



Successful Competitions

NW Rowing Conference, 8th February 2020

TEAMWORK | OPEN TO ALL | COMMITMENT

12 Thrilling Competitions From Around The World

1. Greasy Pole Competitions — Various Locations



2. Running of the Bulls — Spain



3. La Tomatina — Spain



4. Nathan's Famous Hot Dog Eating Contest — NYC



5. Shovel Racing — New Mexico



6. Cooper's Hill Cheese Rolling — Gloucestershire, U.K.



7. World Beard and Moustache Championship —AT & USA



8. World Toe Wrestling Championship — Derbyshire, England



9. Baikal Ice Marathon — Siberia



10. Carnevale di Ivrea — Italy



11. Lawn Mower Racing — Worldwide



12. North West Rowing Competitions

2020

14 Head
Races

9
Regattas

1 Indoor
Rowing

n Private
Comps

| 2020 | 2021 | | Competition |
|------------|------------|-----|--|
| Sun 02-Feb | Sun 07-Feb | I | English Indoor Rowing Championships |
| Sun 09-Feb | Sun 14-Feb | Hd | Warrington Hd of Mersey |
| Sat 15-Feb | Sat 20-Feb | Hd | Trafford Hd of Bridgewater |
| Sat 29-Feb | Sat 27-Feb | Hd | Runcorn Spring Head |
| Sun 01-Mar | Sun 28-Feb | Hd | NW Junior TT (Northwich) |
| Sun 15-Mar | Sun 14-Mar | Hd | N of England HoRR |
| Sun 05-Apr | Sun 04-Apr | Hd | Northwich Spring Head |
| Sat 11-Apr | Sat 17-Apr | Rgt | Trafford |
| Sat 02-May | Sat 01-May | Rgt | Merseyside (Liverpool) |
| Sun 17-May | Sun 23-May | Rgt | City of Lancaster |
| Mon 25-May | Mon 31-May | Rgt | Northwich |
| Sun 07-Jun | Sun 06-Jun | Rgt | Trentham |
| Sat 13-Jun | Sat 12-Jun | Rgt | Chester |
| Sun 12-Jul | Sun 11-Jul | Rgt | Runcorn Junior (& Ball Cup North) |
| Sat 25-Jul | Sat 24-Jul | Rgt | Warrington |
| Sat 05-Sep | Sat 04-Sep | Rgt | North of England Sprrt. Champs |
| Sun 20-Sep | Sun 26-Sep | Hd | Chester LDS |
| Sat 26-Sep | Sat 02-Oct | Hd | Runcorn Aut Hd |
| Sat 10-Oct | Sat 16-Oct | Hd | Agecroft Head |
| Sat 24-Oct | Sat 30-Oct | Hd | Dee Autumn Hd |
| Sun 08-Nov | Sun 14-Nov | Hd | Northwich Autumn Hd |
| Sun 15-Nov | Sun 21-Nov | Hd | Head of the Lune (Lancaster) |
| Sun 22-Nov | Sun 28-Nov | Hd | BUCS NOVICE EIGHTS Head (Liverpool University) |
| Sat 28-Nov | Sat 04-Dec | Hd | Liverpool Head of the Float |

= Date agreed with BR

Clubs will have more dates on the rowing Calendar;
NW dates and other competitions of interest to NW clubs can be seen at:
<https://www.nwrowing.com/competitions>

Competition v Event

(from Appendix A – British Rowing Rules of Racing)

Competition: A group of one or more events managed by one Organising Committee. This includes, but is not limited to, regattas, head races, time trials, bumping races, etc.

Event: shall mean a race or series of races, including all time trials, heats, repêchages, finals etc., that together determine the winner and the order of placement in a particular class of competition.

Organising Committee: The group of people who take responsibility for the organisation and running of a competition.

The Race Committee:

6-1-2 The Race Committee

- a. Before a competition, the Organising Committee shall appoint an umpire to be Race Committee Chairman.
- b. The Race Committee Chairman shall then appoint a Race Committee consisting of umpires, the minimum number being three.
- c. Where a competition has a Co-ordinating Umpire (see 6-1-4a) that person shall be a member of the Race Committee.
- d. The Race Committee Chairman shall be a member of the Organising Committee and shall be responsible to it for the application of the British Rowing Rules of Racing at the competition.
- e. The Race Committee shall take any decisions on the conduct of racing not in the province of an officiating umpire and shall hear any protests to the Organising Committee; however, the Race Umpire remains responsible for the conduct and outcome of the race.

Within the Organising Committee the Race Committee Chairman should act as the authority on the application of the Rules of Racing and should be ready to advise on any aspect of the preparation for, and running of, the competition where the rules have an impact or wherever there is a need to consider 'fair and equal conditions' for racing. During the competition, the members of the Race Committee should always be available to any Umpire for support and advice and to receive suggestions for the improvement of conditions for racing.

What might a
thrilling
competition
look like?

[illegible]

Different types of Competition Facilities (4 spectators and athletes)
Modern
Big screens ..

Thoughts of Conference Attendees



Thoughts of Conference Attendees

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Good Tannoy/PA system | thrilling for competitors and spectators | commentary |
| Close Races | spectator interest | good help with boating |
| quick and efficient scrutinizing | multiple race opportunities in the day (not just straight finals) | alternative formats (not straight knockouts) |
| meet customer needs | good refreshments | WC facilities |
| good commentator | friendliness | good toilets |
| toilet breaks for umpires | well organised | informality |
| PA description during race | umpires with positive attitude | spectators |
| Appealing to spectators | nice medals | safe |
| Live commentary (knowledgeable and not boring) | mix of sports (including rowing) | see the whole race |
| engaged supporters | events for all | floodlights |
| prizes (but not necessarily pots) | happy volunteers | fireworks |
| Interesting | good grub (lots and accessible - deliver row) | music |
| videos of race in club house after races | loud environment | communications |
| Spectator attraction | good for spectators | Wi-Fi |
| element of risk | events for competitors | Frequent races |
| live video feeds in bar/tea tent | well organised | Frequency of something happening |
| friendly & fun umpires/officials | not too far to carry boats | Gold medals |
| close competition | few gaps in racing | big screen |
| personal and collective achievements | new faces (e.g. clubs) | inclusive |
| happy dogs | side-by-side racing | arena location |
| easy & free parking | colour run | stalls selling rowing kit |
| happy juniors | all ages | shelter |
| everything close by | prizes | weather |
| rivalry | close racing | celebrities |
| short competition and on-time | starter cannon | BBQ |
| fair course | high quality racing | food |
| all-round support (both on and of the water) | variety of format (fine boat / explorer / dragon / canoe) | enclosure and good spectator facilities |
| close finishes | no officious umpires | |

Steps to run a Successful Competition ?

Consider 9 steps

1. Know your goals, target market & stakeholders.
2. Choose your competition type, details and prizes.
3. Organise your competition.
4. Market your competition
5. Detail Planning
6. Have a great day
7. Track your results.
8. Follow-up post-competition.
9. Learn and repeat.

Consider 9 Steps

1. Know your goals, target market & stakeholders.

Why are you holding a competition ?

Who is it for ?

What individuals or organisations will have an interest or concern in the competition, and can either affect or be affected by the competition ?

Who are some
of the
stakeholders of
your local
competitions?

Stakeholders may include ... (views from the conference, in no particular order)

- Competitors
- Supporters
- Coaches
- Club Committee
- Treasurer
- Lock keepers
- Moored boats & Boat Yards
- Farmer
- River Authorities (notification/permission)
- River Authorities (maintenance teams)
- Fisherman & Fishing Clubs
- Other River users (sailing, pleasure boats, kayaking, paddle boarders, ..)
- Regional Umpires Committee
- rowTIME
- Other BR Regions (competitions& events)
- National Competitions Committee
- BR

- Schools
- Land Owners
- Local B&B, Hotels, Pubs, ...
- Sponsors
- Local Councillor / MP
- Entertainers
- Local Council Maintenance teams
- Umpires
- Tourist Board
- Local Sports clubs
(esp. those using the water/towpath)
- Local residents
- Local press
- DB Rowing Calendar
- Police
- Wi-Fi
- North West Rowing Council
- ...

What might a
successful
competition
look like ?

Consider 9 Steps

2. Choose your competition type, details and prizes.

Type: Head Race, Regatta, Time Trial, Bumping Race, Private Match

Details: venue / date / time

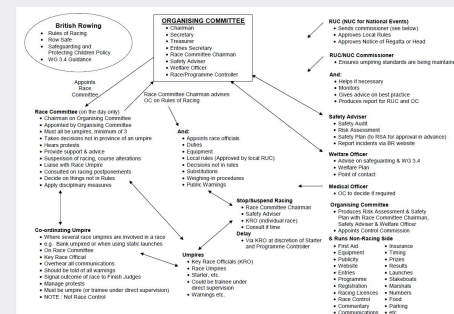
(New competitions: application to be affiliated)

Prize(s): medals / tankards / pots / pennants / shield / VL / cash / ...

Consider 9 Steps

3. Organise your competition

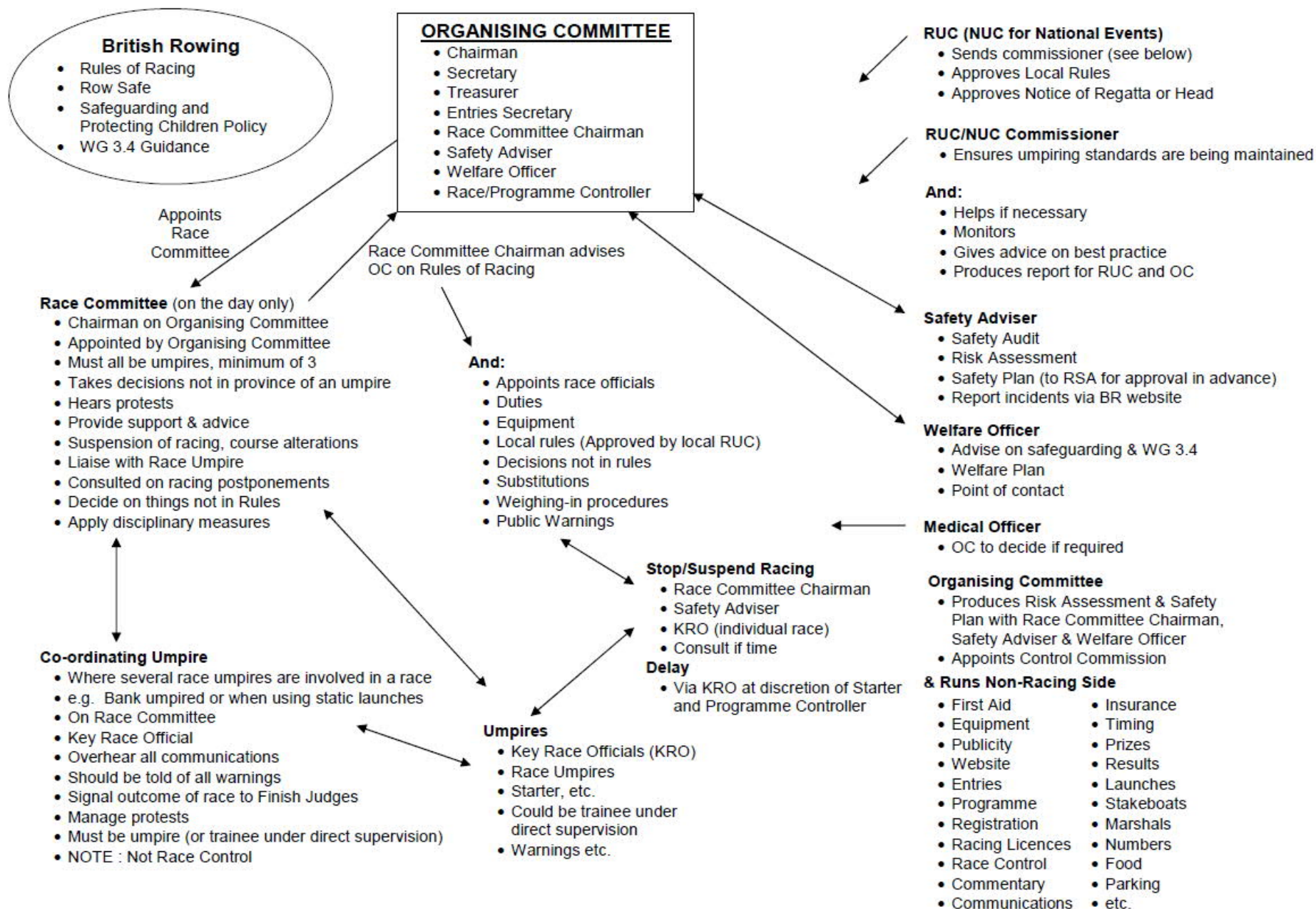
<https://www.britishrowing.org/events/organising-competitions/>



Local Rules – defined and for approved by RUC

Regional Umpire Commission Head – poster and materials

Submission of Risk Assessment, Safety plan, Emergency Plan, ... to Regional Safety Adviser at least 4 weeks in advance of comp date (Rule 5-2-2c)



6-2 Local Rules

- a. The Race Committee Chairman shall, in collaboration with the Organising Committee, develop and publish any local rules to supplement the British Rowing Rules of Racing at the competition.
- b. The Local Rules must be approved by the Regional Umpiring Committee prior to being published.

For example, the local rules might establish:

- *how lateness at the start is to be dealt with*
- *the way in which Control Commission shall work at the competition (NB as a minimum, the identities and eligibility of winning crew members should be checked, and spot checks made on the safety aspects of equipment)*
- *whether or not the competition or individual events are to be divided into divisions, and if so, how each is to be progressed to its starting position, turned and brought to the start*
- *whether competitors are to be allowed to row in the same event in different Divisions*
- *for head races whether there are any parts of the course where overtaking is banned*
- *for head races whether there is a rule covering to which side overtaking crews should go and the extent to which slower crews should give way*
- *details of specific penalties, e.g. time penalties for being late at the start of a processional race*
- *the extent to which certain types of penalty should be fixed - or varied between fixed limits*

Consider 9 Steps

4. Market your competition

Club(s)

- web pages / twitter / Facebook /Instagram / email listings / ...
- newspaper
- stakeholders (preferred communication channels)

NW

- email to registered contacts / web / twitter / Facebook

BR

- Calendar / club news pages / magazine (yourstories@britishrowing.org)

Have a person dedicated to marketing your competition
(ideally with social media skills)



Consider 9 Steps

5. Detail Planning

“The Draw” – complete and communicate

“Boating Times” – consider total time a crew may be on the water and best sequence for boating and start

Crew Substitutions – allow clubs to do this before a ‘division’ starts and use app/utility on phone/tablet and do crew composition checks.

Results Processing – consider how you are going to present results

Equipment – book NW equipment and borrowing launches etc.

Set-up – share a task list and responsibilities for the ‘set-up’ on the day

Volunteers (club, umpires, local, ...) – set up separate rotas with lead contacts; provide written instructions where possible.

Book the weather (if you have good connections)

Consider 9 Steps

6. Have a Great day

Enjoy the day



Communication:

- between
Org Chair / Chair of Race Comm / Safety Adviser / Volunteer Organiser / ...
- with
Stakeholders

Consider 9 Steps

7. Track your Results

- Time v plan
(boating crews, time on water, planned gaps, ...)
- Racing Results
(and communication of)
- Regional Umpire Report
& Control Commission Report
- Finances v Plan
- Gather feedback from your stakeholders
(especially from the competitors and coaches
"tell us about your day")



Consider 9 Steps

8. Follow-up post-competition

Important Rule: Learning not blaming.

Your Wash Up should be focused on learning and not blaming. ...

Step 1: Create an agenda. Before the meeting create an agenda of the highs and lows from the competition

Step 2: Book time in. Put time in everyone's diary to review the agenda. (date should be known before the competition)



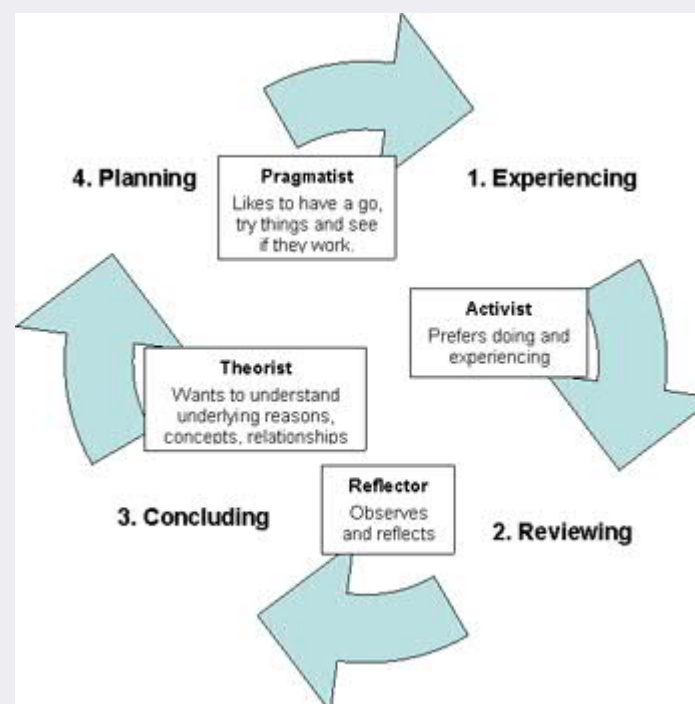
Step 3: The Wash Up. ...

Step 4: Lessons Learned.

Consider 9 Steps

9. Learn & Repeat

Make sure the Wash up meeting learning leads to conclusions and updates to your plans that are taken to the next competition



Additional input from the conference ...

- Encourage Clubs to make all their entries to competitions in one go to avoid finding half club (& trailer) missing the early entry closure of a competition.
- Hold 'marshals meeting' with club members before the competition day, to run through procedures and radio usage (instead of teach quickly on the Comp day morning)
- More detail thought by competitions on what they might do under different scenarios that might be required if situation needs alternative to PLAN A.
- When emailing volunteers use "BCC" – avoid sharing email addresses and avoid receipt of unnecessary 'reply to all' emails

NW Rowing Support

NW Rowing Support

Today

BR Competition Calendar
'Poster' Approval
Regional Safety Advisor
Umpires & Equipment
BROE, Draw And Returns Support
Promotion of NW Competitions

<https://www.nwrowing.com/competitions>

Thoughts/challenges for future ...

Co-ordinated Competition Strategy and new Comp Calendar
with logical pathway & sequence for JUNIORS, MASTERS, 'NOVICE', OPEN

Additional Regional equipment to support competitions
(incl. Boats/launches/screens/ ...)

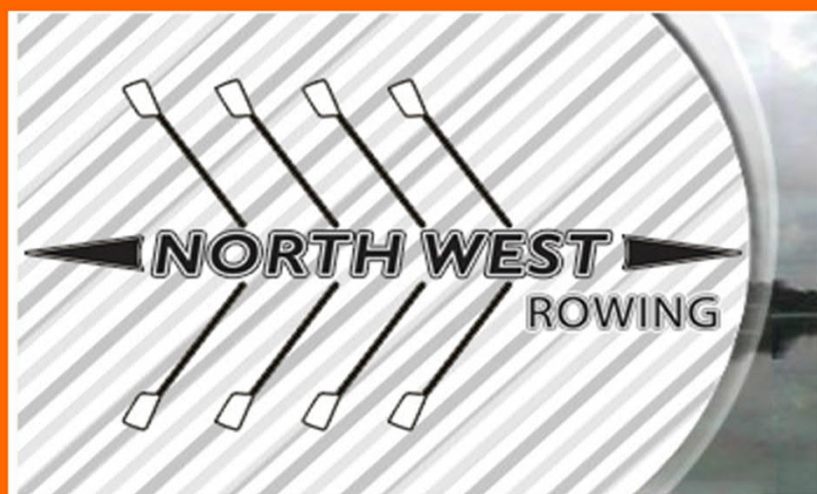
Helping competitions plan contingent arrangements (change of venue/day/week) to avoid loss of competitions.

Let's support each other in creating and running successful competitions



Your next competition







Successful Competitions

NW Rowing Conference, 8th February 2020

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