



Umpires' Instructions 2008

Each Umpire's primary responsibility is to ensure safe, fair and equal racing, as defined in the current edition of the ARA Rules of Racing and Water Safety Code, which take precedence over any informal notes in this set of instructions.

Start Zone Manager

- Represent Race Committee at the Start.
- Ensure smooth running at the start, assisting the start marshalling team, Judge at the Start, Aligner, Starter and Assistant Starter as necessary (including shift changes).
- Primary point of contact between the start team and Regatta Control (e.g. to chase paperwork etc.).
- In extremis, if crews are having severe difficulties getting attached, the Starter and Start Zone Manager may agree to use a free start after discussion with the Chairman of the Race Committee.
- Useful points of contact at the start:
 - Paul Sims - start timing / regatta control in the start tower (for all paperwork updates etc)
 - Helena Smalman-Smith / Mike Edge - stakeboat team

100 m and Start Bridge Marshals

- Prepare crews for the next two (or three) races, ensuring they are in the correct lane order (lane 1 first) and move quickly to the start when called
- Liaise with the rest of the marshalling team for late-comers.
- Races **will not be held** for late-comers; crews who have missed their race time are to row back in **Lane 1, pulling into Lane 0 *and stopping* if the next race catches them up.**

Starter / Assistant Starter

- Starters are encouraged to allow Assistant Starters, under supervision, to get as much opportunity to start races as possible.
- Monitor approaching weather and report to Start Zone Manager.

Judge at the Start / Aligner

- Share the role between the two named umpires.
- We are planning to use the movable pontoons this year, so alignment can be carried out from the Aligner's Hut. If there are any problems with moving the pontoons, then (in consultation with the Starter and Start Zone Manager) be prepared to revert to using fixed pontoons and the backup alignment markers on the bank.
- Apply common sense on the accuracy of alignment taking into account the weather conditions and crew experience; ensure the start is as fair as can reasonably be achieved.

Launch Umpire

- Please aim to stay with the launch numbers as per the rota; some of the drivers are themselves ML umpires, and both drivers' and umpires' rotas have been designed to put less experienced umpires with experienced drivers (and vice versa).
- There will be trainee / less experienced umpires at the event who would like to gain some multi-lane experience; please be prepared to accommodate them. There should be no more than THREE people on a launch at any one time (driver, umpire and possibly a trainee) and all will wear lifejackets / buoyancy aids while afloat.

On-Water Manager / Reserve Umpire

- Be on hand to help ensure launch umpire changeovers run smoothly.

- If a trainee or less experienced umpire (not on the formal rota) wants the opportunity to follow some races, then please try to accommodate them where possible.
- In the event of a dispute, it may be necessary for the relevant Race Umpire to come ashore to resolve the dispute. The Reserve Umpire must be ready near the launch pontoon to take over should the need arise.

Finish Judges

- Chief Judge - manage the judging team at the finish.
- Liaise with the volunteers running the finish video recording system.
- Ensure the race results are properly recorded on the finish list.
- Communicate / release the result to the commentary team (working with the finish volunteer team).
- Liaise with Race Umpire in the event of any disputes (preferably face to face, not over the radio).

Control Commission

- Head - ensure the Control Commission team carries out random, but thorough, boat and crew checks. Our aim is to check as close to 100% of boats as possible, and to check at least one crew per event (not per race).
- There is no need to maintain list of boats afloat; the marshalling team does that.
- Select random crews (on the way out or the way back) for crew composition checks - collect the registration form from Crew Control, and then ask **the crew** to tell you their names and confirm they match.
- For boat checks:
 - First ask the crew **if they have checked their boat**
 - Then, if possible, ask **them to demonstrate to you that their boat meets the required standards** (i.e. get them to check the boat while you observe them - make sure they're checking the right things and checking them properly)
- Select random returning coxes for deadweight checks.
- A reminder that coxes in bow-coxed boats may only wear manually inflatable lifejackets; not the fully automatic sort and not foam buoyancy aids. Watch out for lifejackets that are taped shut, or have dictaphones etc. taped to them.
- Maintain Control Commission fault list (on the form provided) and return to the Chairman of the Race Committee after the event. The aim of this list is purely data gathering, and it will be copied to the relevant Regional Water Safety Adviser to help improve standards of boat preparation. It is **emphatically not** an attempt to "name and shame". Look on it as a quality assurance task, not a policing one. Clearly if a boat is presented with one or more serious faults than cannot be properly fixed in time for that crew's race then, as per Rule 2-3-8a, Control Commission "shall exclude" that boat.
- Be available to provide assistance, if requested, to Crew Registration helping with weighing-in and clipping winners' racing licences.

Race Committee

- Chairman - Richard Packer
- Deputy Chairman - Judith Packer
- Members - Start Zone Manager, Reserve Umpire, Head of Control Commission

Umpires' Commission Representatives

- Multi-lane - Maggie Phillips
- Thames Region - Gary Painter

Trainees

- In between your scheduled shifts, you might like to take the opportunity of observing other umpiring and marshalling roles around the course. Please liaise with the relevant start, on-water or finish zone managers as appropriate; they will be expecting you!

Feedback

- If you have any comments, observations or suggestions for improvements on any aspect of the regatta organisation, then please let me know either on the day or after the event by email so that I can discuss them at the wash-up meeting and improve things for next year.

Many thanks for your help!

Richard Packer - Chairman of the Race Committee, tel. 07710 411768