



**SCOTTISH
ROWING**

SAFETY ALERT 02/25

Post-Race Crew Safety

What happened?

After crossing the finish line following a 1000m race a single sculler became unwell before collapsing and capsizing. The incident was not seen by the race umpire who had scanned all crews before raising their White Flag to signify that the race was in order and no protests have been raised. The race umpire then instructed the launch driver to turn away. A rescue launch was close by and on seeing the sculler in distress immediately moved in to rescue them. The casualty was given First Aid and taken ashore where they were seen by paramedics and made a full recovery.

Why did it happen?

Apart from the exertion of the race it was not possible to determine positively all the contributory factors that caused the sculler to become unwell.

What action was taken?

After being attended to by the on-site medical team the sculler was considered to have fully recovered. However, the sculler was advised to contact their own GP or out of hours facility if they suffered any other symptoms. The sculler was also advised to seek counselling if affected by the trauma of the incident.

What can others learn from this?

The incident was discussed by the key event staff including the senior umpire and the following learning points identified:

- Once a race has finished it is at the point when the race umpire raises the white flag that their responsibility for the safe conduct of the race ends.
- Becoming unwell after a race, whilst not common, is a time of high risk and is the time that safety crews need to be vigilant to ensure athletes' safe return to land particularly if the finish line is a distance from the disembarkation point.
- If any athlete has an emergent medical condition or feels unwell prior to racing then they should not race. Coaches should also act to discourage athletes from racing in such circumstances.