



BOAT USAGE POLICY

1. OBJECTIVE AND PURPOSE

- 1.1 The Ballarat City Rowing Club (BCRC) is committed to providing enjoyable and safe rowing opportunities that match skill level and member goals.
- 1.2 BCRC recognises that a balance must be made between providing access to elite-level equipment and protecting the longevity of that equipment.
- 1.3 This Policy aims to provide guidance on club owned boat use based on maximising appropriate use of equipment while minimising the risks to equipment and those using the equipment.

2. BOAT USE: CATEGORIES

- 2.1. Boats owned by BCRC are classified as either restricted, semi-restricted or general use, as designated by the Committee.

General (GREEN): Beginners, development, recreational and Learn 2 Row.

Semi-restricted (ORANGE): Experienced crews or may be used by crews with less experienced under the supervision of a coach with approval from the Club Captain.

Restricted (RED): Club Captain permission only. Full financial member, to be used by youth/senior athletes of a high level of proficiency with the aim of being competitive at state level or above; and Masters club members with more than 2 years rowing experience at a high level.

- 2.2 The Boat Captain shall allocate boats to categories each year and communicate this information to all members through social media posts, email communication and notices posted in the shed.

3. BOAT USE: WEIGHT CLASSES

- 3.1 Boats are manufactured for use by specific crew average weights. Rowing in a boat appropriate to weight is important for safety, performance and longevity of the boat.

- 3.2 Boats owned by BCRC are classified by weight range:

Lightweight (LWT) – Up to 65kg;

Middle weight (MWT) 65-90kg;

Heavyweight (HWT): 90kg+

- 3.3 Boat weights will be communicated to all members with weights clearly identified on Hello Club, notices posted at the sheds and available as an Appendix to this Policy.

- 3.4 A crew may not exceed the specified average crew weight set for a boat by more than 10kg.

3.5 A crew may row a boat under the specified average crew weight set for the boat if a more appropriate boat is not available (i.e. a 60kg average crew can row an 80kg boat).

4. BOAT USE: BOOKINGS

4.1 BCRC uses Hello Club for online boat bookings – www.ballaracityrowing.helloclub.com

4.2 On ordinary training days, approved BCRC squad coaches (for example, Winter Rowing or Development Squad) shall allocate boats to crews, in line with the Boat Use: Categories policy guidelines. These coaches are required to book boats for these sessions in Hello Club.

4.3 Boat bookings which are no longer required are to be cancelled/deleted by the event organiser.

4.4 Boat bookings should not exceed 2 hours unless by prior arrangement with the Club Captain.

4.5 Where a general use boat has been booked and the crew has failed to arrive within 15 minutes of its booking time, the boat may be used by any crew.

4.6 Non-members wishing to use BCRC equipment must seek permission from the Club Captain and/or Rowing Sub-committee and agree to pay the casual hire fee of \$30 per session. Payment must be received before the Club Captain will approve or book any boat for a non-member. In any case, the use of BCRC equipment will always be prioritized for existing BCRC members.

5. BOAT USE: COMPOSITE CREWS

5.1 BCRC will always prioritise club boats to full BCRC crews when allocating boats and equipment.

5.2 Members wishing to compete in composite crews and use BCRC equipment must make a written request to the Club Captain giving details of the crew members, their affiliated club and the type and number of events wishing to be entered as a composite crew.

5.3 If a composite crew has 75% or less BCRC members, the Club Captain has the right to refuse the request and/or may provide an alternative boat for their use.

5.4 If a composite crew has 75% or less BCRC members, the Club Captain may at their discretion approve the request to use a club owned boat for the composite crew on the provision that those BCRC members wanting to race composite agree to race in at least one full BCRC crew event at that same regatta OR pay a hire fee:

- \$300 per regatta for eights (boat can be used for multiple events)
- \$200 per regatta for quads/fours (boat can be used for multiple events)
- \$100 per regatta for 2x/2- (boat can be used for multiple events)

The composite crew consisting of 75% or less BCRC members must be entered in Rowing Manager by the Club Captain and the entry will not be made until the Club has received the agreed boat hire fee.

6. BOAT USE: SAFETY

6.1 Rowers and coxswains must be able to swim a minimum of 50 meters, clothed and without assistance.

6.2 Each individual must take personal responsibility for safety procedures and consider their actions that may affect others.

- 6.3 Extreme care should be taken when moving boats on and off racks or trailers and when carrying boats in and out of sheds or to and from the water. Clear instructions must be given by the person directing the moving boat (typically the coxswain or stroke). Use safe manual handling to avoid injury when lifting and carrying boats. Ensure the path is clear of obstacles, tripping or slipping hazards. Watch riggers carefully to make sure they don't hit boats or people.
- 6.4 Safety checks should be taken before taking a boat on to the water including: checking that the bow ball is in place; working lights are attached in low light conditions; release cords on shoes are attached properly, riggers are attached properly.
- 6.5 Check the weather and conditions and do not row if thunderstorm, high wind, extreme weather warnings or other adverse conditions are present or imminent. Check conditions on www.willyweather.com.au
- 6.6 Any injury incurred while using any boats or equipment should be reported to the President (president@ballaratcityrowing.com) while will also advise the Captain and Safety Officer (if one is appointed), where appropriate.
- 6.7 All incidents must be documented on an Incident Report form (available on the club website).

7. BOAT USE: CLEANING

- 7.1 Boat cleaning is critically important, especially in salt water environments. Boats must be hosed-out inside and out after a session (avoiding shoes where possible) and after every regatta, taking care to clean all salt water or water scum from the hull, decks, seats, slides and riggers. Soapy water should be used, washed off and then dried using a chamois.
- 7.2 Please remove bungs to allow the boat hull to sufficiently dry out while on being stored on the boat shed racks.

8. BOAT USE: AWAY REGATTAS

- 8.1 If a boat is removed from the shed it is to be cleaned thoroughly upon return, after away-regattas this will take place at boat unloading.
- 8.2 Boats returning from away regattas should be rigged at boat unloading and returned to the shed ready for use.
- 8.3 All members participating in away regattas are expected to assist with loading/unloading, cleaning and rigging of boats and equipment.
- 8.4 Boats being loaded should used a boat cover (if provided), rigger covers (if provided) and should be adequately tied down to the trailer to avoid damage in transit. Seats should be either removed or tied in.
- 8.5 An inventory of all items being transported including riggers, trestles, oars, cox boxes etc should be kept and checked before leaving the regatta location, and on return to the shed. Ensure that all club equipment is clearly labelled.

9. BOAT USE: DAMAGE

- 9.1 Boat damage and equipment damage or loss must be reported within 24 hours via our online incident report form with any photographs to be emailed to info@ballaratcityrowing.com

9.2 If a boat is involved in an accident with a boat from another club or of other third parties, the incident must be reported to the Club Captain and/or Boat Captain immediately. Photographs of any damage and the contact details of any other persons involved should be provided.

9.3 An individual or member of a crew must attach a notice to any club owned boat that is damaged and not safe to row.

9.4 Reckless rowing/negligence will incur a fine of up to \$100 per crew member at the discretion of the Committee. This includes but is not limited to:

- Colliding with another boat
- Beaching the boat
- Hitting the pontoon causing damage
- Having a rigger hit another boat in the shed causing damage
- Bending the fin/rudder whilst placing the boat on water
- Failing to give way when required to do so
- Failing to report damage.

9.5 Careless conduct that does not result in damage may incur a fine of up to \$100. This includes but is not limited to:

- Dropping an oar onto a boat whilst carrying more than two oars
- Hitting the ground/pontoon with the hull, no damage
- Rowing without lights in poor light conditions
- Knowingly rowing during a thunderstorm or lightning
- Rowing on the wrong side of the course.

9.6 No permanent alteration in any club owned boat or equipment shall be made without permission from the Boat Captain.

10. BOAT USE: MAINTENANCE

10.1 Club owned equipment is set to a standard rigging as directed by the Boat Captain. Boat and oar settings for general use or semi-restricted boats are not to be changed without prior approval from the Boat Captain.

10.2 Restricted boats may have their rigging adjusted to suit a permanent training crew, at the discretion of the Boat Captain.

10.3 Any repairs needed for club owned equipment should be reported to either the Club Captain or Boat Captain as soon as practically possible and/or a request for repairs to be made via the Club website.

10.4 An individual or member of a crew must attach a notice to any club owned boat that is needing repair and is not safe to row.

10.5 All members are expected to assist with boat maintenance.

10.6 All members using BCRC equipment and facilities are expected to participate in at least one BCRC working bee annually.

10.7 Amateur repairs should not be undertaken without consultation with the Boat Captain.

11. BOAT NAMING

11.1 Boats will be named by the Committee.

11.2 The Committee will endeavour to choose names of individuals who have upheld the goals and values of the Club.

11.3 Boats need not bear the name of a person.

Revised July 2023.

Ratified by the BCRC Committee on 4th October 2021.