

2011 Approved Rules Changes

1. Rule 2-410 Outside Assistance

Current Rule:

2-410 Outside Assistance

(a) No crew shall receive any outside assistance, coaching, or advice during a race. The Referee may exclude any crew that receives such assistance, coaching, or advice from another member of its team, regardless of whether or not any benefit was received, and any race official who observes such conduct shall report the incident to the Chief Referee, who may curtail or prohibit the further participation at a regatta of any team member found responsible. Nothing in this rule shall preclude communication to crews from shore using the unaided voice.

(b) No team member, including coaches, shall follow a race in a launch.

(c) Loudspeaker systems to announce the progress of the race to spectators in the finish area shall be turned off when the leading crew has entered the last 250 meters of the course, unless the speakers are pointed away from the water so that they are inaudible to the crews and do not distract race officials.

Proposed change:

2-410 Outside Assistance

(a) *No crew shall receive any outside assistance, coaching, or advice during a race. Nothing in this rule shall preclude communication to crews from shore using the unaided voice.*

(b) No team member, including coaches, shall follow a race in a launch. *The penalty for such an infraction is presumed to be exclusion of the offending crew and the team member or coach.*

(c) Loudspeaker systems to announce the progress of the race to spectators in the finish area shall be turned off when the leading crew has entered the last 250 meters of the course, unless the speakers are pointed away from the water so that they are inaudible to the crews and do not distract race officials.

Recommendation:

1. **APPROVED**

2. Rule 4-106 Lightweights

Current Rule:

4-106 Lightweights

A lightweight crew is one that complies with the requirements below. An open event is one that is not a lightweight event.

(a) Men:

- (1) A men's lightweight crew shall average no more than 155 lbs. per rower, and no individual rower shall weigh more than 160 lbs.
- (2) A male single sculler (1x) shall not weigh more than 160 lbs.
- (3) A Junior men's lightweight crew is one in which no individual rower weighs more than 155 lbs.
- (4) A men's Masters lightweight crew is one in which no individual rower weighs more than 160 lbs.
- (5) The coxswain shall not be counted for purposes of this rule.

(b) Women :

- (1) A women's lightweight crew, including a single scull (1x), shall have no rower who weighs more than 130 lb.
- (2) The coxswain shall not be counted for purposes of this rule.

[Editor's Note: Please note that rules relating to USRowing National Team Trials regattas and regattas governed by FISA, the International Rowing Federation, may vary; refer to Rule 6-203.]

Proposed change:

4-106 Lightweights

A lightweight crew is one that complies with the requirements below. An open event is one that is not a lightweight event.

(a) Men:

- (1) ***A men's lightweight crew, including a single scull (1x), shall have no rower who weighs more than 160 lb.***
- (2) ***The coxswain shall not be counted for purposes of this rule.***

(b) Women

- (1) A women's lightweight crew, including a single scull (1x), shall have no rower who weighs more than 130 lb.
- (2) The coxswain shall not be counted for purposes of this rule.

[Editor's Note: Please note that rules relating to USRowing National Team Trials regattas and regattas governed by FISA, the International Rowing Federation, may vary; refer to Rule 6-203.]

Recommendation:

1. **APPROVED**

3. Rule 3-105 Bowballs

Current Rule:

3-105 Bowballs (*)

Every boat shall have a supple or plastic ball, of a white or fluorescent color, mounted on its bow, unless equivalent provision for visibility and protection against puncture injury is included in the boat's basic construction. The bowball shall be at least 4 centimeters in diameter.

Proposed change:

3-105 Bowballs (*)

Every boat shall have a supple or plastic ball, of a white or fluorescent color, *firmly attached and* mounted on its bow, unless equivalent provision for visibility and protection against puncture injury is included in the boat's basic construction. The bowball shall be at least 4 centimeters in diameter.

Recommendation:

1. **APPROVED**

4. Rule 3-106 Electronic Devices

Current Rule:

3-106 Electronic Devices

A boat may be equipped with an internal loudspeaker system and electronic devices that provide statistical information about the progress of the race or performance of the crew (such as elapsed time or stroke rate). During a race, no boat shall have on board any electronic devices that are capable of sending or receiving information from any source external to the boat, regardless of whether it is actually used. The possession within the boat of any radio device is specifically prohibited.

Proposed change:

3-106 Electronic Devices

Deleted.

Recommendation:

1. **APPROVED**

5. Rule 2-306 Starting Commands with Flags

Current Rule:

2-306 Starting Commands with Flags

(a) After the crews have been polled, the Starter shall start the race by: (1) calling out “Attention!,” (2) raising a red flag overhead, preferably using two hands, and (3) after a distinct and variable pause, calling out “Go!” The command “Go!” shall be accompanied by a quick downward motion of the red flag to one side.

(b) If, after the red flag has been raised, the Starter believes for any reason that the start should not occur, he or she shall call out “As You Were!” and gently lower the red flag directly in front of him or her. The Starter then shall repeat the starting commands in their entirety, but may dispense with repolling the crews.

(c) Crews may leave the starting line when the Starter’s red flag begins to move.

(d) Unless the Starter believes that a crew is engaging in intentional delaying tactics or other unsportsmanlike conduct, he or she shall recognize a crew signaling that it is not ready, except where the “countdown start” (Rule 2-308) is used. If the race is started while a crew is validly signaling before the start that it is not ready, that crew shall remain at the start (Rule 2-310). A crew that rows out of the starting area (100 meters) waives any right to protest on the grounds that the start was not fair. Any official in the starting area may stop the race if he or she observes a crew signaling that it is not ready.

Proposed Change: Revise 2-306 to read as follows:

Rule 2-306 Starting Commands with Flags

(a) After the crews have been polled, the Starter shall start the race by: (1) calling out “Attention!,” (2) raising *the Starter’s* flag overhead, preferably using two hands, and (3) after a distinct and variable pause, calling out “Go!” The command “Go!” shall be accompanied by a quick downward motion of *the Starter’s* flag to one side.

(b) If, after *the Starter’s* flag has been raised, the Starter believes for any reason that the start should not occur, he or she shall call out “As You Were!” and gently lower *the Starter’s* flag directly in front of him or her. The Starter then shall repeat the starting commands in their entirety, but may dispense with repolling the crews.

(c) Crews may leave the starting line when the Starter’s flag begins to move.

(d) Unless the Starter believes that a crew is engaging in intentional delaying tactics or other unsportsmanlike conduct, he or she shall recognize a crew signaling that it is not ready, except where the “countdown start” (Rule 2-308) is used. If the race is started while a crew is validly signaling before the start that it is not ready, that crew shall remain at the start (Rule 2-310). A crew that rows out of the starting area (100 meters) waives any right to protest on the grounds that the start was not fair. Any official in the starting area may stop the race if he or she observes a crew signaling that it is not ready.

Recommendation

1. APPROVED