

QUINTIN HEAD 2022

STATEMENT ON DISQUALIFICATION OF ALL THAMES ROWING CLUB CREWS

Due to concerns raised to the Quintin Head Organising Committee regarding possible discrepancies between the Thames Rowing Club (TRC) crews that actually raced at Quintin Head on Saturday 29 January 2022 and the nine TRC crews that had been entered by TRC for the event on the British Rowing Online Entry (BROE) system, TRC were asked to clarify the situation.

As a result of TRC confirming that all nine TRC crews that raced Quintin Head 2022 were not the same as the TRC crews that had been entered on the BROE system for the event the Quintin Head Race Committee have determined that, misrepresentation took place in all nine TRC crews that raced and consequently:

- All nine Thames Rowing Club crews are disqualified from the event (British Rowing Rules of Racing 2021 (RoR) Rule 8-4);
- Thames Rowing Club is issued a fixed penalty fine of £250 (RoR Rule 8-6c) which the Organising Committee intend to donate to charity;
- By this misrepresentation of the crews and subverting the application of the RoR Thames Rowing Club is considered to have engaged in unsportsmanlike behaviour (RoR Rules 5-5-4 and 8-5).

In addition, Thames Rowing Club has been requested to:

- update/correct its own records and all communications they have made, including on social media, regarding their results at Quintin Head 2022 to indicate that due to misrepresentation in all the crews that raced, all Thames Rowing Club crews have been disqualified;
- write a public apology addressed to the Quintin Head Organising Committee and all other competitors at Quintin Head 2022 apologising for the misrepresentation of the Thames Rowing Club crews that raced and the unsportsmanlike behaviour of Thames Rowing Club which will be placed on the Quintin Head website after it is received.

Due to the disqualification of Thames Rowing Club crew 15 the winner of Open Senior at Quintin Head 2022 was crew 19 St Paul's School.

The Race Committee views this as a very serious breach of the RoR and in addition notes that:

- Having entered nine crews for the event on the day entries opened on 14 December 2021 no subsequent changes were made by Thames Rowing Club to any of the crews at any time before the race.
- 55 of the rowers and coxes that raced were different to the 81 rowers and coxes entered in the nine Thames Rowing Club eights (a 68% difference).

Misrepresentation is a serious breach of the British Rowing Rules of Racing and wholly contrary to the principles of safety and fairness by which all British Rowing (BR) affiliated competitions, including Quintin 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 this is used to determine the start order. Ranking points are subsequently awarded to the individuals declared in the crew.

As is usual, in accordance with rule 7-2-4b of the British Rowing Rules of Racing 2021, Quintin Head allowed unlimited substitutions until the close of entries on 20 January 2022, after which point up to 50% of a crew, plus the cox, could still be substituted. BROE remained fully open for online substitutions until the race on Saturday 29 January. The Entries Secretary was additionally available via email and phone for any club which needed to make substitutions in a crew in excess of the 50% limit, allowing the correct crew to legitimately race, but for time only.

The final results for Quintin Head 2022 will be updated and reissued to reflect these disqualifications and the appropriate notifications of the updated results made to British Rowing to update their records.

The Quintin Head Organising Committee is extremely disappointed by the unsportsmanlike behaviour of Thames Rowing Club and in accordance with the RoR (8.4c) the details of all the misrepresentations by Thames Rowing Club have been passed onto the British Rowing National Competition Committee for further consideration.

Quintin Head 2022 Organising Committee

18 March 2022