

Safety Alert 1



Boats Falling from Racking

A Rowing Club stores some of its boats on mobile racking inside the boathouse. Recently two boats fell from the upper part of the racking when the racking was being moved across the floor. The fall of these boats was somewhat impeded by them hitting the riggers of lower boats.

The boats hit two junior rowers; one on the arm causing a bruise and the other on the head causing a slight local swelling. The parents were notified and both juniors made full recoveries without further treatment.

The boathouse is relatively small and crowded and the club has recently had a significant influx of new members.

As a result of the accident and the subsequent investigation the club has:-

- ensured that the higher boats are strapped to the racking
- marked an area of the floor where the front wheel of the racking is permitted to be
- improved its boat handling procedures and the control of people when they are in the boathouse

Clubs are advised to review this information and learn from it and take action as appropriate and note that it is always good practice to tie boats to racking wherever there is a risk that they could otherwise fall.

Contact your Regional Rowing Safety Advisor for further advice.

