

Yorkshire Social Rowing League 2018-19 Pilot Overview

Need

We have found that following the growth of our novice intake year on year, many of our lower end novices are finding their racing experiences demoralising, stressful and expensive. We are finding that retention rates from these members into a second year of rowing is often low.

This event is a student social rowing league to create racing opportunities that are fun and at the right level for our novice rowers, regardless of their experience and skill.

Aim

To provide a low cost and low resource alternative racing offer for student rowers in Yorkshire, so that they have a positive competition experience. In the long term, we hope this will increase the retention of new rowers within clubs.

How the league will run

3 times across the year, novice rowers from University clubs across Yorkshire will come together to race. Racing will involve short distance time trials followed by short distance side by side racing. Each race will be hosted at Leeds boathouse in the pilot year. Other clubs are encouraged to host an event in future years as part of the league. In order to reduce the faff of equipment transport, host clubs will provide all the boats and blades needed. Either 4+s or 8+s can be used. This may mean that 4 crews boat, do their racing and return to allow another 4 crews to boat, for example.

Benefits to students

- No need to buy expensive race kit
- No need to buy BR membership
- Cheaper race entry fees (£3)
- Closer more positive racing
- Reduced cost of transport
- More fun and social event
- Opportunity to row with like minded people at other clubs
- Chance to be competitive from an early point in the year

Benefits to clubs

- Less resource needed for racing for lower tier novice rowers
- Clear pathway for social rowing to retain more club members
- Simpler way to get more people racing
- Potential for charity fundraisers to take place at events (cake sales ect)
- Get more novices more experience faster

UoLBC will:

- Host 3 events at Leeds Boathouse
- Manage entries to each event
- Market each event (provide posters and social media material, and email all participants)
- Be the point of contact throughout for any questions or issues
- Host a series website providing race information, course maps, draws and results
- Award a trophy to the winning club at the end of the league

- Admin a facebook page advertising and promoting races to come

Clubs in the league will:

- Be fair and honest in entering the right competitors
 - Only entering beginners (BUCS defined) who aren't intending to race at BUCS, and take a more social approach to rowing
 - Coxes can be Senior or Novice

How the racing will work:

Every competitor is guaranteed two races at each event. They will run in a time trial followed by side by side final system, similar to BUCS Regatta. Races will be short to allow quick changeovers of equipment.

1. Short distance time trial (350-1000m)
2. A/B/C... side by side short distance finals (200m-500m)

Points will then be allocated to each club according to where there boats place (1st in A final = 10 points, 2 in A final = 9 points etc etc.)

Dates of YSRL:

Sat 24th November 2018, 1-4:30pm, Leeds Boathouse

Sat 23rd March 2019, 1-4:30pm, Leeds Boathouse

Weds 8th May 2019, 1-5pm, Leeds Boathouse

FAQs

What is it?

A social rowing league for novice university rowers in Yorkshire.

Who is it for?

Bottom end beginner (BUCS defined) rowers that would not follow the normal competition framework.

How much will it cost?

- £3 race fee per person
- Coxes go free.

Only further cost to participants will be travel to the host venue.

What will the cost include?

- Use of equipment and facilities at UOLBC
- All entries processed and managed by UoLBC

Where will it be hosted?

Leeds Boat House, however in future years we'd like other clubs to also host events for extra variety and opportunities for different clubs to benefit from hosting.

What about equipment?

Equipment will be borrowed from the host club so there will be no need for towing boats.

What if we struggle to get a full crew?

If you are the odd crew member or cox down fear not, as we don't have to follow the strict rules of other events just ask UoLBC if they know of any clubs with spare rowers or coxes (points for placing in the event will split with points given for the placing divided by the rowers in the crew representing each institution).

Is it just for students?

The event is aimed at students and points for the annual trophy will only be awarded to student entries however entries are welcome from other clubs.