



Trentham Boat Club- Water Safety Policy 2022

Introduction

- 1.1 This policy is written to provide members with the information necessary to ensure that Trentham Boat Club (TBC) operates in a safe manner. TBC will conform to the requirements of the British Rowing safety code, with which all members should familiarise themselves. The Club will also take such further measures as relevant to local conditions.
- 1.2 The safety policy also contributes to the reduction of damage to equipment. Collisions are likely to result in damage to equipment even if none of the rowers are injured.
- 1.3 Nothing in this policy limits in any way individual responsibility for the outcomes of members own actions.

All members are responsible for their own safety and for the safety of other members.

Members have responsibility to notify the Captain of any medical conditions that may affect them during exercise, rowing or impact on their safety.

- 1.4 All members should be made aware of the existence of this policy and encouraged to make themselves familiar with its content. It should be published on the Club website and notice board.

2 Safety Advisor

- 2.1 The Club Water Safety Advisor (CWSA) shall be appointed at the AGM or at the first Committee meeting after the AGM each year. The responsibilities are listed in paragraph 2.1.1 of the British rowing Water Safety Code. The CWSA should be conversant with the requirements of the British Rowing Code and the Club Water Safety Policy and to advise the Club on necessary actions to ensure compliance.
- 2.2 The CWSA will ensure that whenever a risk assessment identifies local risks or hazards a Safety Plan is formulated and that appropriate actions are defined and taken.

3. Rules for Safety

- 3.1 All rowing members must be able to swim at least 50 metres in light clothing, or will be required to wear a life jacket at all times on the water. Applicants for membership must affirm this on their application form. Applicant for junior membership must have this signed by a parent or guardian. All new members will be required to undertake a capsized drill and swim test when arranged by the Club.

4. Equipment

- 4.1 All rowers must check their equipment prior to use, paying attention to:

- The boat has a bow ball
- The heel restraints and stretches are secure
- Riggers and gates are correctly fitted to the boat
- Hatches are closed
- Steering works correctly

If a member feels that any equipment is unsafe they should notify the Captain as soon as possible.

- 4.2 Boat use should be as agreed with the Captain and coaches. Boats should be washed after use.



Trentham Boat Club- Water Safety Policy 2022

5. Equipment Damage and Accident Reporting

5.1 In the event of any accident, collision or capsize, or any other incident involving injury to persons or damage to equipment, the club incident report form should be completed and it **MUST** be reported promptly to British Rowing, using the reporting tool on the British Rowing website.

Assistance can be obtained from the CWSA who will report all reported incidents to the Committee.

5.2 Equipment must not be removed from one boat to another without the agreement of the Captain, or his/her representative.

6. On the Water

6.1 The circulation pattern is to row with port (stroke side/green) side facing the outside of the lake, away from the rowing club on the monkey forest side, and towards the rowing club on the A34 side.

Crews being overtaken should move to the outside of the lake to allow overtaking crews to keep the inside line. See circulation pattern below.

The major hazards are as follows

Other Water users

- Canoeists – circulation pattern demonstrated above – in opposite direction to rowers circulation
- Miss Elizabeth – during the summer months miss Elizabeth travels the length of the lake as per circulation pattern displayed on safety noticeboard outside of boathouse.
- Fishermen – are often present on the lake shore and their lines could become a hazard for rowers. Crews should give them a wide berth and if they are difficult to see then communicate their location to other water users as able.

Static Hazards

- Uneven bank of the lake
- Metal obstructions at Northern, statue end - both the metal structures in the north west corner (ski jump) and the metal posts adjacent to the statue steps
- Overhanging trees on bank and islands.
- Underwater stumps near islands and banks
- Sandbank on northern shore of lake at point protruding from bank.

Other Hazards

- Turning at either end of the lake. Take care in high or gusting winds.
- Side by side rowing at the ends of the lake. Keep to the correct side of the buoys at all times.
- Keeping to the correct side at all times unless being overtaken, which should be done by moving to the outside of the lake.
- Rowing side by side should be done with caution, by experienced crews.
- Crews waiting to go to the landing stage should stay a suitable distance away to allow other crews to circulate around them. If there are crews waiting to boat and to return to the stage, they should sensibly alternate use of the stage.

6.2 Skills and Steerspersons

The Captain should approve any coxes as competent. Coxless boats should be steered by competent steerspersons. They should have been assessed by their squad captain as competent to steer and have



Trentham Boat Club- Water Safety Policy 2022

a good knowledge of the circulation pattern and hazards. The squad captains should maintain an up to date list of competent steerers and make this available to the safety advisor.

Coxes should wear the correct lifejacket at all times, i.e. not an auto life jacket in a front-loading boat.

6.3 Adverse conditions (wind & cold contribute to adverse conditions)

Before going out crews should consult with coaches or the Captain as to the suitability of the conditions. Where possible the safety board will be maintained up to date on the boathouse door. In the absence of officials, caution should be taken on any decision to row in adverse conditions and no novices or juniors should go out without checking first. Suitable clothing should be worn at all times.

6.4 Trentham Estate closures

The Club Safety advisor and captains/ Junior Coach should be on the Trentham estate email alert for Lake Closures and communicate this as soon as possible to all members via the agreed cascade.

6.4.1 Where footpaths around the lake are closed due to ice we may access the lake following our own risk assessment.

6.4.2 When the Estate is closed due to high wind the lake must not be used.

7. Rowing in the dark.

7.1 There is a separate policy relating to rowing in the dark and this should be consulted.

8. Coaching Launches

8.1 Club launches should only be driven by persons approved by the Coaches.

8.2 Launches should only be driven by RYA qualified drivers, or by a “driver in learning”, waiting to complete a RYA course, who is being directly supervised by a qualified driver.

8.3 Drivers should carry a mobile phone or radio at all times. Launches should carry the following items; paddle, bailer, throw line, thermal blankets, basic first aid kit, megaphone. All personnel in the launches except for those being retrieved following capsize should wear lifejackets and use the kill cord.

8.4 Launches inevitable create a degree of wash and rowers should be prepared for this, as it will exist in many racing and other conditions. However, drivers should show consideration to other users and avoid swamping, or washing down crews for extended periods. When the lake is busy it will not be possible to follow crews for extended period and circulating crews will be more appropriate.



Emergency Action Plan

In the event of a capsize

- **Stay with the boat:** use the boat as a buoyancy aid and swim or walk towards the bank
- If the water is cold, get as much of your body out of the water as soon as possible, draping yourself over the hull; if you can, right the boat as this will make it much easier to move
- Other boats in the vicinity should fetch help or a launch if one is available.

Medical emergency on the water (e.g. a crew member being taken seriously ill or becoming unresponsive)

- Raise the alarm immediately; ask launch, another boat, or person on the bank to dial 999/112
- Immediately return to the main landing stage.
- As soon as possible alert Trentham security (Tel 07966 247393) so that they may ensure the Emergency services are appropriately directed within the estate

First aid and defibrillator

- There are well-stocked first aid kits & emergency use towels in the boathouse. Each launch has a first aid kit, throw line and emergency blankets.
- An AED (automated external defibrillator) is located outside the cafe.

Emergency telephone numbers

There are lists of emergency telephone number are located on the Safety Notice Board on the compound wall.

Taking charge

One individual shall take charge of any incident; other members present should make themselves available to assist on request rather than acting independently. No-one should leave the site of an incident until it is resolved, unless they are asked to do so (e.g. to fetch help).

A report of any incident (including date, time, location and all those involved) shall be made using the logbook in the club and the appropriate online form.



Trentham Boat Club



Circulation Rules

Rowers – clockwise circulation

- When paddling up to the statue (north), allow space for canoeing by the islands and fishing from the banks
- When paddling back to the boat house (south) keep island side
- TURN AFTER THE BUOYS AT BOTH END OF LAKE

Rowers – overtaking

- Slower boats should move to the outside of lake to allow fast boat through and then move back on line

Rowers – coaching/resting

- Do not delay in the turning areas; move to open areas which do not impede other lake users.

Canoeing – Anticlockwise

- When paddling up to statue (north) keep bank side allowing room for fishing
- When paddling back to the boat house (south) keep Island side
- Keep to the outside of buoy at north end of lake



- At boat house end of the lake be aware of rowers when turning

Miss Elizabeth

- All rowers MUST be aware when Miss Elizabeth is operating and take extra care

HAZARDS

- Submerged metal structure at south end of lake
- Shallow water
- Overhanging branches
- Excessive weed

ALL LAKE USERS

- It is the responsibility of all lake users to be aware of their position on the lake and the position of other traffic
- Shout to let other users know your position

“AHEAD SCULLER/DOUBLE/QUAD/FOUR/CANOE”

**“TAKE A LOOK
SCULLER/DOUBLE/QUAD/FOUR/CANOE”**

Note: Any collisions must be reported in the boat log book

Trentham Boat Club- Water Safety Policy 2022



Trentham Boat Club- Night-time Rowing Policy 2022

Introduction

Night time rowing increases the risk of collision and potential capsize, therefore all crews should adhere to the following guidance.

General

- Remember poor weather conditions that are acceptable for daylight outings may not be acceptable for a night time outing.

Night time rowing should not be undertaken in bad weather i.e. ice/high wind/low water temperatures.

- The club captains` permission is required for all crews wishing to row at night unless they are accompanied by a coach.
- The lake is fished at night, therefore more care will be requires to avoid fishing lines.
- Be aware that canoes may also be on the lake. Canoes should be equipped with lights - white bow, red stern.
- Use the external lights on the boat house.
- Before removing a boat from the boat house, check that the hard standing, landing stage and route to the lake are clear.

Boat Visibility

- When fixing lights to the boat, ensure that they will be visible when on the water.

White light at the **bow**.

Red light at the **stern**.

- Reflective clothing – the cox and bow should wear high visibility vests.

NOTE: This document is for Trentham Lake only. If rowing at other venues, follow local procedures.