

Explanation from British Rowing regarding clarification statement issued 'Return to Rowing'

We, British Rowing based our submission to the DCMS for return to crew boat rowing on the flow chart below, which has come from the government's guidance on phased return to sport. The links are below.

[UK Government – Phased return of sport and recreation](#)

[UK Government – Phased return of sport and recreation – Appendix 1](#)

The main areas of the guidance to look at are:

- Sport action plans and guidance section
- Appendix 1 the flow chart.

We used the flow chart to determine the risk and tested 3 scenarios:

1. Coxless sliding boats
 2. Coxless fixed seat boats
 3. Coxed boats either - fixed or sliding
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1. For Coxless boats we followed the far-left pathway as there is no face to face or side by side interaction and rowers are seating over 1 meter apart. This then leads to "low risk".
 2. For Coxless Fixed seat boats (Skiffs etc) we follow the pathway that starts with 1-0 m proximity (meaning that you seat within a meter of each other). As the activity is not face to face we follow the pathway to "This interaction is fleeting less than 3 secs". This is because the rowers are moving. This also leads to "low risk".
 3. For coxed boats fixed or sliding seat we follow the 1-0m proximity and face to face pathway. This is because a cox will seat within 1 meter of a rower and is either face to face in a stern coxed boat or back to back in a bow coxed boat. We then follow the "this interaction is fleeting less than 3 secs" pathway. This is because the gap between the rower and cox is always changing as the rower moves through the stroke. This leads to "medium risk" and this is why we have advised that the Cox wears a face mask and eye protection if they are in a stern or face masks if they are in a bow coxed boat.

This approach was approved by the DCMS and the links to this advice now appears on the DCMS website.

What we have created is guidance and a time frame for clubs that want to return to crew boat rowing. As every club is different the final decision to return to crew boat is down to the individual club.