



O U R C

Summer Eights 2013, Sponsored by Neptune Investment Management Static Umpires Instructions

Introduction

On Saturday of Eights there are large crowds on the tow path making it dangerous to cycle down it for both the cyclists and the spectators. To counter this we ban all college and associated bikes from the tow path. Obviously this means we are not able to have umpires operating on bikes so we use a number of static umpires in fixed positions up and down the river. Each umpire reports on what happens at a particular position rather than what a particular boat does.

Details

Umpires are issued with a position according to the rota on the OURCs website and will wear a coloured bib indicating their position. At the end of each division the umpires wearing green and blue bibs should go to the umpire wearing a red bib with the same number on it who has a radio connected to the head umpire. Each umpire should give an individual report via the red umpire when called to do so at the end of each division. During the division, each umpire must be in the position they have been allocated and must then use the report book which they hold to fill in the details of any bumps or incidents.

Positioning

Each umpiring position is marked on the ground with yellow paint indicating the position that the umpire should stand in – for example “R12” painted on the ground would indicate where the umpire allocated to red 12 should stand. Every umpire should be in position when the five minute gun goes off and this will be checked by the head umpire doing a roll call via radio to all red umpires who will, in turn, check that the umpires wearing blue and green bibs (who do not have radios) nearby are in position.

What should I report?

Umpires are expected to take note of just on water events. The main factor should be whether or not a bump has occurred. For every bump you see you should record:

- Which crew bumped which?
- Where the bump occurred?
- How the bump occurred? (e.g. was there a concession or contact? did the crews both clear the racing line? etc.)
- When the bump occurred? (this is especially important where three crews are very close together)
- Any breaking of rules by crews during racing (e.g. abusive language)
- Anything else that might be of interest to the race committee e.g. anything external that might have impacted on a crew's position or anything that may be of interest later on such as a crew who is impeded and slowed down, even if they are not immediately bumped

When the last racing crew has passed your position you should go to your corresponding red umpire. The head umpire will then contact each red umpire in turn.

Shifts and conduct

Each college is assigned a position for a certain length of time (often the whole day). It is up for the individual colleges to organise how they split the shifts but no-one should be in position for less than two hours. Any changeovers should take place just after the previous umpire has provided their report to the head umpire and the head umpire must be informed of the changeover.

For 2013 the Head umpire is David Locke to whom all queries on the day should be referred.

Only the first shift of each day needs to come to race desk where they will receive a short briefing and be issued with the equipment that position needs for the day. Subsequently, colleges should arrange within their boat club for the replacement to attend directly to their position. **The last shift must return equipment to race desk.**

It is absolutely critical to the running of the event that all umpires are in position for each race and alert. We will have to suspend racing if we do not have sufficient umpires to provide adequate cover of the entire river – otherwise we will simply not know what the results are. Please ensure that umpires are sober and appreciate the importance of their role.