

Hammersmith Head of the River 2022

Statement on Undeclared Substitutions and Disqualifications

This year, nine crews entered in Championship events were disqualified for racing with undeclared substitutions. These were five crews from Thames RC and four crews from University of London BC.

Failure to declare substitutions before the race is a breach of British Rowing Rules of Racing (rule 7-2-4) and wholly contrary to the principles of safety and fairness by which all British Rowing competitions, including Hammersmith Head, are organised. Moreover, it substantially undermines the integrity of the race on the day.

Safety: it is imperative that the organisers have available the identity of all members of every crew as it may prove essential in the event of a serious incident or rescue situation.

Fairness: the composition of the crew defines the crew CRI and is used to determine the start order. Ranking points are then awarded to the individuals declared in the crew.

In accordance with the Rules of Racing (7-2-4b), Hammersmith Head allowed unlimited substitutions until the close of entries (on 16/02/22), after which point up to 50% of the crew, plus the cox could still be substituted. BROE remained fully open for online substitutions until the race on Sunday 27 February. The Entries Secretary was additionally available via email and phone for any club which needed to make substitutions in excess of the 50% limit, allowing the correct crew to legitimately race, but for Time Only.

The Hammersmith Head of the River Organising Committee is extremely disappointed by this situation and will be passing the details to the British Rowing National Competition Committee.

Organising Committee
Hammersmith Head of the River