

Rowing BC Umpire Equipment Bags - Maintenance hints

Overview

Our Umpire Equipment maintenance model has been converted from one of a “communal regatta supply” to that of “distributed individual kits”. This was made possible by an RCA and RBC Covid-19 Relief Funding for Umpire Equipment initiative. New equipment has now doubled our supply, but with varying numbers of new units depending on the state of our pre-existing stock.

Individual Umpires will be assigned a bag of equipment and will be responsible for ensuring it is safely brought to regattas they're attending in ready-to-use condition (*i.e.* with radios and possibly megaphones recently charged). The bags are not interchangeable as the contents have been recorded for loss prevention. New (/warranted) equipment and Jacket size preferences will be offered first to those historically officiating the greatest number of days. Those having officiated the least will be expected to be supplied with an “unassigned” bag on regatta day. (The statistics will be reviewed annually.)

The new weatherproof bags should be big enough to transport all the Rowing BC-supplied equipment, plus the usual personal items, to and from the venue, but don't preclude one from continuing to use an existing smaller personal bag “on the water” once attired and with ready-to-use items in hand.

Post-regatta, all equipment should be thoroughly dried.

Bring any concerns to the attention of an “Equipment Manager” (currently Gordon Sund gordon.sund@shaw.ca on the Island and Ge-An Rijniersce ge-an@brijn.nu on the Mainland). (Everyone is not expected to have all the recommended tools, etc.)

[Atlantis Waterproof 90 L Gear Bag \(M\) - GBW-1M \(from Stormtech\)](#) contents:

- Flags
- Jacket
- Measuring device
- Megaphone
- Personal Flotation Device
- Project case
- Radio
- Radio chest harnesses
- Stop-watch

There is an ID card with a bag identification number in an external pocket. Most of the equipment inside has the same corresponding number. By all means, **do attach your own Personalized Luggage Tag**. Adjustable padded Shoulder Straps that would allow you to carry the Bag as a Backpack have just been left inside unattached.

Wherever possible, add something like a Return Address Mailing Label to individualize each piece of equipment. Do take care as the Megaphone especially is a highly coveted item.

User Manuals for much of the equipment are available in the *Umpire Equipment Manuals* section at [Umpire Resources – Rowing British Columbia \(rowingbc.ca\)](#).

Detailed procedures

Flags

Since 2000 (?), a set of red and white flags has been a part of our RCA License presentation. Those without a set of personal Flags should request one.

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Jacket, FarWest Gore-Tex “Whistler”

Between regattas, it would be nice if the Jackets were hung up on the hangers provided.

Light stains can likely be dealt with using a damp cloth. However, an end of year annual wash and re-waterproofing is recommended. Wash uncrowded on Gentle and hang to drip. While still damp, spray-on waterproofing. Later, finish in dryer and hang.

Supplies recommended: High efficiency no-suds detergent (Nikwax Tech Wash) used sparingly; Spray-on waterproofing for Gore-Tex (Nikwax TX.Direct).

[Jacket supply supplementation is a pending task for your Umpire Committee. The interim solution was to distribute the existing Jackets (which are no longer being produced). About 50% of the assignments were of 1 size larger than preferred, and there was not one for every bag.]

Measuring device

Since 2011 (?), a measuring device (and RCA Rules of Racing booklet) has been a part of our RCA Level 1 License intake/introductory Training Clinic. Those without a personal Measuring device should request one.

This will allow you to confirm that the shells meet two safety requirements of the 2018 RCA Rules of Racing (3.3 and 3.5) at the Control Commission. The hole in the centre of the device is the 4 cm minimum diameter of the bow ball; if the bow-ball passes through the hole, the shell should be rejected. US crews should be aware to adjust their heel restraints to within the 7.0 cm maximum, rather than the 7.5 cm allowed in the US (3-109 Footgear Release). This device also conforms to the USRowing Rules of Rowing 3-105 and 3-108. The notches would be for measuring Oar Blades (RoR 3.7), but we typically do not verify that sweep oars blades are not be less than 5 mm thick (or sculls 3 mm thick) at local regattas.

Megaphone

A tiny amount of dielectric grease may have been added to the battery contacts to reduce corrosion.

Ensure a plastic bag and elastic is attached to be used for rain protection.

– **NK Blue Ocean** (blue/white), Lithium-Polymer Battery Pack (PN0105), Charger (PN0106)

To be safe, charge before each regatta day. (Rated for 8 hours of use (35% speaking, volume level 6) / 30 hours standby.)

Save the box for the duration of the 5-year warranty and use it to store any gear not required at a regatta.

– **Fanon MV-16S or similar**, 8 C-cells

To avoid in-transit siren/feedback noise should the trigger get pressed, rotate one of the battery tubes a half-turn before placing in the bag.

About 5% of the batteries may suffer from a dramatic drop in voltage (< 1.20 V) or even an acid leak annually! Therefore, it is a good idea to remove the Battery Tubes during long gaps between use. The Equipment Managers have typically populated an entire megaphone using 8 batteries within a single +/- .05 voltage range semi-annually. If you see or suspect a problem, contact an Equipment Manager to exchange for a tested replacement set of batteries.

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Corrosion on contacts and batteries can be an issue. A semi-annual clean-up might be required for the megaphone electrical contacts. Very fine sandpaper, Q-Tips, isopropyl alcohol, and dielectric grease would do a thorough job especially after removing the single screw and raising the battery compartment for easy access. When re-loading batteries into their holders, rubbing their ends on a cloth sprayed with WD-40 might also help.

DIY Tools recommended: Digital multi-meter (set to measure DC voltage (**20**)). More drastic repairs might require duct tape, epoxy glue, or spare parts periodically ordered from the US manufacturer. (Again, contact an Equipment Manager.)

Personal Flotation Device (PFD)

Inflatable PFDs only count as CCG-required life-jackets when being worn. Periodically, do a visual inspection including ensuring no corrosion on the CO2 cylinder. Perhaps once a year, verify inflation integrity using the Oral Inflation Valve.

– **Mustang Survival Inflatable PFD MIT 100 MD2015 Manual**

– **Mustang Survival Classic Inflatable PFD MD3010 Manual *or similar***

Project case

We have supplied an inexpensive clear [Recollections™ Slim Project Case \(michaels.com\)](http://michaels.com) that should help to keep your Race Schedule dry and legible.

Radio, VHF Marine Transceiver

Do not store with a full charge for extended periods of time. To be safe, charge before each regatta day. Do turn off the power to the charger once the battery is fully charged.

Ensure all radios have consistent *default* settings (Country mode **Canadian**, Channels 69/72/73, and Locked). Power of Low/Medium should be sufficient for normal distances, but High would be prudent for > 2 km Head races. Volume at 10 (before personal preference) and Squelch at 2 or 3 (increase only to block the static from distant transmissions). Consult the User Guides.

– **IC-M37**, Battery Pack (BP-296), Charger (BC-235), AC Adapter (BC-217SA), etc.

Charges in approximately 4 hours. The radio displays “F_L” when the battery has been fully charged. The manual warns of the danger of excess charging.

– **IC-M36**, Battery Pack (BP-252), Charger (BC-173), AC Adapter (BC-147SA), etc.

Charges in approximately 10 hours. The charge indicator lights green when charging is completed. There is a charging timer that is supposed to stop the process before damage occurs (after about 14 hours).

Other and older models are in reserve as spares. Should you encounter one of these, note that the West Marine VHF155 and VHF255 must be re-locked every time they are turned on and, similarly, the Baofeng UV-5R reverts to Low Power.

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Radio chest harnesses

The greatest risk with these is leaving the Velcro strap loose and it becoming disengaged.

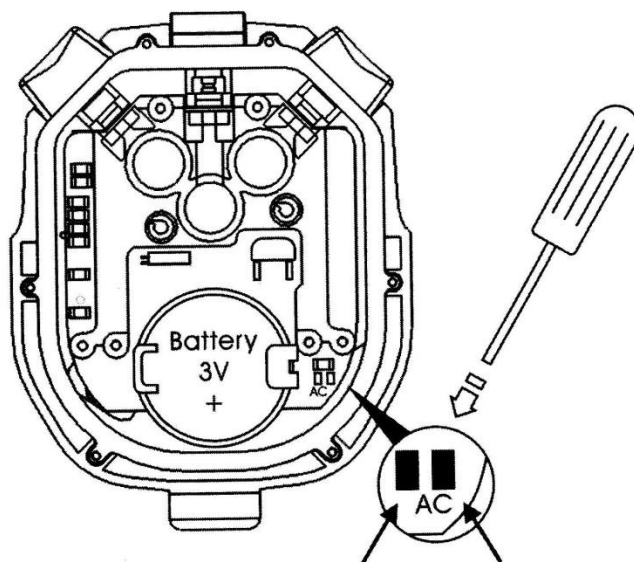
Our newest are the [RCH-101 \(Solid Platform\)](#). These are almost identical to the black ones in use for decades (likely Icom NCP-1). They have a “small radio pocket adapter” which does not need to be carried.

Stop-watch (Ultrak 495)

An accurate regatta time might be useful and a minimal storage display might prolong battery life. Stop-watch batteries are probably best left untested until failure to preserve water-resistance. Rarely, the stop-watch may appear “frozen”. The intrepid could try the following:

IMPORTANT: Power up and Reset

If you have a problem with the stopwatch when you replace new battery, you can try to reset the electronic circuit by using a metal paperclip or screwdriver to connect the 2 metal pads in the “AC” pad near the battery.



Tools recommended: Jewellers Phillips screw-driver set. (The Equipment Managers may have these present along with spare **CR2032** 3-volt batteries.)

We do have a few **Ultrak 496s** (with a 500-lap memory) for use at the Start and Finish of large Time Trials or Head Races.