

# Senior Umpires statement on withdrawals, Torpids 2008

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2008.

- 1] **Withdrawals without penalty on safety grounds will not be allowed.** Although this term has included a lengthy closure, there was a lot of training time last term, and there has been a good patch of excellent weather since the river re-opened, with plenty of possible outing times. We have seen an surprisingly good standard of rowing on the river and in Rowing On, and are not willing to penalise those crews who have made the effort to train and improve this winter, and to recruit and keep their rowers interested.
  
- 2] However, **we have extended the rule B6.1 deadline for 'not entered' withdrawals until midnight on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February.** Fixed division crews withdrawing before this time will be treated as 'not entered', refunded their entry fee, and will drop only six places in next years' Torpids starting order, with rule B6.2 applied in its entirety. This does not affect their Summer Eights positions, which are independent of Torpids.
  
- 3] **We would like to encourage as many crews as possible to race.** Therefore we will allow extraordinary substitutions of inexperienced coxes under the following circumstances:
  - A captain may substitute a novice or very bumps-inexperienced cox with another cox even if the new cox is already steering another crew. Such requests must be made by email to BOTH the Race Secretary and the Captain of Coxes email address.
  - The cox who has been dropped must confirm that they are happy with this switch by sending an email from their own account to both the Race Secretary and the CoCs.
  - The cox who has been dropped will be allowed to ride alongside the crew as an extra bank rider, provided that they arrange this with the race desk before the division. We hope this will help them learn, and may also encourage captains to resubstitute them back again by the end of the week if the crew has gained enough confidence and experience. *This is NOT a blanket offer to allow extra bank riders, and will only be given to coxes dropped due to extraordinary substitutions, who should bring photo ID to the race desk when applying for it.*
  
- 4] The Captain of Coxes and RQ recommend that novice coxes registered this term who cannot steer straight should not be asked to cox in Torpids. Captains please consider your options after the Winter League.

Good luck to all racing on Sunday and next week.

*Rachel Quarrell, David Locke, Laura Dance, Lenny Martin and Jonathan Price.*