

Practical Rules

Bow Balls

Appendix R2 Boats and Equipment, Regulation (1)(h) requires that all boats shall be fitted with a solid ball shape, minimum diameter 4cm which covers the point of the bow and is bright white. In September a rowers found out the hard way why this is so important when the bow of a 4x was speared the leg of a 1x rower on the water. The 4x had a faulty bow ball that was cracked and broken. It split as the bow hit the leg allowing the bare bow to tear into the rowers leg. Reports are that the rower is lucky and will recover but it is a lesson to all of use both at regattas and in our clubs to make sure that all of our boats have ball bows that are in good condition.

[Click here](#) for pictures of the injury. Be warned though, they are very graphic.

Advertising

At the 2023 World Rowing Championships in Belgrade the USA M4- was asked to tape up on of the 4 sponsor spots on the side of the boat (shown as covered with yellow tape in the following picture). The question is why did they need to cover one logo?



In looking at the rules, on the side of a boat there can be:

- 1 manufacturers logo of 100 sq cm, and
- 1 each 600 sq cm sponsorship space for each of the rowers (Note that the 1x gets 1 each 800 sq cm logo and coxswains do not get a space.
- The 600 sq cm spaces can be combined into a bigger space
- The name of a boat can occupy one of the sponsor logo areas

Counting on the USA boat, there is a small Filippi manufacturers logo. Additionally, including the taped logo there are 4 sponsor logos.

The explanation here is that the "Winklevoss Capital" logo is actually 800 sq cm. Since it is bigger than 600 sq cm it occupies 2 sponsor spaces. Taking this into account there are actually 5 spaces being occupied on the side of the boat which exceeds the allowable space.

The crew had a choice on how to correct the violation of the Rules. They could have taped up part of the “Winklevoss Capital” to bring it down to 600 sq cm but they chose to cover one of the other logos.