



iRowSafe Report analysis 2022



iROWsafe

Introduced in 2021 the iROWsafe online incident/accident reporting system is the official method for reporting all types of incidents involving Rowing Ireland affiliated clubs. The system is based around a no blame culture, used to record and identify trends in incident and accident within our sport. The information provided assist the Rowing Ireland Safety Advisory Committee in identifying trends in incidents and occurrences. The information also allows for the creation of advisory notices where applicable, to assist in the reduction of these types of incidents.

This document records the results of an analysis carried out on reports received from 2021 to February 2023

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April 19th, 2023

Pat Kiely
Rowing Ireland

Executive Summary

Rowing in Ireland is a very safe and well managed sport. Rowing Ireland promotes a positive safety culture among its affiliated clubs and at its licensed events. While we strive that every training session, regatta, head of the river, beach sprint competition and indeed while partaking in the sport as a recreational rower, to have zero incidents or accidents, we realize unforeseen circumstances and difficulties will arise. The aim of the iROWsafe system is to capture the information from the source, analyze this information and then communicate advice to reduce the occurrences of unforeseen incidents.

The iROWsafe system aims too

- Record information from source
- Identify trends in incidents and accidents
- Not to apportion blame
- Provide advice to mitigate risks and reduce occurrences

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There has been one recorded serious incident resulting in major injuries while rowing in the last number of years. This unfortunate and tragic incident is one to many. The important information gathered through and the analysis of the information obtain through the iROWsafe system we believe has and will assist in, and continue to, help maintain the excellent safety record in rowing on the island of Ireland.

Breakdown

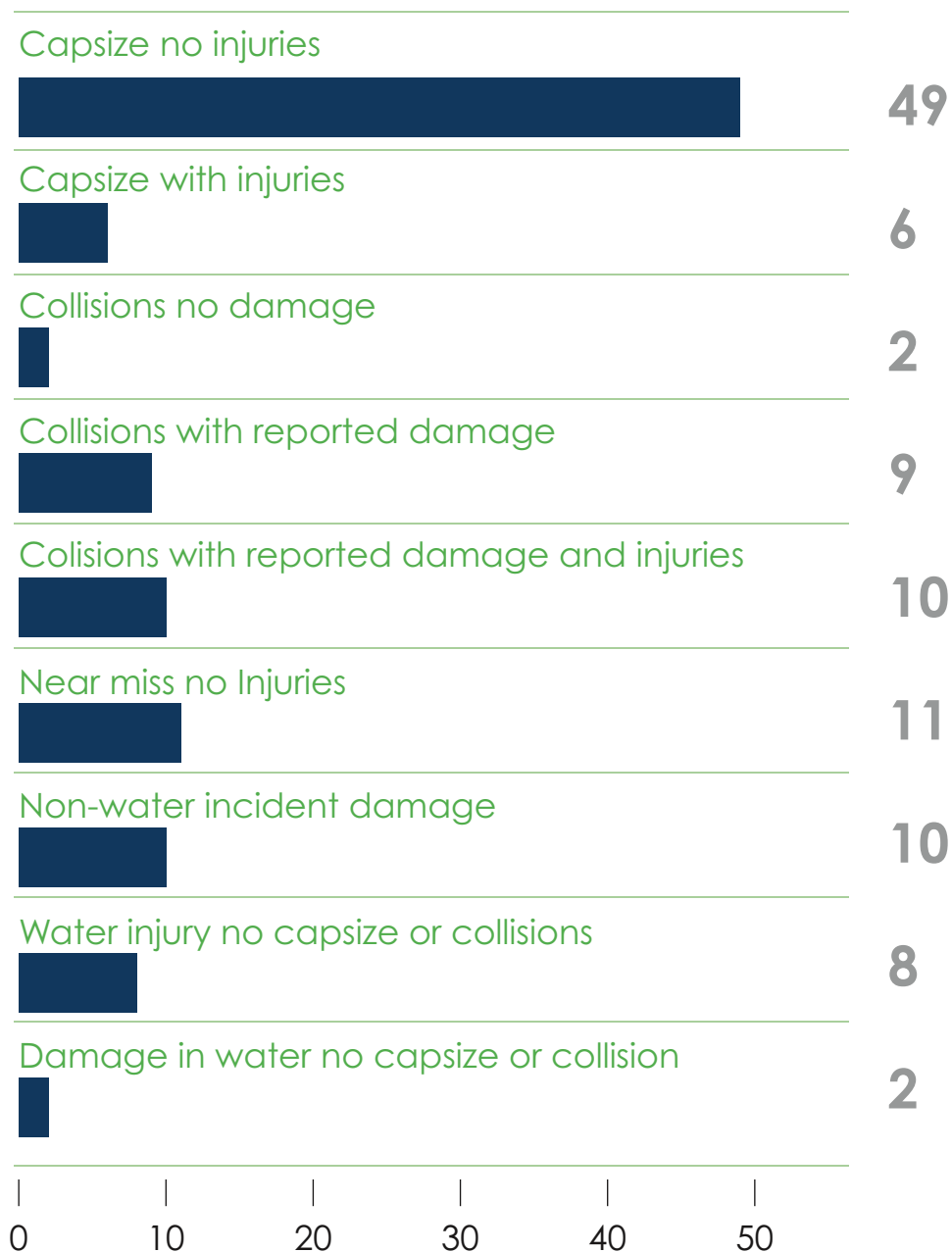
Number of clubs currently affiliated with Rowing Ireland 102

Number of iROWsafe reports received 117 (Jan 2021 to Feb 2023)

Number clubs that provided reports. 29

Categories of incident types

- Capsize no injuries
- Capsize with reported injuries
- Collisions with no damage
- Collisions with reported damage
- Collisions with reported injuries and damage
- Near miss with no injuries
- Non-water related damage
- Injury while on the water with no reported capsize or collision
- Damage in water incident with no capsize or collision



117 iRowSafe reports received from 29 affiliated clubs between Jan 2021 up to and including Feb 2023

Club Engagement

The Rowing Ireland safety advisory committee (RISAC) looks at club engagement with the system as a sign of a positive safety culture within our clubs. A club having reported a large number of occurrences on the system is not seen as being a particularly unsafe club, in fact, it is seen as a club that records incidents to improve the safety awareness of all its members. Clubs that engage with the system are seen as proactive clubs with a strong safety culture.

The RISAC believes that no club goes through a season without having some sort of an incident. Members of the RISAC are aware of major and minor occurrences that have happened around the country that have not been reported.

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Some clubs have made great use of the system and should be congratulated for engaging with the system.

The RISAC committee acknowledges the commitment made to safety by the following clubs. These clubs have actively and frequently engaged with the iROWsafe system and are contributing to the safety of all Rowing Ireland members by helping us to identify trends in unsafe occurrences within our sport.

- Lee Rowing Club
- University College Dublin Boat Club
- Belfast Rowing Club
- Offaly Rowing Club
- Neptune Rowing Club
- Athlone Boat Club

Please note, all of the above-named clubs have entered 8 or more reports on the iROWsafe system during the months covered by this report.

When the iROWsafe incident reporting system was introduced, it was publicized that in an effort to promote the new system that the club with the highest number of reports made on the system would be awarded a safety launch-safety bag.



The winning club is Lee Rowing Club with 22 reports uploaded on the system.

On its way to Lee Rowing Club is a fully stocked launch Safety Bag.

The safety bag contains the following items;

- Water Tight Bag
- First Aid Kit
- Blanket Cotton
- Blankets Foil
- Warning Whistle
- Safety Knife
- Throw Line
- Torch

Remember every launch in every Rowing Ireland affiliated club should carry a safety bag.

Report Analysis

Club Engagement with iROWsafe reporting system

Total Number of Rowing Ireland Affiliated clubs is 102

Affiliated clubs



Reported incidents

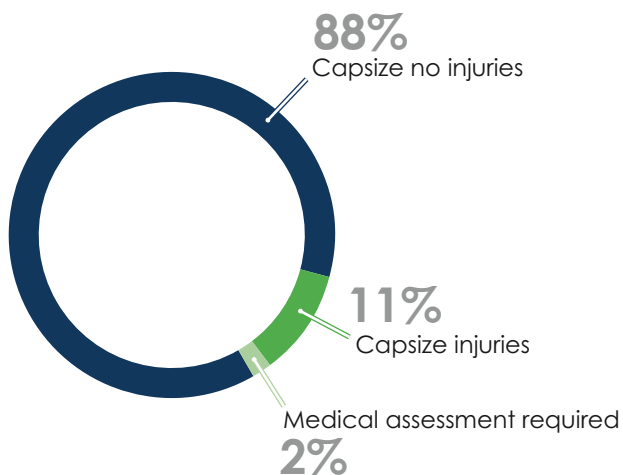


Number of clubs making reports



Out of 102 Rowing Ireland affiliated clubs only 29 clubs made any reports that is just short of 28% of our clubs.

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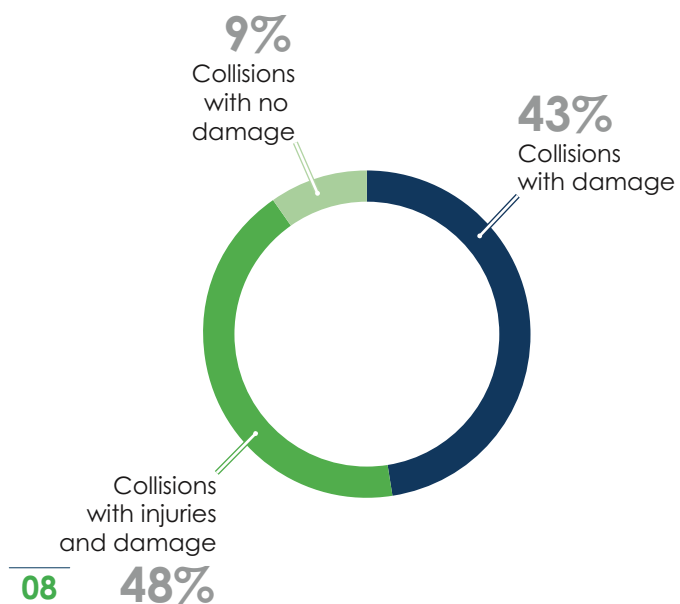


Capsize

55 total reports received

Out of a reported 55 capsizing incidents 6 resulted in injuries just 10%.

Of the 6 reported injuries one person was referred for further medical assessment after a capsizing.



Collisions

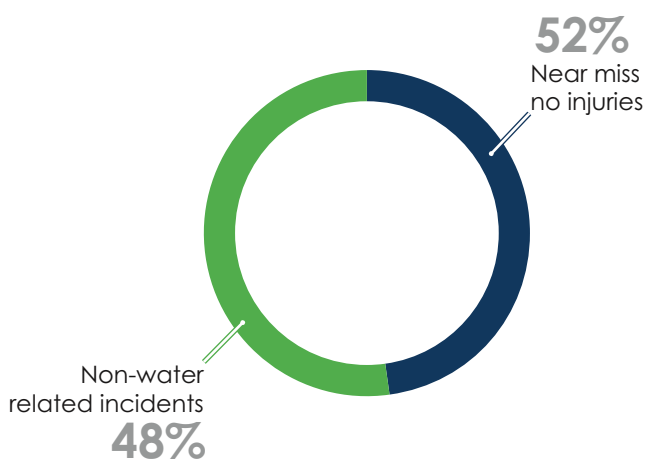
21 total reports received

There was a total of 21 collisions reported, 10 with injuries and damage, 9 with damage and 2 with no damage.

Injuries ranged from back damage to cuts and abrasions medical attention was sought in a number of the reported incidents.

The majority of the collisions involved boats to boat. 1 incident occurred when a launch collided with a crew boat.

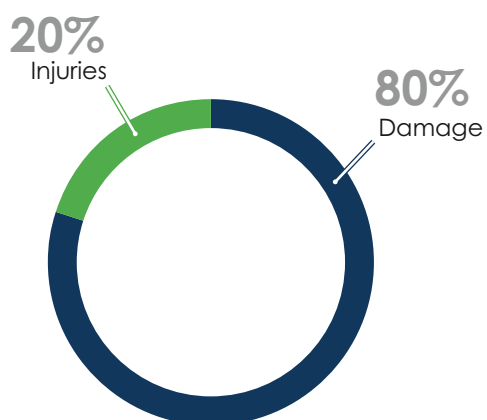
The majority of the 21 incidents occurred while crews were training.



Near miss and non-water incident

There were 11 near miss incidents reported with no injuries or damage.

There were 10 reports of non-water related incidents.

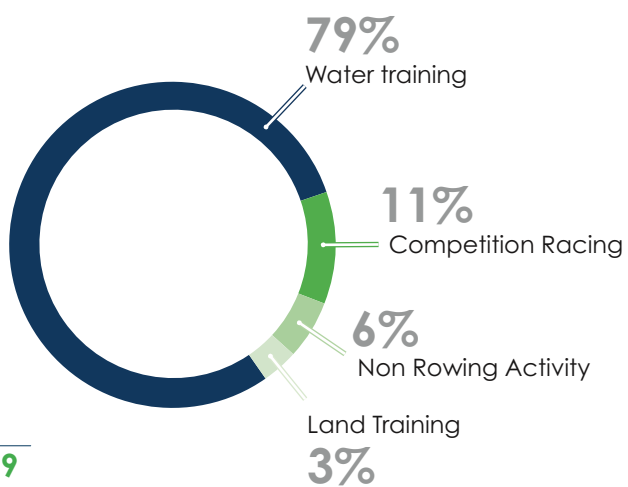


Water incidents with injuries in non-capsize or collision scenario

Damage in water incidents in non-capsize or collision scenario

A total of 10 incidents report were received where crews were on the water and the incident did not result in a collision or capsized.

There were eight reported incidents where persons were injured and two reports where boats were damaged.



Training Incidents compared to other rowing related incidents

82.90% of all reported incidents occurred during training (Water training + Land Training)

Conclusions

The analysis of the Rowing Ireland iROWsafe incident reporting system indicates that rowing in Ireland is a safe and well managed sport. While thousands of registered members partake in the sport on a regular basis, the number of reported accidents/incidents is very low. The analysis shows that accidents and incident do occur but, because of the dedicated hard work and diligence of our coaches and volunteers' serious incidents and serious accidents are a rare occurrence.

It would appear that the majority of injuries, accidents and damage is being caused during training. The majority of these training incidents are caused by poor steering, bad look out, or crews not being properly supervised. The number of accidents and incidents during competition is low due to the fact that we have dedicated safety crews, trained umpires and marshals in operation at all our Rowing Ireland licensed events.

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The Rowing Ireland Safety Advisory Committee are aware that the number of incidents and accidents happening within our sport is greater than the number being reported. Some potentially serious and some less serious incidents are occurring and for a number of reasons they are not being reported, see the list below for reasons given to the RISAC for non-reporting of incidents

- a. Don't want the report to be used against us
- b. Will point the finger of blame at the volunteer coaches
- c. Club was advised by others not to report the incident
- d. Other clubs don't report them why should we?
- e. No one was hurt so why bother report it
- f. Sure no one reads those reports anyway
- g. Did not know how or where to report incident
- h. We reported it to the club.
- i. Not my responsibility

SEE IT, REPORT IT, IMPROVE IT!

To assist in building a culture of reporting accident and incidents within Rowing Ireland affiliated clubs we are going to address the above issues here.

Don't want the report to be used against us

The iROWsafe reporting system is a no blame reporting system. When looking at reports we look at the why and how, not the who. We look at trends of incidents to see if we can offer suggested safer options in terms of operations in our sport.

Will point the finger of blame at the volunteer coaches?

The safety culture within the sport of rowing and within our clubs is changing for the better. The lessons we learn through the examination of incidents reports helps protects our coaches and all our volunteers.

Club was advised by others not to report the incident

Rowing Ireland works with Sport Ireland, Sport Northern Ireland and other national and international governing bodies to provide the best information available. We look at 'best practice' examples within sport. Best practice within sport relating to incidents and accidents is 'report it to fix it'. We can learn so many valuable lessons from incident reporting.

Other clubs don't report them why should we?

Lead by example, we all learn lessons by learning from each other. Clubs that want to be safer report incidents so that their athletes stay healthy and their equipment remains in good working order.

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No one was hurt so why bother report it

Reporting near misses or incidents where no one was hurt provides important information that can reduce the number of serious injuries and damage. When we reduce the number of near misses, we reduce the likelihood of a serious occurrence

Sure no one reads those reports anyway

The Board of Rowing Ireland has approved a iROWsafe report handling policy document that insist that all reports are read and dealt with appropriately by a member of staff and the Rowing Ireland safety Advisory Committee.

Did not know how or where to report incident

The iROWsafe incident reporting system is available on the home page of Rowing Ireland website (top right-hand corner). The system is easy to access and is mobile phone friendly. The Rowing Ireland Safety Advisory Committee has recently created a poster that hopefully will be on safety notice boards in every affiliated club. There is a QR code on the posters for easy access. There is a link iROWsafe Here that will take you directly to the site.

We reported it to the club

It is important that all accidents and incidents are recorded by the club but, keeping the information internal does not help us all to learn. An incident similar to the one that happened in your club may have happened in another club and if you were aware of it, you may have been able to take action to avoid this same incident.

Not my responsibility

In health and safety, it is everyone's responsibility to report incidents. We all have a duty of care to each other, our fellow club members, competitors, supporters and friends. The iROWsafe system allows for everyone to make a report. Coaches, rowers, coxes, family friends, committee members, safety

advisors, bystanders or passersby. We want and encourage everyone to please “report it, to fix it”.

Recommendations

- Rowing Ireland to introduce steering courses for Coxes, Steerers, and coaches.
- Every five strokes look to see.
- Make sure your members know “Traffic patterns”.
- Inform coaches on Rowing Ireland coach education course that 83% of all reported incidents occur during training. Promote extra vigilance during training.
- Clubs to purchase safety knives for use when cutting ropes or cable ties.

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Worthy of mention

The safety procedures and standards within Rowing Ireland affiliated clubs is very good. The analysis of the iROWsafe incidents shows that while we had 55 reported capsizes, we had no serious injury. The continued practice of capsize drills, safety launches being present, risk assessment of our areas of operation and promotion of safety standards is having the effect of keeping all our members safe. The promotion and use of the iROWsafe incident reporting system will allow us all to continue safely to enjoy while partaking in our wonderful sport at all levels.

SEE IT, REPORT IT, IMPROVE IT!