



Warwick Boat Club

Rowing Section Rules

(Updated February 2025)

The following rules have been laid out for the safety of all persons using the WBC Rowing Section facilities, and the smooth running of the section. Anyone breaking these rules risks suitable sanctions as determined by the Men's/Women's Rowing Captain and approved by the Rowing Section Committee. Such sanctions shall include, but not be limited to, removal of the rights to use equipment, withdrawal of crews from events, and expulsion from the section.

General

- While taking part in any activity at Warwick each member is responsible for the safety of themselves and the equipment they are using.
- While using equipment belonging to the Rowing Section every member is responsible for ensuring compliance with British Rowing's RowSafe.
- RowSafe mandates that pre-outing safety checks on equipment and personal risk assessments be carried out by all participants prior to commencement of an activity.
- Members must observe any guidance issued by the Water Safety Adviser.
- Any incident or near miss involving (likely) injury or damage must be recorded immediately using the British Rowing online incident reporting facility.
- Any new member that has not rowed/sculled previously must successfully complete a learn-to-row course before joining the rowing section of Warwick Boat Club.
- Anyone who goes out in a club boat must have completed a rowing membership form and confirmed their ability to swim 50m in light clothing, be competent underwater, in treading water and in swimming on front and back.
- Lifejackets must be used by all coxes, launch drivers, and launch passengers while afloat.
- With the exception of organised nose-to-tail and side-by-side sessions a maximum of 8 boats are allowed on the river at any one time.
- Light or high-viz clothing must be worn by the bow person.

Equipment

- It is the responsibility of every member of the section to handle equipment safely and reduce the danger of damage wherever possible.
- Any damage to equipment, however slight, must be reported to the Men's/Women's Rowing Captain or a member of the committee.
- Where damage occurs that makes the equipment unsafe to use, a suitable notice shall be displayed on the equipment concerned.
- A person's eligibility to use, steer or cox a specific boat shall be determined using the Boat Usage Rules issued from time to time by the Rowing Section Committee unless specific permission has been sought from and granted by the Men's/Women's Rowing Captain. Any permission so given shall lapse at the date of the following AGM.
- The eight, coxless fours and coxless quads shall only be used by approved steers people/coxes with prior authorisation of the Men's/Women's Rowing Captain. Any permission so given shall lapse at the date of the following AGM.
- The eight may only be coxed by an experienced cox approved by the Men's/Women's Rowing Captain and shall not be used upstream of Charter Bridge. Where an on-site risk assessment allows and in agreement with other crews the eight may be taken up to the slipway.
- The Rowing Captains shall be responsible for the settings of riggers and blades on each boat. Members shall not make unauthorised changes or adjustments.

- Changes to rigging on club boats and blades may only be made with the express permission of the Men's/Women's Rowing Captain.
- Blades, boats and riggers are all colour coded. The blades specified for a given boat along with shared blades are detailed in the Boat Permissions document. The correct set of club blades should be used with the corresponding boat.
- Normal shoes must be removed before getting into any club boat.
- Private shoes may only be fitted into boats with the express permission of the Men's/Women's Rowing Captain and must be mounted onto a spare footplate or Bat plates where applicable.
- All equipment must be wiped down and returned to its allocated place in the boathouse immediately after use.
- Members are expected to attend regular boat and river maintenance days to assist with boat repairs and general housekeeping tasks.
The launch may only be used by prior authorisation of the Men's/Women's Rowing Captain. All launch drivers must be RYA2 qualified.

Rowing sessions, river slots and booking.

	Max no of boats on the water	Circulation pattern	Additional restrictions
Normal session	8 boats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boats travelling generally on the right-hand side of the river. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no boating /un-boating restrictions. The eight must not be used during the session.
Side-by-side session:	No limit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boats move as a batch between flag-pole and Sailing Club. Side-by-side racing of pairs of crews is permitted down-stream only. Crews must ensure that they start at sufficient intervals to prevent races overlapping. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crews must not boat / un-boat in the middle of the session except by joining / leaving the procession from flagpole to Sailing Club. Crews joining / leaving a session must make their intentions abundantly clear to the other participants. The No Boating sign must be displayed. Crews must move efficiently at all times so as not to hold up the session in any way. Crews may go above Charter Bridge but must wait and slot into the circulation pattern when coming back down. The eight may be used.
Nose-to-tail session	No limit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boats move as a batch between flagpole and agreed point up-river. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crews must boat by the published final boating time or wait to join for the next trip up. Crews must not boat / un-boat in the middle of the session except by joining / leaving the procession. Nose-to-tail racing is permitted downstream, and overtaking may take place provided that it is safe to do so. Note, this is generally not safe until the 500m straight. Crews joining / leaving a session must make their intentions abundantly clear to the other participants. The No Boating sign must be displayed. Crews must move efficiently at all times so as not to hold up the session in any way.
Reserved session	No limit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Nose-to-tail session restrictions and circulation pattern apply if more than one boat is taking part. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Rowing Captain or crew may 'block book' the river for a reserved session during daylight outside the normal Peak hours, provided they are first crew booking for that time. Other crews may book in advance to join the reserved session with the booker's permission but may not join in on spec. The No Boating sign must be displayed.

	Weekday	Weekend
Peak hours	18:00-19:30, 19:30-21:00	Sat 08:00-09:30, 09:30-11:00 Sun 08:00-09:30, 09:30-11:00
Junior priority hours	Tues & Thurs 16:00 to 18:00	

- The Men's/Women's Rowing Captain will publish the timetable of regular sessions according to the above table.
- The Men's/Women's Rowing Captain will give at least 7 days' notice of any changes in the type of sessions taking place during peak hours.
- Boats and river slots may be booked on MyClubhouse up to 7 days in advance.
- Bookings at peak times must be aligned with the recognised water session timings (do not book across sessions).
- Bookings not taken up within 15 minutes of the start time are void.

River etiquette at Warwick

- Boats should be launched and landed using the landing stage provided, and with bows pointing upstream.
- Boats should generally travel on the right-hand side of the river. However, the best course should be chosen in any given situation.
- Crews waiting to return to the landing stage should wait on the right-hand side of the river with their bows pointing upstream and should only cross when the landing stage is clear.
- It is the responsibility of any crew leaving or returning to the landing stage to ensure that the river is clear before crossing.
- All crews should be aware of the potential presence of pleasure boats, canoes, SUP's, scouts, swimmers, fishermen, dragon boats, etc on the river, and should plan their outing to maintain the safety of themselves, their equipment and other river users. Do not expect any other river user to get out of your way simply because you are doing a particular piece of work!
- Section members are expected to be courteous to other river users and members of the public at all times.
- Crew details and outing times must be written on the whiteboard on the main boathouse door before boating.
- For any circulation pattern session (side-by-side or nose-to-tail), crews must agree a turning point and communicate with each other of their intentions (session plan, how far they're going up, etc). Crews in the circulation pattern should be competent and aim to keep up with each other to minimise waiting times.

Rowing in the Dark

The following rules apply when rowing after dark:

- No rowing in the dark may take place when the water level has risen above the lower concrete step.
- Only two crews are allowed on the river at any one time. Exceptions apply with the explicit permission of rowing captains in certain circumstances, e.g. where crews of equal speed are following the same session plan and an on-site risk assessment allows it (e.g. it is warm enough to allow for the additional waiting times around the spinning points).
- Novices* may only go out in coxed boats and must have the express permission of Men's/Women's Rowing Captain/Captain of Boats.
- No boat is to go above Charter Bridge.
- Only approved coxes may cox.
- If two boats are on the water both boats must travel up and down the river in procession.
- Boats must be fitted with navigation lights; white at bow and red at stern (these must be lit).

- No outings are permitted by the 80 in the dark with the exception of where an on-site risk assessment allows and with the express permission of the Men's/Women's Rowing Captain/Captain of Boats.
- Single scullers must not go out on their own in the dark.
- Light coloured or high-viz clothing must be worn.

*Novice = rower or sculler that has not yet won a non-primary event in the appropriate discipline at an official British Rowing regatta or head.

The 'hours of darkness' are defined as those during which street lights are lit. This requires drivers on the roads to have their headlights on and is commonly called "lighting up" and "lighting down". It is generally about 20 minutes before actual sunrise and 20 mins after sunset. You can check sunrise/sunset on the BBC weather website. As an easy rule of thumb if the streetlights are on, rowing in the dark rules apply and you should have lights on your boat!

MyClubhouse bookings are generally restricted to 2 river slots only for the hours of darkness, however if you find it starts to get dark part way through your session, those with River slots 1 and 2 will have priority to stay on the water and follow the rules as above. Everyone else must come off.

River Levels

Water Level	Daytime	Dark
Below the lower concrete step	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · No restrictions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Novices* may only go out in coxed boats and must have the express permission of the Men's/Women's Rowing Captain or Captain of Boats · Junior athletes & junior coxes are not permitted on the river · Use of the eight is restricted.
Above the lower concrete step	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Novice* crews may only go out if they are experienced and using a coxed boat and have the express permission of the Men's/Women's Rowing Captain or Captain of Boats · Use of the eight is not permitted · Junior athletes & junior coxes are not permitted on the river. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · No boats allowed on the water
Above the upper concrete step	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · No boats allowed on the water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · No boats allowed on the water

*Novice = rower or sculler that has not yet won a non-primary event in the appropriate discipline at an official British Rowing regatta or head.

Visibility

- No boating shall take place if the flagpole cannot be seen from the boathouse. If visibility is limited, then yellow Hi-Viz jackets located in the boathouse should be worn and boats fitted with navigation lights.

Racing & training off site

- All race entries are at the discretion of the Men's/Women's Rowing Captain.
- The Men's/Women's Rowing Captain shall publish, from time to time, a list of events to which it is planned that the club shall attend. Transport for these events will be arranged by the Men's/Women's Rowing Captain or his/her representative subject to there being sufficient entries.
- Entries for all events must be submitted by email to the Section's entries secretary no later than the published date. Entry fees and any associated trailer fees for all events must be paid into the Section account in advance of the event.

- The Rowing Committee reserves the right to refuse a crew entry into an event.
- Crews scratching from an event must inform the Men's/Women's Rowing Captain of their decision before submitting their withdrawal.
- For club events, all members who have entered are required to attend both boat loading and unloading. Failure to attend may result in that crew's boat not being loaded, and the crew being withdrawn from the event.
- Events not included on the list of club events may be attended by crews provided that the express permission of the Men's/Women's Rowing Captain has been given before the entry has been submitted. Transport arrangements must be made by the crew concerned and must be approved in advance by the Men's/Women's Rowing Captain.
- Any crew wishing to take a boat off site for any purpose other than attending a Club Event must obtain permission from the Men's/Women's Rowing Captain in advance.
- Any club boat taken off site must be booked out on MyClubhouse.
- All racing crews must wear matching club kit in line with British Rowing Rules of Racing.

Juniors

- A "Junior" shall refer to those members under the age of 18 or turning 18 in that schoolyear. "J15", "J16" etc shall be as defined in the British Rowing Rules of Racing. The minimum age for junior athletes at WBC is J14 (i.e. at least 13 years of age on the 1st September of the year they join).
- Those younger than J14 may join as junior coxing members only with the express permission of the Men's/Women's Rowing Captain.
- Junior athletes and junior coxes must either successfully complete a capsized drill and demonstrate that they can swim 50m in light clothing or wear a suitable buoyancy aid before taking part in water-based activities.
- Junior athletes and junior coxes must submit a completed parental consent form and thereafter inform the head Junior Coach, Junior Coordinator, or membership secretary of any changes to the information provided.
- Junior athletes, junior coxes and their parents are required to sign up to the Junior Section's Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures. Bad behaviour will not be tolerated.
- With the exception of coxing junior activities may only take place under supervision of one of the Section's recognised Junior Coaches and only during dedicated junior squad sessions.
- Experienced junior athletes may be allowed on the water outside recognised junior sessions under the supervision of a parent/guardian or junior coach by prior arrangement between the Head Junior Coach and the Men's/Women's Rowing Captain.
- Junior athletes and junior coxes are not permitted on the river when the water is above the lower concrete step.
- Junior rowing is not permitted in the dark.
- When representing the Club at racing events, junior athletes and junior coxes must have specific parental consent and adequate supervision throughout the event by a responsible adult designated by that parent.

Guests

- Each member is entitled to bring guests to the club. The same guest may visit the club up to 3 times per year and no more than twice in any month.
- The guest must have rowed or sculled previously, and the member must seek permission from the Men's/Women's Rowing Captain in advance of the visit.
- The member must pay the appropriate visitor fee prior to using any club equipment.
- Guest outings should take place outside peak time sessions.
- A visitor is required to complete a rowing membership form ticking the 'visitor' box prior to using any club equipment.
- It is the responsibility of the club member to ensure that their visitor complies with the Section and Club rules at all times.
- As an exception the Rowing Committee may allow a member to bring a guest that has not rowed or sculled before for a one-off taster session.