e. Crews being overtaken during Rowing On are required to give way. Failure to do so may result in a time penalty.
- f. Crews impeded by other craft during Rowing On may be awarded a time bonus.
- g. In the event of crews having an equal time and if this affects the starting order or the number of qualifying crews, the crews involved may organise a private rerow and notify the Event Committee of the result.
- h. Crews failing to Row On shall be refunded two-thirds of their entry fee.

- i. All members of crews succeeding in Rowing On, irrespective of whether they were properly entered as part of that crew, shall be subject to the restrictions of rule A3.3.a.ii as if they were a bona fide part of that crew.
- j. Results
  - i. Rowing On results shall become finalised on midnight of the following day, after which no further appeals will be considered and the Event Committee shall resolve any remaining ties by ballot.
  - ii. The only exception to this is in the event of a technical bump being awarded to a Rowing On crew, in which case the bump (and any attendant appeals and refusals, as defined in A1.4a.ix and A3.14) shall be applied on the first day of Bumps Proper.
  - iii. The slowest Men's crew, and the slowest Women's crew, shall automatically be deemed not to have qualified, even if the event is otherwise undersubscribed, and may not be subsequently invited to race under A3.8.d or A3.8.f
- k. The Senior Umpires shall exclude, regardless of qualifying time, any crew which does not demonstrate the minimum standard of safety; such crews will be deemed to have failed to row on. In making this evaluation, the SUs will consider:
  - i. Rowing all 8 for the whole course
  - ii. Steering competently and obeying marshalling rules
  - iii. Not catching multiple crabs
  - iv. Evidently attempting to race (i.e. rowing the whole course at rate)
  - v. The Senior Umpires shall also consider excluding any crew finishing more than 30 seconds behind the next-slowest crew, and any crews finishing behind that crew.

## 8. Withdrawals

- a. The Race Secretary should be notified, in writing, of any withdrawals.
- b. Any crew withdrawn prior to 08:00 AM on the Thursday before Rowing On, or, in the absence of Rowing On races, prior to 08:00 AM on the Thursday before the bumps race starts, shall be refunded their full entry fee, and regarded as 'not entered'.
- c. In the event of a crew withdrawn after the deadline in A3.8.b, but before the Starting Order is finalised, the crew shall be removed entirely from the Starting Order and NOT REINSERTED into the Final Finishing Order, all other crews moved up one place and the fastest crew failing to Row On shall be invited to start at the bottom of the lowest division.
- d. In the event of the Senior Umpires permitting early or late withdrawals from bumps races on safety grounds, arising from a significant loss of river time to colleges, such crews will maintain their places in the Final Finishing Order without penalty. A request for such a withdrawal must be made in writing and signed by the club captain.
- e. Crews withdrawing after the Start Order is finalised, or failing to boat for their race are withdrawn from the competition and not reinserted into the Final Finishing Order. Crews in the division are moved up one place and a bungline left empty at the bottom of the division for the day's racing. In the Start Order for the following day all other crews are moved up one place and the fastest crew failing to Row On shall be invited to start at the bottom of the lowest division.
- f. The Event Committee may decide to allow a crew to withdraw for one day of racing.
  - i. In Eights, the withdrawn crew's bungline is left empty and the crew subject to a technical bump as in A3.14.

- ii. In Torpids, the crew may be reinserted the following day a number of places lower by the discretion of the Event Committee based on the reasons for withdrawal. Other crews in the division are moved up one place and a bungline left empty at the bottom of the division for the day's racing.

## 9. Starting Order

- a. A Provisional Starting Order shall be prepared by the Event Committee as soon as possible after the Rowing On races and shall be circulated to all College Captains.

<https://ourcs.co.uk/organisation/racing/> 17/27

26/09/2023, 11:00 OURCs: Rules of Racing

- b. Having moved up all crews to fill spaces caused by crews not entering or withdrawn under A3.8, or not qualifying in Rowing On, the starting order shall be:
  - i. The finishing order of the previous year.
  - ii. New entries succeeding in qualifying, inserted, in random order, at the bottom of the Rowing On division.
- c. Crews from each College Boat Club shall be numbered sequentially in the first day's starting order, regardless of their designations in the previous year's finishing order or their Rowing On finishing positions.
- d. Unless Captains request otherwise, their own College Boat Club's crews in the Rowing On divisions will be allocated places in order of qualifying speed.
- e. The starting order shall be finalised at midnight before each day's racing, unless it is deemed necessary to postpone finalisation by the SUs for good reason, for example, the unavoidable over running of appeals. Until this point, the provisional starting order may be amended in the event of further withdrawals, appeal results, or clerical errors.
- f. The Starting Order may be amended through a motion passed in a Captains' Meeting for the following reasons:
  - i. When a newly-founded boat club or side plans to enter multiple boats in the competition, to insert its first boat at the bottom of the second to last division (or at the top of the new entrants, whichever is higher), subject to successfully qualifying in Rowing On.
  - ii. When incontrovertible evidence, which must be provided to the Captains' Meeting, demonstrates that a crew raced with an ineligible athlete, to move that crew downward by a maximum of 12 places.
  - iii. When a Rowing On crew which competed in the previous year requests to be treated as a new entrant under A3.9.b.ii.
  - iv. When the OURCs Senior Member brings a motion to amend the Starting Order
- g. Any motion to amend the Starting Order or to alter the rules governing the Starting Order in A3.8 and A3.9 must be brought in accordance with the procedural rules associated with a constitutional alteration under 1.11.

## 10. Starting Procedure

- a. Each boat shall be started from a rope 50 feet in length (known as a bungline), held by the coxswain, the other end of the rope to be fastened to a post or bolt on the towpath.
- b. The distance between each starting post shall be 130 feet.
- c. Divisions in bumping races shall be raced at intervals of not less than 25 minutes and not more than 45 minutes (unless safety dictates otherwise).

- d. Not less than five minutes before the start of the division, the Senior Umpire shall order the firing of the 'Five Minute Gun'.
- e. Four minutes later, or later if safety dictates, the Senior Umpire shall order the firing of the 'One Minute Gun'.
- f. One minute later, another gun shall be fired to signal the start.
- g. If the Starting Gun has not fired within seventy seconds from the One Minute Gun the Senior Umpire will notify crews that the sequence of guns shall be repeated from the One Minute Gun.

<https://ourcs.co.uk/organisation/racing/> 18/27

26/09/2023, 11:00 OURCs: Rules of Racing

- h. For a race to be deemed to have taken place, at least 10 boats (for full divisions) must be attached to their bunglines when the starting gun is fired. For divisions of fewer than 11 boats, a race may be deemed to have taken place if all but one boat were attached to their bunglines.

## 11. Delays

- a. Delays, subject to A3.10.c, may be granted by the Senior Umpire provided that the request is delivered before the One Minute Gun.
- b. Crews needlessly causing the start to be delayed are liable to be fined, at the discretion of the Senior Umpire.

## 12. Racing conduct

- a. All competitors in both Rowing On and bumps must make safety their first priority. Coxes, with the help of rowers, are required to keep a good look-out at all times ahead of and around them.
  - i. Crews are expected to steer around non-racing obstructions when possible and not use the presence of an obstruction as an attempt to artificially improve their racing result.
  - ii. When interpreting whether it was possible to steer safely around an obstruction, a Race Committee shall apply the test of the behaviour expected of a competent crew relative to their position in the start order.
- b. No crew shall collide with another river user (including crews who are still racing, those who have bumped out, and those on rafts) at a speed and angle which either causes, or could reasonably be expected to cause, injury to crew members or significant damage to equipment.
  - i. Incidents involving such collisions will be assessed by a Race Committee which will consider the award of penalty bumps against the offending crew or crews on grounds of dangerous conduct, unless there are proven mitigating circumstances. This Race Committee may be the same as that ruling on the bumps outcome for the crews concerned, and procedure will follow rules A3.15 and A1.10.
  - ii. If any crews involved in such collisions are adjudged by the Race Committee to have deliberately caused the incident, this will be adjudged extremely dangerous conduct and will also be treated as a serious incident in accordance with the Code of Conduct section 2.11.d.ii.
- c. Crews may take any line, however they are expected to race wherever possible within the ideal racing line area. If they race outside it, other than to steer around an obstruction in accordance with A3.16.a.i, they will be required to abide by their own accidents.
  - i. The ideal racing line is defined as being on the County towpath side from the bottom bungline until the upstream left-hand/stroke side corner of the Gut; crossing to the City side of the river at the top end of the Gut; beside the City bank for approximately two-thirds of the Green Bank from Longbridges upwards; crossing to the County towpath side between the

upper end of the Green Bank to the downstream corner of the Univ raft; and beside the County bank for the remainder of the course to the finish line.

- ii. Racing crews who race outside the ideal racing line may be subject to penalty bumps if their actions are adjudged to contribute to a dangerous incident, whether or not they were personally involved.
- iii. Any crew which clears into the ideal racing line should have a good reason to do so, and must clear out of it as soon as safety possible. If their actions are adjudged to contribute to a dangerous incident, they may be subject to penalty bumps.
- iv. Crews that cause an entanglement in the ideal racing line, such as through not winding down or a late concession, may be subject to penalty bumps if their actions are adjudged to contribute to a dangerous incident, whether or not they were personally involved.

### 13. Bumps

- a. A bump shall be deemed to have taken place when the Event Committee is satisfied beyond all reasonable doubt that one of the following has occurred:
  - i. A boat touches any part of a boat in front of it, the term "boat" to include oars, rudder and crew; or
  - ii. When the coxswain of the leading boat acknowledges, by raising their arm, that a bump is inevitable; or
  - iii. When one boat rows clean by another.
  - iv. A boat has finished the race (according to A3.13.b) before a boat that started in front of them that is still a racing boat.
- b. A boat shall be liable to be bumped until every part of it has crossed the finishing line.
- c. Upon clear contact, constituting a bump under A3.13.a.i, the cox of the crew being bumped shall immediately acknowledge the bump by raising their arm in the same manner as a concession.
- d. On achieving a bump, a boat ceases to be part of a race.
- e. In Eights Week, the boat bumped also ceases to be part of the race.
- f. Crews which cross the finish line without being bumped or bumping another crew will be regarded as having "rowed over".

### 14. Technical Bumps

- a. The Event Committee may award technical bumps if a boat does not start in accordance with OURCs regulations.
- b. In the event of a crew being excluded by the Senior Umpire under A1.5.8c, their bungline shall be left empty and the crew will be subject to a Technical Bump.
- c. In the event of a technical bump, the division shall proceed as normal except that the offending crew shall lose one place.
- d. If the offending crew has attempted to start, any bumps gained by it shall be disallowed while any bumps gained on it shall stand.
- e. The Event Committee may choose not to award a technical bump in Torpids if they decide that a crew never intended to start, in which case the rest of the division shall proceed as normal save that the offending crew shall be placed at the bottom of the division.
- f. The crew benefiting from a technical bump may choose to decline it.

- g. If the Event Committee chooses to award a Technical Bump during Rowing On, the bump shall be applied on the first day of Bumps Proper.

## 15. Penalty Bumps

- a. Penalty bumps may be awarded by the Event Committee in the event of dangerous conduct, illegal interference with other crews racing, or incompetence leading to a klaxon. Penalty bumps may be applied in addition to other penalties applied.
- b. When applying penalty bumps, the Event Committee will put safety awareness ahead of consideration of the resulting finishing order.

<https://ourcs.co.uk/organisation/racing/20/27>

26/09/2023, 11:00 OURCs: Rules of Racing

- c. The number of places lost through a penalty bump is at the discretion of the Event Committee
- d. Crews receiving penalty bumps shall automatically have any valid bump gained on other crews disallowed.
- e. Penalty bumps shall not be awarded until the crew involved has been invited to present their case, and shall follow the disputes procedure A1.10.
- f. Any crew that causes a race to be klaxoned due to reasons that do not relate to the actions of another crew should be given a penalty bump (for example due to rudder failure or a person entering the water).
- g. Penalty or racing bumps shall not be awarded against crews that, after gaining a bump, continue to race safely due to reasonable uncertainty over whether or not the bump had occurred

## 16. Technical Row-Overs

- a. Crews conducting themselves in accordance with A3.12 who, on grounds of safety, have no alternative other than to stop racing to avoid collision with another crew, shall be awarded a technical row-over.
- i. Having to steer around obstructions where there is a safe and viable route around (including routes outside the racing line) is deemed a racing incident, and technical row-overs shall not ordinarily be awarded.
- ii. Internal factors such as equipment failures, crabs, inability to row well or poor steering are also racing incidents and technical row-overs shall not be ordinarily awarded.
- iii. In exceptional circumstances where a crew acts in the best interests of safety the Race Committee may award technical row-overs (for example, a crew that stops to avoid a non racing obstruction such as a person in the water when a klaxon has not yet been fired).
- iv. Bumps gained or suffered by crews not directly awarded a technical row-over under this rule shall stand.
- v. A Race Committee shall determine how many crews impacted by any one incident may be awarded a technical row-over.
- b. Crews that stop under the reasonable misapprehension that they have bumped, or in Eights that they have been bumped, will be considered to have ceased to be part of the race from the moment of the reasonable misapprehension.
- c. Boats that have had bumps disallowed under A3.16.b shall be awarded row-overs, unless they have also accumulated penalty bumps.
- d. A Race Committee may decide, in the event of a boat being bumped multiple times in Torpids, which of the bumps, if any, should be disallowed.

- e. Over bumps shall stand despite crews in between being subsequently awarded row-overs. f.

The decision in such situations will be entirely at the discretion of the Race Committee. 17. Finishing Order

- a. The finishing order of a division, subject to revisions following the awarding of penalty bumps, technical bumps, and technical row-overs, shall be:

- i. In Torpids, the same as the starting order except that any crews which have been bumped are moved below the crew(s) which have bumped them
- ii. In Eights, the same as the starting order except that the two boats involved in each bump shall exchange places.

<https://ourcs.co.uk/organisation/racing/> 21/27

26/09/2023, 11:00 OURCs: Rules of Racing

- b. The Final Finishing Order for the event shall be the Finishing Order of the last day of racing and shall include crews from the Final Finishing Order of the previous instance of the event that were 'not entered', did not qualify, or withdrawn as set out in A3.8 reinserted as follows:

- i. If lower crews of the same sex from the same College Boat Club are entered, higher positioned crews that were 'not entered' or withdrawn shall not be reinserted.
- ii. Crews in Rowing On Divisions that do not enter or do not qualify for the second consecutive instance of an event shall not be reinserted.
- iii. Crews withdrawn on safety grounds in accordance with A3.8.d shall be reinserted into their original position.
- iv. In Torpids, crews shall be reinserted 6 places lower.
- v. In Eights, crews shall be reinserted 4 places lower.
- vi. Other crews shall be moved down the necessary number of places.
- vii. In the event of there being more than one crew to reinsert, the crews should be reinserted starting from the Head of the River and working downwards.

- c. Composite crews shall be removed from the Final Finishing Order with any non-composite crews moved up in order to fill their place.

## 18. Stopping Racing

- a. In the event of a klaxon sounding during a race,
- i. All boats shall immediately cease rowing and hold the boat up until at a standstill.
- ii. Bumps gained prior to the klaxon shall stand. Any bumps after the first klaxon sounding anywhere on the course are not counted irrespective of whether crews involved have heard it or not.
- b. Crews still racing when the klaxon sounded shall be awarded a row-over.

## 19. Cyclists

- a. During every day of Torpids, and the first three days of Summer Eights, each crew may only have one bank rider cycling alongside them, unless with the permission of the Race Secretary and the Senior Umpire.
- i. All bank riders shall wear a bib, to be issued at race desk and returned by 30 minutes after the start of the division. They must also have attended a bank riders' briefing within 18 months of the event, unless given specific exemption by the Event Secretary.



- b. On the Saturday of Summer Eights, cycling is banned on the towpath from bungline 14 to the Folly Bridge for all member clubs, their members, and spectators associated with them.
- c. Cyclists shall look where they are going and at the path ahead at all times. (It is strongly suggested to ride slightly behind your crew, so you can see them and what's on the towpath at the same time. Umpires shall use their best endeavors to accurately observe the race while riding safely).
- d. All cyclists shall remember that they are required to abide by rule 2.11 at all times, including during races.

20. Equipment

- a. Oars with sharp protrusions on the spoons are not permitted.



## **OURCs Captains' Meeting**

Friday 6th week Michaelmas Term 2023

17th November 2023

### **Paper 4: Changes to the Rules of Racing**

# Paper 4: Proposed Updates to OURCs Rules of Racing (MT 2023)

## Updates to improve readability of the rules, and minor corrections:

Changes are highlighted in **Blue**, or **Green** for elements that are unchanged (but may be moved to a different location within the rule) & **Red** for changes.

*N.B.* Numbering / references to be updated appropriately depending on the outcome of the raft of motions. In the proposed rules, these have been written as if all proposals pass. If these proposals are not passed as a slate – we’ll need to confirm which elements we wish to pass, and which ones need to be altered, and reviewed for consistency before bringing the motion again at the next Captains’ meeting.

### A1.4 Event Committee

Current Wording	Proposed Wording
<p>A1.4 Event Committee</p> <p>a. The Event Committee shall be responsible for the running of each OURCs event. In addition, this committee shall have the authority to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. [points i. to viii.]</li> <li>ix. Any member of the Event Committee may make a decision under rules A1.7 (ordinary substitutions), A1.10 (registration of disputes), and A1.10.b (action to be taken upon the registration of a dispute). Decisions made under rules A1.7.c (extraordinary substitutions), A3.14 (technical bumps), A3.15 (penalty bumps), A3.16 (row-overs), A3.7.e (time penalties in Rowing On), and A3.7.f (time bonuses in Rowing On) shall be made by a Race Committee comprised of a minimum of three neutral members of the Event Committee with an appeal lying only to the Senior Umpire in accordance with A1.10 (disputes procedure).</li> </ul>	<p>A1.4 Event Committee</p> <p>a. The Event Committee shall be responsible for the running of each OURCs event. In addition, this committee shall have the authority to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. [points i. to viii.]</li> <li>b. Any member of the Event Committee may make a decision under the following rules:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. A1.7 (Ordinary substitutions);</li> <li>ii. A1.10.c.i and A3.14.a (Registration of disputes), and;</li> <li>iii. A1.10.c.ii.1. and A1.10.c.ii.2, and A3.14.d (Action to be taken upon the registration of disputes).</li> </ul> </li> <li>c. Any member of the Event Committee, in conjunction with the Race Secretary, may make a decision under the following rules:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. A3.15 (Technical Row-Overs), and;</li> <li>ii. A3.16 (Technical Bumps).</li> </ul> </li> <li>d. A Race Committee, comprised of a minimum of three neutral members of the Event Committee, is required for decisions under the following rules:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. A1.10.c.ii, A3.14.e and A3.14.f (Resolution of disputes);</li> <li>ii. A3.5.e (Extraordinary substitutions);</li> <li>iii. A3.7.e (Time penalties in Rowing On);</li> <li>iv. A3.7.f (Time bonuses in Rowing On), and;</li> <li>v. A3.17 (Penalty Bumps).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

#### Commentary

This change is to make the rule easier to read regarding the powers of the Event Committee, and which actions require a Race Committee (3+ neutral members of the Event Committee). In several of the proposals further below, we reference back to this, instead of having the wording in-line.

**Introduced Change:** We have moved decisions regarding Technical Bumps, and Technical Row Overs from Race Committee powers to Event Committee powers requiring at least 2 people, one would be the Race Secretary, and the other would normally be the Event Committee member doing Umpire debriefs.

### A1.5 Senior Umpire

Current Wording	Proposed Wording
<p>A1.5 Senior Umpire</p> <p>g. [points a. to g.]</p> <p>h. The Senior Umpire has the authority to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. interpret the OURCs rules in the event of any dispute, such a ruling to be binding;</li> <li>ii. make the operational decision as to when it is safe for each race to start;</li> <li>iii. <b>exclude any crew deemed not ready to start at the designated time or with unpaid fines under A1.8.c;</b></li> <li>iv. with the Secretary, make modifications to the format of racing, either before or during the event, in accordance with the approved event plan and risk assessment to ensure that the maximal amount of safe racing may take place, and;</li> <li>v. to exclude from racing any crew deemed unsafe or unfit to race.</li> </ul>	<p>A1.5 Senior Umpire</p> <p>g. [points a. to g.]</p> <p>h. The Senior Umpire has the authority to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. interpret the OURCs rules in the event of any dispute, such a ruling to be binding;</li> <li>ii. make the operational decision as to when it is safe for each race to start;</li> <li>iii. <b>exclude any crew deemed not ready to start at the designated time;</b></li> <li>iv. with the Secretary, make modifications to the format of racing, either before or during the event, in accordance with the approved event plan and risk assessment to ensure that the maximal amount of safe racing may take place, and;</li> <li>v. to exclude from racing any crew deemed unsafe or unfit to race.</li> </ul>

#### Commentary

As fines incurred on Wednesday of bumps no longer need to be paid by the Thursday but are instead invoiced on 30-day payment terms, the Senior Umpires no longer exclude crews from racing if they have unpaid fines.

### Splitting of the Disputes Procedure A1.10

The Disputes Procedure (A1.10) is designed to be generic, however in practice this is used quite a lot during bumps races, and rarely outside it.

Bumps disputes have a very different nature to them, follow a very different process, and different types of outcomes which are applied. The proposed rule changes below aim to restructure the Disputes Procedure to more clearly outline the processes used for different types of event, add some clarity to what the Race Committee does, and also how we handle complaints that are raised outside of the “appeals window”.

We’re proposing to have a general procedure under A1.10; SU’s role in the disputes procedure as A1.11 and insert a new Bumps procedure as A3.14, and renumber other rules accordingly.

Current Wording	Proposed Wording
<p><b>A1.10 Disputes Procedure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>Registration of complaints or appeals can be made directly to the Event Committee at Race Desk, or via a marshal with a radio.</b></li> <li>b. <b>The procedure for handling complaints or appeals is as follows:</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>A1.10 General Disputes Procedure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>Definitions and principles</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <b>An “Appeal” involves querying a decision of the Event Committee, such as the announced race result, either as incorrectly recorded or</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Current Wording	Proposed Wording
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Complaints against other crews must be registered with the Event Committee within 10 minutes of the end of the race.</li> <li>ii. Appeals against routine Event Committee decisions (i.e. excluding those treated as resolutions of disputes) must be registered with the Event Committee within 10 minutes of the announced decision. The Captain, or nominated representative of the appealing boat club may withdraw the appeal up until the appeal is decided by the Race Committee.</li> <li>iii. Having been notified of a complaint or an appeal, the Event Committee shall inform all crews whose result is affected by the appeal, who must send their representative(s) to Race Desk to provide evidence for their case. In exceptional circumstances, people can contact Race Desk by phone or by other means such as the Race Secretary may announce. The Event Committee shall collect evidence as follows:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Evidence will be formally accepted and initialled by a member of the Event Committee.</li> <li>2. Written evidence must be provided within 20 minutes of the announcement of the appeal.</li> <li>3. Photographic or video evidence must be registered with the Event Committee within 20 minutes of the announcement of the appeal and provided as soon as possible thereafter.</li> <li>4. If evidence delays will disrupt later races, the Event Committee may impose a deadline for providing evidence no shorter than the 20 minute window.</li> <li>5. In all other cases, the Event Committee shall consult each provider of evidence and then set a reasonable deadline for providing the evidence which, under most circumstances, should be early enough for the dispute to be resolved before the opening of the river after racing.</li> <li>6. Additional evidence may be submitted after the passing of a deadline or without prior registration if such evidence has been directly and independently requested by the race committee that is sitting to resolve the appeal or at the request of the Senior Umpires if they believe additional evidence should be considered for an appeal being made to them.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>as having not been correct under the Rules of Racing and must be lodged by a representative of a competing crew affected by the decision.</li> <li>ii. A “Complaint” involves the conduct of another crew which may contravene the Code of Conduct or the Rules of Racing, e.g. by dangerous conduct, crew ineligibility, use of foul and/or abusive language, etc. and may be lodged by any competitor, representative of a competing crew, or member of the Event Committee.</li> <li>iii. When ruling on a dispute, the Race Committee shall treat the dispute as a challenge to the original decision at first instance. Evidence must be provided that supports the need to overturn or to re-consider it (including an error by the original decision-maker or new evidence). In the absence of such evidence, the original decision should stand.</li> <li>iv. No provision in the Disputes Procedure, whether General (A1.10-11) or for Bumps (A3.14), shall permit a decision by any person or persons that is outside of the Rules of Racing.</li> <li>b. Disputes Procedure for non-Bumps events               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Registration of disputes can be made directly to the Event Committee at Racedesk, or other means, as set out in the Event Plan, such as via the Racedesk phone.                   <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complaints about crew composition must be registered while the allegedly offending crew is still on the water.</li> </ol> </li> <li>ii. The procedure for handling disputes is as follows:                   <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. disputes must be registered with the Event Committee within 10 minutes of the end of the race;</li> <li>2. having been notified of a complaint or an appeal, the Event Committee shall announce the dispute and request the club/s involved to send representatives to Racedesk to give evidence within 20 minutes of the dispute being announced, and;</li> <li>3. all disputes shall be resolved by a Race Committee (see A1.4.c).</li> </ol> </li> </ul> </li> <li>c. Objections against racing fines must be registered with the OURCs Treasurer within 24 hours of being issued. No objections will be considered after this point.</li> </ul> <p>A1.11 Role of the Senior Umpire in the Disputes Procedure</p>

Current Wording	Proposed Wording
<p>iv. All disputes shall be resolved by a Race Committee comprised of a minimum of 3 neutral members of the Event Committee. When ruling on an initial appeal, the Race Committee shall treat the appeal as a challenge to the original decision at first instance. Evidence must be provided that supports the need to overturn or to re-consider it (including an error by the original decision-maker or new evidence). In the absence of such evidence, the original decision should stand.</p> <p>v. The only grounds for appeal against the Race Committee ruling on a complaint or initial appeal are if the OURCs rules have not been adhered to, in which case the appeal must be registered with the Senior Umpire, stating the rule(s) in question, within 10 minutes of the Race Committee ruling.</p> <p>vi. In the event of the Senior Umpire not being neutral in an appeal against a Race Committee ruling (including the grounds of having been involved in the original ruling), another Senior Umpire or an agreed member of the Event Committee shall be appointed to act as Senior Umpire to rule on the appeal.</p> <p>vii. The Senior Umpire shall have the authority to interpret the OURCs rules, and may make a ruling as to whether the race committee decision adheres to those rules. The SU may re-submit the appeal to the race committee to re-decide within the rules, or order it to be considered by an alternative race committee if appropriate. Nothing in A1.10 shall be read as permitting a Senior Umpire at appeal to decide the facts, nor validates a decision by any person or persons that is outside of the rules.</p> <p>c. Appeals against racing fines must be registered with the OURCs Treasurer within 24 hours of being issued. No appeal will be considered after this point.</p>	<p>a. The only grounds for an Appeal against the Race Committee ruling on a dispute are if the OURCs rules have not been adhered to, in which case the Appeal must be registered with the Senior Umpire, stating the rule(s) in question, within 10 minutes of the Race Committee ruling being communicated.</p> <p>i. In extraordinary circumstances where racing could be significantly delayed, such as a conflict with A3.10.c, the Senior Umpire may shorten this window by informing each crew impacted.</p> <p>b. Disputes may be raised to the Senior Umpire by representatives of any crew potentially affected by the outcome of the dispute.</p> <p>c. In the event of the Senior Umpire not being neutral in an appeal against a Race Committee ruling (including the grounds of having been involved in the original ruling), another Senior Umpire or an agreed member of the Event Committee shall be appointed to act as Senior Umpire to rule on the Appeal.</p> <p>d. The Senior Umpire shall have the authority to interpret the OURCs rules and may make a ruling as to whether the Race Committee decision adheres to those rules. The SU may either:</p> <p>i. uphold the decision of the Race Committee, which shall be final, or;</p> <p>ii. provide their interpretation of the rule(s) which have been misapplied.</p> <p>e. If rules have been misapplied, the SU may either re-submit the dispute to the Race Committee to re-decide within the rules or order it to be considered by an alternative Race Committee.</p> <p>f. Following any reconsideration of a dispute ordered by the SU, the Race Committee shall agree a verdict with the SU which shall be final.</p> <p>A3.14 Disputes Procedure for Bumps events</p> <p>a. Complaints and Appeals must be registered within the 10 minutes following the announcement of the results of a division, except for Complaints about crew composition where A1.10.c.i.1 applies. This can be done at Racedesk in person or by other means announced in advance of the event by the Race Secretary.</p> <p>b. The Race Secretary or their representative will decide whether a Complaint is sufficiently serious to require decision by a Race Committee, or can be dealt with administratively, e.g. by issuing fines. In the latter case, or for Complaints raised outside of the 10-minute window, the rest of this</p>

Current Wording	Proposed Wording
	<p>Procedure shall not apply, and the matter shall be dealt with under the Code of Conduct.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c. The Captain or nominated representative of the appealing crew may withdraw an Appeal, or the complainant may withdraw a Complaint, until the dispute is decided by the Race Committee or has been resolved administratively under A3.14.b.</li> <li>d. Having been notified of a Complaint or an Appeal, the Event Committee shall inform all crews whose result may be affected by the dispute, requesting that they send representative(s) to Racedesk to provide evidence. The Race Secretary may announce in advance of the event alternative means of giving evidence, e.g. by online form. The Event Committee shall collect evidence as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. evidence will be formally accepted and initialled by a member of the Event Committee;</li> <li>ii. written evidence must be provided within 20 minutes of the announcement of the dispute;</li> <li>iii. photographic or video evidence must be registered with the Event Committee within 20 minutes of the announcement of the dispute and provided as soon as possible thereafter, within a reasonable deadline agreed with a representative of the Event Committee;</li> <li>iv. if evidence delays will disrupt later races, e.g. in a dispute affecting the sandwich boat, the Event Committee may impose a deadline for providing evidence no shorter than the 20 minute window, and;</li> <li>v. additional evidence may be submitted after the passing of a deadline or without prior registration if such evidence has been directly and independently requested by the Race Committee that is sitting to resolve the dispute, and a deadline of at least 20 minutes for submitting this will be agreed between the Race Committee and the party from whom the evidence has been requested.</li> </ul> </li> <li>e. The Race Committee (see A1.4.c) considering a dispute shall consider the incident as a whole and not confine itself to the specific crew complained about or result requested. Therefore, where there are multiple overlapping disputes, one Race Committee may at the Race Secretary’s discretion combine them and treat them as a single dispute.</li> <li>f. Actions taken by the Race Committee because of a dispute may include, but are not limited to:</li> </ul>

Current Wording	Proposed Wording
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. upholding the status quo (“Bumps stand as announced”), which should be the default outcome per A1.10.a.iii in the absence of compelling evidence to the contrary;</li> <li>ii. re-determining the result(s) in question;</li> <li>iii. awarding of Penalty Bumps (A3.17), Technical Bumps (A3.16), and Technical Row-Overs (A3.15);</li> <li>iv. issuing fines for non-compliance with the Event Plan and/or breaches of the Code of Conduct and/or Rules of Racing;</li> <li>v. recommending coxing sanctions to the OURCs Captain of Coxes, and/or;</li> <li>vi. requiring a Club Safety Review to be held under 2.11.d.ii.</li> </ul>

Commentary and subsequent rule changes required.

Current rule Ref	Proposed rule Ref	Comment
A1.10.c	A1.10.c	This item has only one word changed (Appeals to Objections) to remove ambiguity, and has moved due to the subsequent changes around it.
A1.9.a.iv	A1.10.c.i.1	Subsequent rule update required: move this item from the Identification clause into the Disputes clause. Complaints about crew composition done after the crew has landed (e.g. via photographic evidence) will be handled either under A3.9.f.ii, or as a breach of the Code of Conduct instead.
A1.10.a	A1.10.c.i A3.14.a	Method of lodging an appeal can be defined in the event plan, allowing communication via WhatsApp to the Racedesk phone, or online form to be added without requiring subsequent rule changes.
A1.10.b.iv	A1.4.c	The definition of a Race Committee has been moved up into the definitions of the Event Committee / powers in A1.4.
A1.10.v	A1.11.a	Moved as part of the restructure, but otherwise unchanged.
	A1.11.a.ii	Added a new power of the Senior Umpires to deal with Sandwich Boat appeal escalations. When both crews have been informed of the results, the SUs can impose a shorter window than the 10 minutes in which to receive an SU escalation. In practice this would be because representatives of both crews will be at the bunglines and can be informed then and there by the SUs.
A1.10.vi	A1.11.c	Moved as part of the restructure.
A1.10.vii	A1.11.d A1.10.a.iv	Moved as part of the restructure. The final sentence has been split – with the element about not validating a decision outside the rules moved to the new A1.10.a.iv.
	A1.11.b	Clarified who has standing to escalate a dispute to the Senior Umpires. While many people can raise a complaint/appeal only those whose result is impacted by the decision have standing to escalate to the Senior Umpires.



Current rule Ref	Proposed rule Ref	Comment
	A1.11.e	Updated to prevent a loop of appeals being sent back to the SUs multiple times; reconsiderations will be done by a Race Committee, they will review this with the SUs, who will check that the element(s) flagged have been correctly applied, before the final decision is relayed back to the crews.
	A3.14.e	Added a section to outline the scope that the Race Committee should consider (i.e. the whole incident, not just one specific element under appeal). This is the way that we've been handling appeals for quite some time now, and should also aid people submitting appeals/evidence as to whether or not they need to raise a separate appeal.  We should not that for each person submitting evidence, they should be invited to outline whether they're disputing the original ruling(s), and if so what part, and if they have any preferred outcome that they would like the Race Committee to consider; however the Race Committee will not be bound by these.
A1.10.b.iii	A3.14.d	Most of the procedure that relates to Bumps appeals has been moved down as part of the restructure.

Subsequent necessary rule changes from the updates by splitting the Disputes Procedure

During the review a small omission was spotted which is relevant for small boats in non-bumps events may not have a cox but do still need identification.

Current Wording	Proposed Wording
<p>A1.9 Identification</p> <p>a. To assist in resolving disputes over crew identification, the following rules will apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. coxswains shall be required to be in possession of identification for all crewmembers while they are on the water. Such identification must contain a picture of the person being identified. A University card or coxing permit will be sufficient;</li> <li>ii. such identification may be used by the Event Committee for adjudication in the event of a dispute concerning crew composition;</li> <li>iii. lack of identification may result in automatic loss of a dispute over crew composition, and;</li> <li>iv. <b>complaints about crew composition must be made while the allegedly offending crew is still on the water.</b></li> </ul>	<p>A1.9 Identification</p> <p>a. To assist in resolving disputes over crew identification, the following rules will apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. coxswains <b>or steerspersons</b> shall be required to be in possession of identification for all crewmembers while they are on the water. Such identification must contain a picture of the person being identified. A University card or coxing permit will be sufficient;</li> <li>ii. such identification may be used by the Event Committee for adjudication in the event of a dispute concerning crew composition, and;</li> <li>iii. lack of identification may result in automatic loss of a dispute over crew composition.</li> </ul>

Updates to Technical Row-Overs/Penalty Bumps/Technical Bumps/Finishing Order etc...

A3.12 Racing Conduct

Current Wording	Proposed Wording
A3.12 Racing conduct	A3.12 Racing Conduct

Current Wording	Proposed Wording
<p>a. All competitors in both Rowing On and <b>bumps</b> must make safety their first priority. Coxes, with the help of rowers, are required to keep a good look-out at all times ahead of and around them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Crews are expected to steer around non-racing obstructions when possible and not use the presence of an obstruction as an attempt to artificially improve their racing result.</li> <li>ii. <b>When interpreting whether it was possible to steer safely around an obstruction, a Race Committee shall apply the test of the behaviour expected of a competent crew relative to their position in the start order.</b></li> </ul> <p>b. No crew shall collide with another river user (including crews who are still racing, those who have bumped out, and those on rafts) at a speed and angle which either causes, or could reasonably be expected to cause, injury to crew members or significant damage to equipment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <b>Incidents involving such collisions will be assessed by a Race Committee which will consider the award of penalty bumps against the offending crew or crews on grounds of dangerous conduct, unless there are proven mitigating circumstances. This Race Committee may be the same as that ruling on the bumps outcome for the crews concerned, and procedure will follow rules A3.15 and A1.10.</b></li> <li>ii. <b>If any crews involved in such collisions are adjudged by the Race Committee to have deliberately caused the incident, this will be adjudged extremely dangerous conduct and will also be treated as a serious incident in accordance with the Code of Conduct section 2.11.d.ii.</b></li> </ul> <p>c. Crews may take any line, however they are expected to race wherever possible within the ideal racing line area. If they race outside it, other than to steer around an obstruction in accordance with <b>A3.16.a.i</b>, <b>they will be required to abide by their own accidents.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The ideal racing line is defined as being on the County towpath side from the bottom bungline until the upstream left-hand/stroke side corner of the Gut; crossing to the City side of the river at the top end of the Gut; beside the City bank for approximately two-thirds of the Green Bank from Longbridges upwards; crossing to the County towpath side between the upper end of the Green Bank to</li> </ul>	<p>a. All competitors, in both Rowing On and <b>Bumps Proper</b>, must make safety their first priority. Coxes, with the help of rowers, are required to keep a good look-out at all times ahead of and around them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Crews are expected to steer around non-racing obstructions when possible and not use the presence of an obstruction as an attempt to artificially improve their racing result.</li> </ul> <p>b. No crew shall collide with another river user (including crews who are still racing, those who have bumped out, and those on rafts) at a speed and angle which either causes, or could reasonably be expected to cause, injury to crew members or significant damage to equipment.</p> <p>c. Crews may take any line; however, they are expected to race wherever possible within the ideal racing line area, other than to steer around an obstruction in accordance with <b>A3.15.c</b>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The ideal racing line is defined as being on the County/towpath side from the bottom bungline until the top end of the Gut; crossing to the City side of the river at the exit of the Gut; beside the City bank for approximately two-thirds of the Green Bank from Longbridges upwards; crossing to the County/towpath side between the upper end of the Green Bank and the downstream corner of the Univ raft; and beside the County/towpath bank for the remainder of the course to the finish line.</li> <li>ii. Racing crews who race outside, or stop in, the ideal racing line may be subject to penalty bumps if their actions are adjudged to contribute to a dangerous incident.</li> <li>iii. Any crew which clears into the ideal racing line after bumping out should have a good reason to do so and must clear out of it as soon as safely possible.</li> </ul> <p>d. <b>Crews will be required to abide by their own accidents, except as specified in these rules.</b></p> <p>e. <b>In the event of a klaxon sounding during a race:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <b>all boats shall immediately cease rowing and hold the boat up until at a standstill, and;</b></li> <li>ii. <b>bumps gained prior to the klaxon shall stand. Any bumps after the first klaxon sounding anywhere on the course are not counted irrespective of whether crews involved have heard it or not.</b></li> </ul> <p>f. <b>Oars with sharp protrusions on the spoons are not permitted.</b></p>

Current Wording	Proposed Wording
<p>the downstream corner of the Univ raft; and beside the County bank for the remainder of the course to the finish line.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ii. Racing crews who race outside the ideal racing line may be subject to penalty bumps if their actions are adjudged to contribute to a dangerous incident, whether or not they were personally involved.</li> <li>iii. Any crew which clears into the ideal racing line should have a good reason to do so, and must clear out of it as soon as safety possible. If their actions are adjudged to contribute to a dangerous incident, they may be subject to penalty bumps.</li> <li>iv. Crews that cause an entanglement in the ideal racing line, such as through not winding down or a late concession, may be subject to penalty bumps if their actions are adjudged to contribute to a dangerous incident, whether or not they were personally involved.</li> </ul> <p><b>A3.18 Stopping Racing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. In the event of a klaxon sounding during a race, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. all boats shall immediately cease rowing and hold the boat up until at a standstill, and;</li> <li>ii. bumps gained prior to the klaxon shall stand. Any bumps after the first klaxon sounding anywhere on the course are not counted irrespective of whether crews involved have heard it or not.</li> </ul> </li> <li>b. Crews still racing when the klaxon sounded shall be awarded a row-over.</li> </ul> <p><b>A3.20 Equipment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Oars with sharp protrusions on the spoons are not permitted.</li> </ul>	

Commentary and links to the other proposals

This proposal also includes the subsequent update, following changes recommended to the Finishing Order, Penalty Bumps, Technical Row Over, etc... below.

Current rule Ref	Proposed rule Ref	Comment
A3.12.a.ii	A3.15.c	Moved to TRO rule
A3.12.b.i and ii	A3.17.b.i	Moved to Penalty Bumps rule
A3.12.c	A3.12.d	'abide by their own accidents' has been pulled into it's own rule, as this applies more widely than just the Racing Line.
A3.12.c.iv	A3.17.b.ii – iv	Moved to Penalty Bumps rule
A3.18.a	A3.12.e	Merged into Racing Conduct
A3.18.b	A3.18	Removed, as updates to the Finishing Order rule (was A3.17, would become A3.18) make this statement redundant.
A3.20	A3.12.f	Merged into Racing Conduct

### A3.16 Technical Row-Overs

Renumber to A3.15 (with A3.14 being the new disputes procedure for bumps races above).

Current wording	Proposed Wording
<p>A3.16 Technical Row-Overs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Crews conducting themselves in accordance with A3.12 who, on grounds of safety, have no alternative other than to stop racing to avoid collision with another crew, shall be awarded a technical row-over.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Having to steer around obstructions where there is a safe and viable route around (including routes outside the racing line) is deemed a racing incident, and technical row-overs shall not ordinarily be awarded.</li> <li>ii. Internal factors such as equipment failures, crabs, inability to row well or poor steering are also racing incidents and technical row-overs shall not be ordinarily awarded.</li> <li>iii. In exceptional circumstances where a crew acts in the best interests of safety the Race Committee may award technical row-overs (for example, a crew that stops to avoid a non-racing obstruction such as a person in the water when a klaxon has not yet been fired).</li> <li>iv. Bumps gained or suffered by crews not directly awarded a technical row-over under this rule shall stand.</li> <li>v. A Race Committee shall determine how many crews impacted by any one incident may be awarded a technical row-over.</li> </ul> </li> <li>b. Crews that stop under the reasonable misapprehension that they have bumped, or in Eights that they have been bumped, will be considered to have ceased to be part of the race from the moment of the reasonable misapprehension.</li> <li>c. Boats that have had bumps disallowed under A3.16.b shall be awarded row-overs, unless they have also accumulated penalty bumps.</li> <li>d. A Race Committee may decide, in the event of a boat being bumped multiple times in Torpids, which of the bumps, if any, should be disallowed.</li> <li>e. Overbumps shall stand despite crews in between being subsequently awarded row-overs.</li> <li>f. The decision in such situations will be entirely at the discretion of the Race Committee.</li> </ul>	<p>A3.15 Technical Row-Overs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The Event Committee, in conjunction with the Race Secretary, may award a Technical Row-Over, and disallow the bump(s) against a crew in the following circumstances:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Crews conducting themselves in accordance with A3.12 who, on grounds of safety, have no alternative other than to stop racing to avoid collision with another crew. See A3.15.c</li> <li>ii. Crews that stop under the reasonable misapprehension that they have bumped, or in Eights that they have been bumped, will be considered to have ceased to be part of the race from the moment of the reasonable misapprehension.</li> <li>iii. In exceptional circumstances where a crew acts in the best interests of safety (e.g. a crew that stops to avoid a non-racing obstruction such as a person in the water when a klaxon has not yet been fired, or a crew which stop to request assistance because medical assistance is required for a member of their crew).</li> <li>iv. A crew (A) whose race has been significantly impacted by another crew (B), where crew (B) is subject to Penalty Bumps, whose actions were the sole cause of crew (A) being subsequently bumped.</li> </ul> </li> <li>b. The following are circumstances in which a technical row-over shall not be awarded:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Having to steer around obstructions where there is a safe and viable route around (including routes outside the ideal racing line). See A3.15.c.</li> <li>ii. Internal factors such as equipment failures, crabs, inability to row well, or poor steering are situations in which a crew is expected to abide by its own accidents. See A3.12.d.</li> </ul> </li> <li>c. When interpreting whether it was possible to steer safely around an obstruction, the Event Committee shall apply the test of the behaviour expected of a competent crew relative to their position in the start order.</li> <li>d. The Event Committee shall determine:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. how many crews impacted by any one incident may be awarded a technical row-over, and;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Current wording	Proposed Wording
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ii. in the event of a boat being bumped multiple times in Torpids, determine which of the bumps, if any, should be disallowed.</li> <li>e. Crews that have had bumps disallowed under <b>A3.15.a.ii</b> shall be awarded technical row-overs, unless they have also accumulated penalty bumps.</li> <li>f. Bumps gained or suffered by crews not directly awarded a technical row-over under this rule shall stand.</li> <li>g. Overbumps shall stand despite crews in-between being subsequently awarded technical row-overs.</li> </ul>

Commentary and links to the other proposals

In the updates to A1.4 (above), awarding a TRO moves from requiring a Race Committee to being a power of any member of the Event Committee (in practice, whomever is debriefing the umpires) in conjunction with the Race Secretary. If it's decided that this power should require a Race Committee, then the references to the Event Committee should be substituted for the Race Committee.

Current rule Ref	Proposed rule Ref	Comment
	A1.4.b.v	Moved the decisions about TROs from requiring a full Race Committee, to being a power of the Event Committee
A3.16.a	A3.15.a.i	Moved position due to restructuring the wording of this rule.
A3.16.a.i	A3.15.b.i	Moved position due to restructuring the wording of this rule.
A3.16.a.ii	A3.15.b.ii	Moved position due to restructuring the wording of this rule.
A3.16.a.iii	A3.15.a.iii	Added example for clarity around requesting medical assistance; safety must come first, and crews acting in the best interests of safety should not be penalised.
	A3.15.a.iv	<p>Added a new clause to allow the awarding of a TRO to crews who have been impacted by another crew acting dangerously.</p> <p>The idea here is that if crew (A) is forced into a tree by the chasing crew (B), and then subsequently bumped by crew (C) [or in Torpids, also crews D, E, F...]; if a Race Committee awards a PB against crew (B), they can then also award a TRO to crew (A).</p>
A3.16.a.v	A3.15.d.i	Cf. A1.4.b.v above re: Race Committee / Event Committee powers. Moved position due to restructuring the wording of this rule.
A3.16.d	A3.15.d.ii	Cf. A1.4.b.v above re: Race Committee / Event Committee powers. Moved position due to restructuring the wording of this rule.
A3.12.a.ii	A3.15.c	Moved from Racing Conduct into Technical Row-Overs section.
A3.16.b	A3.15.a.iii	Moved position due to restructuring the wording of this rule.
A3.16.a.iv	A3.15.f	Moved position due to restructuring the wording of this rule.
A3.16.c	A3.15.e	Moved position due to restructuring the wording of this rule.
A3.16.e	A3.15.g	Moved position due to restructuring the wording of this rule.
A3.15.f		Removed as it is both redundant and ambiguous. The Senior Umpires have previously clarified that this really is a sub-point of the current A3.15.d.

Current rule Ref	Proposed rule Ref	Comment
	A3.18	The process for applying TROs is clarified in the updates to the Finishing Order rules.

### A3.14 Technical Bumps and A3.8 Withdrawals

Current Wording	Proposed Wording
<p>A3.14 Technical Bumps</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The Event Committee may award technical bumps if a boat does not start in accordance with OURCs regulations.</li> <li>b. In the event of a crew being excluded by the Senior Umpire under A1.5.8c, their bungline shall be left empty and the crew will be subject to a Technical Bump.</li> <li>c. In the event of a technical bump, the division shall proceed as normal except that the offending crew shall lose one place.</li> <li>d. If the offending crew has attempted to start, any bumps gained by it shall be disallowed while any bumps gained on it shall stand.</li> <li>e. The Event Committee may choose not to award a technical bump in Torpids if they decide that a crew never intended to start, in which case the rest of the division shall proceed as normal save that the offending crew shall be placed at the bottom of the division.</li> <li>f. The crew benefiting from a technical bump may choose to decline it.</li> <li>g. If the Event Committee chooses to award a Technical Bump during Rowing On, the bump shall be applied on the first day of Bumps Proper.</li> </ol> <p>A3.8 Withdrawals</p> <p>... [a to e] ...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>f. The Event Committee may decide to allow a crew to withdraw for one day of racing. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. In Eights, the withdrawn crew’s bungline is left empty and the crew subject to a technical bump as in A3.14.</li> <li>ii. In Torpids, the crew may be reinserted the following day a number of places lower by the discretion of the Event Committee based on the reasons for the withdrawal. Other crews in the division are moved up one place and a bungline left empty at the bottom of the division for the day’s racing.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p>A3.16 Technical Bumps</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The Event Committee may award technical bumps to crews which: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. do not start in accordance with OURCs regulations;</li> <li>ii. are excluded by the Senior Umpire under A1.5.h.iii, and/or;</li> <li>iii. have withdrawn for one day of racing under A3.8.f.</li> </ol> </li> <li>b. In the event of a crew being excluded by the Senior Umpire their bungline shall be left empty and the division shall proceed as normal.</li> <li>c. In the event of a crew having withdrawn from the race (or failed to boat), other crews starting behind them in the division will be moved up, and a bungline left empty at the bottom of the division.</li> <li>d. If the Event Committee has permitted a crew to withdraw for one day under A3.8.f: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. in Eights, their bungline shall be left empty, the division shall proceed as normal, and one Technical Bump applied, and;</li> <li>ii. in Torpids, other crews starting behind them in the division shall be moved up, and a bungline left empty at the bottom of the division. The following day, the withdrawn crew shall be reinserted a number of places lower at the discretion of the Event Committee depending on the reasons for withdrawal.</li> </ol> </li> <li>e. The Event Committee may choose not to award a technical bump in Torpids if they conclude that a crew never intended to start, in which case the rest of the division shall proceed as normal save that the offending crew shall be placed at the bottom of the division in the Finishing Order.</li> <li>f. If the Event Committee chooses to award a Technical Bump during Rowing On, the bump shall be applied on the first day of Bumps Proper.</li> </ol> <p>A3.8 Withdrawals</p> <p>... [a to e] ...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>f. The Event Committee may decide to allow a crew to withdraw for one day of racing. A3.16.d shall apply.</li> </ol>

Commentary and links to the other proposals

Under the proposed changes for A1.4 we’re suggesting that this should not require a Race Committee to be formed but can be done by any member of the Event Committee in conjunction with the Race Secretary. This is usually completely unambiguous, the only regular circumstances where it may not be immediately obvious that comes to mind is A3.10.a – bungline held by the coxswain: If they drop it before the start gun, and gain an advantage (i.e. start early) then they are subject to a TB – and this would be taken from the Umpire Reports.

Current rule Ref	Proposed rule Ref	Comment
	A1.4.b.v	Moved the decisions about TBs from requiring a full Race Committee, to being a power of the Event Committee
A3.14.a	A3.16.a.i A3.17.a	Restructured the wording of the rule for better readability. Currently fielding an ineligible crew, but this not being noticed before the start, would subject that crew to a Technical Bump. This is inconsistent with A3.9.f.ii – which allows for up to 12 place penalty to be applied after the fact. Fielding an ineligible crew has been added to Penalty Bump considerations, to allow for the necessary flexibility in places lost to be considered by a Race Committee, (and not just at the discretion of a single member of the Event Committee).
A3.14.b	A3.16.ii A3.16.b	Separated the awarding of the Technical Bump, and the application (bungline left empty if a crew is excluded by the Senior Umpire).
	A3.16.a.iii	Added the appropriate link from A3.8.h
A3.14.c	A3.16.b	
A3.8.f	A3.16.c & d	Added clarification on moving crews up to fill spaces for crews who withdrew / failed to boat. (see also updates to A3.8.f)
A3.14.d	A3.18	Moved elements around TB/PB/TROs impact on Finishing Order into the Finishing Order rule.
A3.14.e	A3.16.e A3.18.a.vi	Moved position due to restructuring the wording of this rule. See also updates to Finishing Order rule.
A3.14.f	A3.18.a.v.2	Application of TBs moved to Finishing Order rules
A3.14.g	A3.16.f	Moved position due to restructuring the wording of this rule.
A3.8.f	A3.8.f A3.16.d	Moved sub-points w.r.t. treatment of crews who withdraw for 1 day into the TRO rules.

A3.15 Penalty Bumps

Current Wording	Proposed Wording
<p>A3.15 Penalty Bumps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Penalty bumps may be awarded by the Event Committee in the event of dangerous conduct, illegal interference with other crews racing, or incompetence leading to a klaxon. Penalty bumps may be applied in addition to other penalties applied.</li> <li>b. When applying penalty bumps, the Event Committee will put safety awareness ahead of consideration of the resulting finishing order.</li> <li>c. The number of places lost through a penalty bump is at the discretion of the Event Committee</li> </ul>	<p>A3.17 Penalty Bumps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Penalty bumps may be awarded by a Race Committee for dangerous conduct, fielding an illegal crew, serious breaches of 2.10 (Personal Conduct) of the Code of Conduct, and/or for incompetence leading to a klaxon.</li> <li>b. Dangerous conduct shall include but is not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. any incident covered by A3.12.b involving colliding with another river user during racing, which should result in penalty bumps unless there are proven mitigating circumstances;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Current Wording	Proposed Wording
<p>d. Crews receiving penalty bumps shall automatically have any valid bump gained on other crews disallowed.</p> <p>e. Penalty bumps shall not be awarded until the crew involved has been invited to present their case, and shall follow the disputes procedure A1.10.</p> <p>f. Any crew that causes a race to be klaxoned due to reasons that do not relate to the actions of another crew should be given a penalty bump (for example due to rudder failure or a person entering the water).</p> <p>g. Penalty or racing bumps shall not be awarded against crews that, after gaining a bump, continue to race safely due to reasonable uncertainty over whether or not the bump had occurred</p>	<p>ii. clearing into, or causing an entanglement in, the ideal racing line, where doing so contributes to a dangerous incident;</p> <p>iii. failure to wind down and clear promptly and fully following a bump where doing so contributes to a dangerous incident;</p> <p>iv. failure to concede an inevitable bump or acknowledge that a bump has occurred, where doing so contributes to a dangerous incident, and/or;</p> <p>v. failure to follow safety-related instructions (e.g. failing to stop for a klaxon).</p> <p>c. If any crews involved in dangerous conduct are adjudged by the Race Committee to have deliberately caused the incident, this will be considered a major aggravating factor and must also be treated as a serious incident in accordance with the Code of Conduct section 2.11.d.ii.</p> <p>d. Any crew that causes a race to be klaxoned due to reasons that do not relate to the actions of another crew should receive a penalty bump (for example due to rudder failure or a person entering the water).</p> <p>e. Penalty bumps shall not be awarded until the crew involved has been informed of the consideration of penalty bumps (not merely that a dispute exists) and invited to present evidence, and shall follow the disputes procedure for bumps races (A3.14). Penalty bumps may be considered following a Complaint, or on the initiative of the Event Committee.</p> <p>f. The number of places lost through a penalty bump is at the discretion of the Race Committee who should consider the severity of the incident and the standard to be expected of a competent crew relative to their position in the start order, and in the case of illegal crews, what if any competitive advantage was gained for the club, plus any safety implications.</p>

Commentary and links to the other proposals

This section has been significantly re-written to improve clarity, but also introduces some new criteria in which Penalty Bumps can be applied (namely breaches of the Code of Conduct, and fielding an ineligible crew).

Current rule Ref	Proposed rule Ref	Comment
A3.15.a	A3.17.a A1.4.c	Removed the reference to the Event Committee, as the contradicts A1.4.c (currently A1.4.a.ix). Removed 'illegal interference', as this is ambiguous/tautological. Removed PB + other penalties statement, as this is redundant.



Current rule Ref	Proposed rule Ref	Comment
	A3.17.a A3.17.f	Added fielding an illegal crew (i.e. any crew that is not the crew list on the entries system or <i>e.g.</i> ) as an offence that can incur Penalty Bumps. This allows a Race Committee to consider penalties in line with existing A3.9.f.ii where appropriate.  Clarified that breaches of the Code of Conduct (i.e. personal conduct) can also result in Penalty bumps.
	A3.17.b	Introduced some clear examples of Dangerous Conduct
A3.15.b A3.15.c	A3.17.f A3.18	Updated the considerations for how many PBs to apply – this still remains independent of any effect on the Finishing Order, as that is clarified in the updates to A3.18.
A3.15.d	A3.18	Moved disallowing bumps under TB/TRO/PB into Finishing Order rule
A3.15.e	A3.17.e	Clarified how we gather evidence/statements around the consideration of Penalty Bumps.  We expect to be able to outline something along the lines of: the Event Committee is considering Penalty Bumps in relation to the incident in GDivN involving crew X, Y, and Z. Can we have representatives from crews A, B, C, X, Y, and Z to present evidence. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Here we may be considering PBs against any of crews X, Y, and Z.</li> <li>- If we want to consider a PB against crew A, after reviewing the evidence, we need to inform crew A that we’re now considering PBs against them, and invite them to present evidence (again) with this context.</li> </ul>
A3.15.f	A3.17.d	Moved position due to restructuring the wording of this rule.
A3.15.g		Removed redundant statement.
	A3.17.c	Added clarity about recommending a club safety review off the back of a racing incident.

### A3.17 Finishing Order

The Finishing Order rule has been expanded to provide clarity with the order in which operations are applied and is much more explicit about how to apply TROs, PBs, and TBs. This is to document what is actually done to calculate the finishing order.

Current Wording	Proposed Wording
<p>A3.17 Finishing Order</p> <p>a. The finishing order of a division, subject to revisions following the awarding of penalty bumps, technical bumps, and technical row-overs, shall be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. In Torpids, the same as the starting order except that any crews which have been bumped are moved below the crew(s) which have bumped them.</li> <li>ii. In Eights, the same as the starting order except that the two boats involved in each bump shall exchange places.</li> </ul> <p>b. The Final Finishing Order for the event shall be the Finishing Order of the last day of racing and shall include crews from the Final Finishing Order of the previous instance of the event that were ‘not entered’, did not qualify,</p>	<p>A3.18 Finishing Order</p> <p>a. The finishing order of a division is based on the starting order for the division and is calculated as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. the bumps in the division shall be determined under A3.13;</li> <li>ii. bumps gained by any crews awarded Penalty Bumps (A3.17) or Technical Bumps (A3.16) are then disallowed as are the respective bumps against crews awarded Technical Row-Overs (A3.15);</li> <li>iii. working from the Foot of the River towards the Head of the River in the starting order: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. in Torpids, any crews which have been bumped shall be moved below the crew(s) which have bumped them, and;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Current Wording	Proposed Wording
<p>or withdrawn as set out in A3.8 reinserted, and other crews moved down the necessary number of places as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. If lower crews of the same sex from the same College Boat Club are entered, higher positioned crews that were ‘not entered’ or withdrawn shall not be reinserted.</li> <li>ii. Crews in Rowing On Divisions that do not enter or do not qualify for the second consecutive instance of an event shall not be reinserted.</li> <li>iii. Crews withdrawn on safety grounds in accordance with A3.8.d shall be reinserted into their original position.</li> <li>iv. In Torpids, crews shall be reinserted 6 places lower.</li> <li>v. In Eights, crews shall be reinserted 4 places lower.</li> <li>vi. Other crews shall be moved down the necessary number of places.</li> <li>vii. In the event of there being more than one crew to reinsert, the crews should be reinserted starting from the Head of the River and working downwards.</li> </ul> <p>c. Composite crews shall be removed from the Final Finishing Order with any non-composite crews moved up in order to fill their place.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. in Eights, any two boats involved in a bump shall exchange places.</li> <li>iv. working from the Foot of the River towards the Head of the River any crew which has been subject to a Technical Bump or a Penalty Bump, who is now on a higher bungline than they were in the starting order shall be moved down to their starting bungline;</li> <li>v. working from the Foot of the River to the Head of the River: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. any crew subject to Penalty Bumps, shall be moved down by the number of places determined by the Race Committee;</li> <li>2. in Torpids, crews withdrawn for a single day shall be moved down as in A3.16.d.ii, and A3.18.a.v.3 shall not apply, and;</li> <li>3. any crew (A) that is subject to a Technical Bump, the crew now immediately behind them (B) shall be invited to accept or decline the Technical Bump, unless crew (B) is subject to a Penalty Bump, where the Technical Bump shall be automatically declined. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. If crew (B) accepts the Technical Bump on crew (A), then crew (A) will be moved down one place.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>vi. in Torpids, working from the Head of the River to the Foot of the River, crews being placed at the bottom of the division under A3.16.d shall be moved down to the bottom of the division’s finishing order.</li> </ul> <p>b. The Final Finishing Order for the event shall be the Finishing Order of the last day of racing and shall include crews from the Final Finishing Order of the previous instance of the event that were ‘not entered’, did not qualify, or withdrawn as set out in A3.8b, or A3.8.d, reinserted, and other crews moved down the necessary number of places as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. If lower crews of the same sex from the same College Boat Club are entered, higher positioned crews that were ‘not entered’ or withdrawn shall not be reinserted.</li> <li>ii. Composite crews shall be removed from the Final Finishing Order with any non-composite crews moved up in order to fill their place.</li> <li>iii. Crews that do not enter or do not qualify for the second consecutive instance of an event shall not be reinserted.</li> </ul>

Current Wording	Proposed Wording
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>iv. Crews withdrawn on safety grounds in accordance with A3.8.d shall be reinserted into their original position.</li> <li>v. In Torpids, crews <b>not entered or not qualified</b> shall be reinserted 6 places lower.</li> <li>vi. In Eights, crews <b>not entered or not qualified</b> shall be reinserted 4 places lower.</li> <li>vii. In the event of there being more than one crew to reinsert, the crews should be reinserted starting from the Head of the River and working downwards.</li> <li>viii. <b>In the event that a crew which did not qualify has been invited to race at the bottom of the lowest division under A3.8.e, they shall be placed in the higher of either their position resulting from the Finishing Order from the last day of racing, or where they would be reinserted under A3.18.b.v or A3.18.b.vi.</b></li> </ul>

Commentary and links to the other proposals

Current rule Ref	Proposed rule Ref	Comment
A3.17.a.i	A3.18.a.iii.1	Moved position due to restructuring the wording of this rule.
A3.17.a.ii	A3.18.a.iii.2	Moved position due to restructuring the wording of this rule.
	A3.18.a.i	Refers to the definitions of a bump; first operation is to determine which bumps have occurred.
	A3.18.a.ii	Disallow any bumps from the above list from any PBs, TB's and TROs These used to be statements in the respective rules, such as TROs current A3.16.a.iv, TBs current A3.14.d, and PBs current A3.15.d
	A3.18.a.iii	Clarified logic (work from foot to head)
	A3.18.a.iv	Clarified that in Torpids and Eights, a TB or PB first sets you back to your starting bungline (if you have otherwise ended up higher), before the penalty is applied.
	A3.18.a.v	Apply Penalty Bumps, and then Technical Bumps. If a crew that has been Penalty Bumped ends up in a position where the crew now ahead of them is subject to a Technical Bump, then the crew which has been PB'd will automatically decline the TB.
A3.14.e	A3.18.a.vi	A3.14.e (current) / A3.16 d (proposed) – adds the clarity of re-inserting crews at the bottom of the Division under that rule.
A3.17.b	A3.18.b	Updated the references to the Withdrawal rules (A3.8) to remove any ambiguity of whether crews will, or will not, be reinserted.
A3.17.c	A3.18.b.ii	Changed the order of operations for the Final Finishing order to have removals done before any re-insertions.
A3.17.b.ci	-	Removed the duplication of moving crews down the necessary number of places.
	A3.18.b.v & vi	Added “not entered and not qualified” to avoid any ambiguity.
	A3.18.b.viii	Added a new rule to handle the situation where a crew is invited to race but may want to decline so they get a “better” position when they're reinserted at the end of the event.

## Update to Eligibility

Extension to Student Status is often used for those people who don't know when they'll receive leave to supplicate. This has usually been done to extend to the end of the term (so getting LTS in 4<sup>th</sup> week doesn't suddenly make you ineligible to compete in Eights, for example). An update was passed in 4<sup>th</sup> Week TT 2023, which is unnecessarily verbose. This update is to make these extensions automatic when LTS is granted, or a pass list issued, on or after Sunday 0<sup>th</sup> Week and removes the requirement for these motions to be brought to a Captains' meeting at all. This also resolves the rare cases of courses issuing pass lists in the middle of Term.

Current Wording	Proposed Wording
<p><b>A1. General rules of racing</b></p> <p>1. Definitions</p> <p>a. Members of College Boat Clubs are classified either as:</p> <p>i. Student members</p> <p>1. Bona fide students (in accordance with University Statute II) of their respective college(s), until such time as:</p> <p>a. they leave or suspend their course of study – in extraordinary circumstances and with the written approval of the college's Senior Tutor, this period may be extended to a given date by a majority vote at a Captain's Meeting, or;</p> <p>b. a pass list or class list marking the end of the course is published; or</p> <p>c. leave to supplicate for the degree is granted. In extraordinary circumstances where leave to supplicate may be granted unusually quickly after the viva, this period may be extended to the last day of the Bumps regatta in the current term by a majority vote at a Captain's Meeting, provided that leave to supplicate was not granted earlier than the last day of the Full Term before that in which the Captains' Meeting is held.</p> <p>...</p>	<p><b>A1. General rules of racing</b></p> <p>1. Definitions</p> <p>a. Members of College Boat Clubs are classified either as:</p> <p>i. Student members</p> <p>1. Bona fide students (in accordance with University Statute II) of their respective college(s), until such time as:</p> <p>a. they leave or suspend their course of study – in extraordinary circumstances and with the written approval of the college's Senior Tutor, suspended students may be permitted to retain their membership by a majority vote at a Captain's Meeting, or;</p> <p>b. the end of the Term or Vacation (see Code of Conduct 2.1.b) in which:</p> <p>i. a pass list or class list marking the end of the course is published; or</p> <p>ii. leave to supplicate for the degree is granted.</p> <p>...</p>



# **OURCs Captains' Meeting**

Friday 6th week Michaelmas Term 2023  
17th November 2023

## **Paper 5: Changes to the Constitution**

## Update to Constitution 1.11 Alteration of the Constitution and Code of Conduct

Update to the requirements for changing the rules to prevent this happening while an event is underway.

Current Wording	Proposed Wording
<p>1.11 Alteration of the Constitution and Code of Conduct</p> <p>...</p> <p>f. Alterations to the Code of Conduct and Rules of Racing require a simple majority.</p>	<p>1.11 Alteration of the Constitution and Code of Conduct</p> <p>...</p> <p>f. Alterations to the Code of Conduct require a simple majority.</p> <p>g. Alterations to the Rules of Racing require a simple majority, except in the following circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. motions to amend the rules governing eligibility, or proposed exemptions to the usual eligibility rules (A1.1 &amp; A1.2), must be brought in accordance with the procedural rules of a Constitutional Alteration (1.11d, and 1.11e);</li> <li>ii. motions to amend the Bumps Starting Order, or the rules governing the Bumps Starting Order (A3.8 &amp; A3.9) must be brought in accordance with the procedural rules of a Constitutional Alteration (1.11.d and 1.11.e);</li> <li>iii. motions for Honorary Memberships (A1.1.a.iii) must be brought in accordance with the procedural rules of a Constitutional Alteration (1.11.d and 1.11.e);</li> <li>iv. motions may not be brought to change the eligibility rules of an event after the close of entries, and;</li> <li>v. motions to change the rules of an event after the close of entries may only be proposed by the OURCs Senior Member, or a ratified Senior Umpire.</li> </ul>

Remove the redundant rules: A1.1.d, A1.2.d, A3.9.g, and A1.1.a.iii.1.a.

### Commentary

There has been a trend in recent years for exemptions, or changes to the rules, especially around eligibility, to be brought in the Captains' Meeting immediately prior to the event. This is often after entries have closed, so the captains proposing such a change will have made their entries on the assumption that they'll be able to leverage these new rules/exceptions. This can create an uneven playing field, where another club who might have been able to leverage this new rule cannot, as it wasn't part of the rules at the time that entries close.

An exception, however, needs to be made where a rule change (e.g. one brought in 2<sup>nd</sup> week) has been identified to have a fundamental flaw, and so the OURCs Senior Member or Senior Umpires can still bring a motion to modify the event where this is deemed to be necessary. In reality, the Senior Umpire could choose to interpret the rules in a certain way for the event anyway (A1.11.d) to address this flaw; this mechanism allows them to bring this forward as a motion to avoid ambiguity later.