

## NOTICE TO ALL CLUBS

At some of the recent Heads coaching has again become an issue. At the Clydesdale Scullers Head one of the main contenders was disqualified for this reason and the Umpires Commission consider it timely to issue a reminder on this subject.

Coaching at Heads is regarded by Umpires as 'extraneous outside assistance' and therefore may render the crew liable to disqualification under F21. The subject has been articulated widely over a long period at AGMs, at briefings and in publications such as Rowing Action. Indeed you only need refer to the RCC Report to the recent AGM where it states 'Clubs are again reminded that coaching at Heads is not permitted and offenders face disqualification'.

The definition of coaching can be a matter of debate and some Umpires may take a more lenient view of matters than others. Legitimate encouragement is acceptable but technical instruction or the transfer of race information is not. Because the dividing line can be blurred, coaches, and indeed supporters, should always err on the side of caution.

Acceptable calls will include,  
**'Well done Glasgow University'** or  
**'Come on Sandy'**

Unacceptable shouts will include,  
**'Pull up the finishes'** or  
**'Drive with the legs'** or  
**'You're now 10 secs ahead'** or  
**'You're about to catch 2 crews'** or  
**'Turn the bend now'**

Can all clubs please ensure that their coaches are advised to be very careful in calls to their crews while racing is in progress at Heads. Encouragement should be limited to shouts of encouragement and restrain themselves from going overboard in the heat of the race.

The one acceptable exception to this is, of course, the safety instruction to avoid a collision with an object, though the timing of a shout can be open to debate and even here should be the subject of careful thought.

**You have been warned!**

AW

Convenor of Racing Control

SARA