

# CPGA Racing Rules 2023

Updated June 2023

Authentic | Community | Professional



**Cornish Pilot Gig**  
**Association**

## CPGA Racing Categories

Gig racing features men's, women's and mixed (3 women, 3 men) crews across the following categories:

- Over 18 on or over 40 years of age on the day of the event
- Over 21: on or over 21 years of age on the day of the event
- Open: on or over 16 years of age on the day of the event
- Vets: on or over 40 years of age on the day of the event
- Super Vets: on or over 50 years of age on the day of the event
- Masters: on or over 60 years of age on the day of the event

Junior gig races flexibly accommodate mixed crews. Some junior races may combine all boy crews, all girls crews and mixed crews. Mixed crews may flexibly accommodate a combination of boys and girls (3/3, 2/4, 1/5).

Junior categories include:

- U14: school year 9 or aged 13 and below on the preceding August 30th.
- U15: school year 10 or aged 14 and below on the preceding August 30th.
- U16: school year 11 or aged 15 or below on the preceding August 30th.
- U17: school year 12 or aged 16 or below on the preceding August 30th.
- U18: school year 13 or aged 17 or below on the preceding August 30th.

## General

1. Gigs are to complete a race with the *same crew members as they start with*. A crew consists of six (6) rowers and one (1) coxswain.
2. The only forms of communication during races are VHF radios and voice. No cox boxes or voice enhancing systems are allowed.

## Umpires

3. A crew may be disqualified for failing to obey the umpire's instructions.
4. A crew may be disqualified for any unsporting behaviour (see Code of Conduct).
5. Any umpire has the right to order a gig to withdraw from a race at any time. This right should be exercised in the event of poor seamanship or for safety reasons.
6. The decision of the umpires on the day will be FINAL.
7. The action of any coxswain deemed unnecessary/unsafe/unsporting, will be reported to the CPGA committee for disciplinary action if appropriate. The Lead Race Official on the day will monitor situations / coxswains via a yellow and red card system and report to the CPGA. (See Umpires Code of Conduct)
8. One nominated person from a crew is to speak to race stewards regarding any racing incident. Race Stewards will speak to this one member of the crew regarding race incidents/umpires decisions only.

## Safety

9. Safe handling of the boat is of the utmost importance at all times. Coxswains should always endeavour to avoid collisions. They should anticipate situations, take avoiding action and even instruct their crew to stop rowing/hold water if necessary.

10. In the event of an accident, it is the duty of the umpires and any competitors to abandon the race and provide all possible assistance.
11. In the event of some unforeseen circumstance, umpires have the right to order the abandonment of the race. All gigs must then follow umpires instructions.
12. In the event of an obstruction all crews/coxswains must act in a safe manner.
13. The coxswain is strictly not permitted to aid the momentum of the stroke paddle at any time during the race, unless there is a safety issue.

## **Racing**

14. The start line must be clearly marked at each end with transit lines to allow for clear sighting for both coxswains and starters. All racing gigs should be in a straight line in accordance with the markers. The starter will judge the line using the cox'n seat or the bow.
15. All gigs should follow a straight course and must not "zigzag".
16. An overtaking gig, whether taking the port or starboard route, must keep clear of the gig being overtaken.
17. The umpire's calling point will be marked with a buoy, approx 6 length from the turn. The positioning of the umpire boat is critical, this needs to be discussed and clarified with the skippers / club, prior to the first race of the day. At this point the umpires will decide who has the advantage by assessing whether the bow of the port side gig has reached the coxswain's seat creating an overlap. They will then inform the crews using a loud hailer and VHF radio (if this does not affect the start of a following race). No crew should slow their gig on or *approaching* the mark as far as reasonably practicable once the call has been made, so as not to create an obstruction to following gigs.
18. The gig which is given the advantage has the rights to the mark and the following gigs must avoid it whatever the situation. Each following gig will be given instructions from the umpires. If the boat given the rights to the mark leaves a gap, a following gig can go into that gap - so long as they do not impede the gig with the rights. No impeding on the stroke side or ahead of the number 5 oar is to take place. *Please also refer to rule 17 for further information*
19. All gigs shall pass the umpire boat on the gigs port side, unless informed differently at the coxes meeting.
20. All gigs must complete races by following the course as instructed.
21. Coxswains must sit on the coxswains seat for the duration of the race, unless there is an incident with the rudder or a medical emergency.

## **CPGA Championship Participation**

22. All clubs participating in CPGA Championships must:
  - a. put forward a loan boat to facilitate the running of the event
  - b. put forward a person to facilitate the running of the event as required  
e.g. a race official, marshall or other specified role
23. All CPGA Championship participants must:

- a. be GigRower members
  - b. be competing on behalf of a club of which they are a registered member.
  - c. not have transferred between clubs more than once in a season for the purpose of CPGA Championship competitions. Having represented a club at a CPGA Championship, rowers may only transfer to represent one other club at other CPGA Championships at any point in a given year. Once they have represented a second club they may not represent any other club or transfer back to their original club for the purpose of CPGA Championships. No written communication with the CPGA will be required to carry out the transfer. The eligibility of the crew members submitted will be scrutinised by the CPGA staff team via the crew entries submitted for each CPGA Championship event.
  - d. accepting of the media consent, medical consent and other terms and conditions of the CPGA
24. To be eligible to compete at CPGA Championships, crews must consist of:
- a. eligible participants (as above)
  - b. the same 7 participants throughout the event, unless specified otherwise in the Championship invitation, format and rules
  - c. the same 7 participants as named on the crew submission register, verified by the coxswain on the day of the event
  - d. an experienced race coxswain with a minimum of 2 years coxing experience

*Please note:*

*Randomised scrutiny of crews will be carried out at each CPGA Championship. Where concerns or discrepancies are suspected, the investigation of specific crews will remain at the discretion of CPGA Officials.*

*Lack of adherence to Championship rules may result in disqualification during or consequent to the event. Further sanctions may also be applied at consequent events, at the discretion of the CPGA Officials. Appeals against Official decisions at CPGA championships can be lodged via the appropriate form at the event registration desk.*

## **Contact**

If you have any comments on this policy, or would like more information, please contact [hello@cpga.co.uk](mailto:hello@cpga.co.uk)