

RACING RULES OF THE CPGA

Prior to the races

1. All crews must carry VHF radios which must be switched on and working throughout the entire duration of the race.
2. Bow fenders must be in place, correctly secured and all floorboards, of correct specification must be in place.
3. All coxswains must be 18 years of age or over.
4. It is fundamental that a safety boat is in place for a race to commence. This does not refer to the umpire boat.
5. A race must not take place without the presence of both umpires and umpire boat(s).
6. A shore base **MUST** be manned and maintain communication with the umpire and safety boats **AT ALL TIMES**.
7. All umpire boats must have suitable safety / medical kits.
8. All gigs must have an attached bow rope. This should allow for the safe towing of the gig if the need arises. (It should be roughly from bow to coxswain seat *in length* and **10/12mm** thick)

Crew Information

9. Gigs are to complete a race with the *same crew members as they start with*. A crew consists of six (6) rowers and one (1) coxswain.
10. In any junior race, lifejackets must be worn by the crew and coxswain in such a way that is clearly visible to the umpires.
11. In any senior race, if there is a junior rowing, then lifejackets must be worn by both the junior and coxswain.

Umpires

12. A crew may be disqualified for failing to obey the umpire's instructions.
13. A crew may be disqualified for any unsporting like behaviour (see Code of Conduct).
14. Any umpire has the right to order a gig to withdraw from a race at any time. This right should be exercised in the event of poor seamanship or for safety reasons.
15. The decision of the umpires on the day will be FINAL.
16. The action of any coxswain deemed unnecessary/unsafe/unsporting, will be reported to the CPGA committee for disciplinary action if appropriate. The Umpire Rep will monitor situations / coxswains via a yellow and red card system as noted in an umpire book. (See Umpires Code of Conduct)
17. **One nominated person from a crew is to speak to race stewards regarding any racing incident. Race Stewards will speak to this one member of the crew regarding race incidents/umpires decisions only.**

Umpires Code of Conduct

- A common sense approach should be applied at all times
- A straight red card/**disqualification** must be carefully considered and a last resort decision.
- Umpires should actively seek to encourage the race to continue and any decisions to stand so to consider the interests of both the competitors and ultimately the sport.
With this in mind the following should be considered:
 - Whether **the nominated person of the crew concerned has indicated the possible racing incident/infringement to the stewards/umpires**
From this it should be considered:
 - Whether the infringement affected the final outcome
 - Whether the infringement created a dangerous or costly situation

Umpire Reps must be informed of all of the details (including their opinion sanction i.e. red or yellow card) and severity of all incidents. The Umpire Rep will subsequently inform the Race

Stewards of the situation. The race stewards will then consider the sanction (demoting their racing placement, a time penalty, a verbal warning to coxswain etc)

2 yellow cards does not necessary mean a red (disqualification), but continual offenders will be monitored and dealt with as required.

A disqualification = serious/deliberate/dangerous infringement and/or damage caused decided at the umpires discretion using the above Code of Conduct.

A yellow card = an infringement deemed less serious by the umpires.

At a timed event, the sanction could vary from a verbal warning to a 10, 20 or 30 second time penalty.

At a non-timed event, the sanction could vary from a verbal warning to a 1, 2 or 3 position demotion

Safety

18. Safe handling of the boat is of the utmost importance at all times. Coxswains should always endeavour to avoid collisions. They should anticipate situations, take avoiding action and even instruct their crew to stop rowing/hold water if necessary.
19. In the event of an accident, it is the duty of the umpires and any competitors to abandon the race and provide all possible assistance.
20. In the event of some unforeseen circumstance, umpires have the right to order the abandonment of the race. All gigs must then follow umpires instructions.
21. In the event of an obstruction all crews/coxswains must act in a safe manner to allow the passage of all gigs.
22. The coxswain is strictly not permitted to aid the momentum of the stroke paddle at anytime during the race, unless there is a safety issue.

Racing

23. The start line must be clearly marked at each end with transit lines to allow for clear sighting for both coxswains and starter. All racing gigs should be in a straight line in accordance with the markers.
24. A leading gig should follow a straight course and must not "zigzag" with the intention of impeding a following gig.
25. An overtaking gig, whether taking the port or starboard route, must keep clear of the gig being overtaken.
26. The umpires calling point will be marked with a buoy. **The positioning of the umpire boat is critical, this needs to be discussed and clarified with the skippers / club, prior to the first race of the day.** At this point the umpires will decide who has the advantage by assessing whether the bow of the port side gig has reached the **coxswains** seat creating an overlap. They will then inform the crews. No crew should slow their gig on or *approaching* the mark as far as reasonably practicable once the call has been made, so not to create an obstruction to following gigs
27. The gig which is given the advantage has the rights to the mark and the following gigs must avoid it whatever the situation. Each following gig will be given instructions from the umpires. *If the boat given the rights to the mark leaves a gap, a following gig can go into that gap – so long as they do not impede the gig with the rights. No impeding on the stroke side or ahead of the number 5 oar is to take place.*
28. All gigs shall pass the umpire boat on the gigs port side, unless informed differently at the coxes meeting.
29. All gigs must complete races by following the course as instructed.