



## Policy: Boat Use

### 1. RATIONALE AND PURPOSE

1.1 The Torrens Rowing Club is committed to providing rowing opportunities that match skill level and member goals

1.2 The Torrens Rowing Club recognises that a balance must be struck between providing access to elite-level equipment and protecting the longevity of that equipment

1.3 This Policy aims to provide guidance on boat use based on maximising appropriate use of equipment while minimising the risks to equipment and those using the equipment.

#### RELATED POLICIES

Risk Management Policy

New Members and Visitors policy

#### POLICY GUIDELINES

### 2. BOAT USE: CATEGORIES

2.1 Boats belonging to, and under the care of, the Torrens Rowing Club are classified as one of three categories: unrestricted, general and restricted, as designated by the Committee.

2.1a Unrestricted: Beginners and Learn to Row

2.1b General: Full financial member. Minimum age of 16 years. May be used by crews with less experience under the supervision of a coach

2.1c Restricted: Captain/Committee permission only. Full financial member, to be used by junior/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 committee shall allocate boats to categories each year and communicate this information to all members with notices posted at both the West lakes shed and the city clubhouse.

2.3 On ordinary training days, the coach shall allocate boats to crews, in line with the Boat Use: Categories policy guidelines.



2.4 Non-members wishing to use TRC equipment must seek permission from the Captain/ /Committee. In any case, use of TRC equipment will be prioritized for existing TRC members. Please see also Policy: New Members and Visitors.

### 3 BOAT USE: WEIGHTCLASSES

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

3.2 Boats belonging to, and under the care of, the Torrens Rowing Club are classified by weight range: LWT - Up to 65kg; MWT 65-90kg; HWT 90kg+.

3.3 Boat weights will be communicated to all members with notices posted at both the West lakes shed and the city clubhouse.

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

3.5 A crew may row a boat under the specified average weight set for the boat if a more appropriate boat is not available (eg a 70kg crew in an 80kg boat).

### 4. BOAT USE: SAFETY

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

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

4.3 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 moving the boat. 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 won't hit people.

4.4 Safety checks should be taken before taking a boat on to the water including: check that a bow ball is in place; working lights are attached in low light conditions; release cords on shoes are attached appropriately. Refer to Safety checklist notices in West Lakes shed and city Clubhouse.

4.5 Check the weather and conditions and do not row if thunderstorm, high wind or other adverse conditions are present or imminent.



4.6 Any injury incurred while using any boats or equipment should be reported to the President (president@torrenslowingclub.com.au) who will also advise the club Safety officer and First aid officer where appropriate. All incidents, including near misses, must be documented on an Incident Report Form (Refer to Risk Management Policy, Appendix 11.2).

## 5. BOAT USE: CARE

5.1 Boat cleaning is critically important, especially in a salt-water environment. Boats must be hosed-out inside and out after a session, taking care to clean all salt water and river scum from the cockpit, riggers, gates and slides. Best practice is to clean a boat with a soap/water solution, rinse off, then dry.

5.2 Extreme care should be taken when moving boats on and off racks and in and out of sheds. Watch riggers carefully to make sure they won't hit other storage items or scrape other boats.

## 6. BOAT USE: AWAY REGATTAS

6.1 If a boat is removed from the shed it is to be cleaned thoroughly upon return, after away-regattas this will take place at unloading.

6.2 Boats returning from away regattas should be rigged and ready for use prior to the next training session.

6.3 All members participating in away regattas are expected to assist with loading/unloading, cleaning and rigging of boats and equipment

6.4 Boats being loaded should be adequately tied down to the trailer to avoid damage in transit.

6.5 An inventory of all items being transported including riggers, trestles, oars, cox-boxes etc. should be kept and checked before leaving regatta location and on return to the TRC shed.

## 7. BOAT USE: DAMAGE

7.1 Boat damage and equipment damage or loss must be reported via email to [brokenboat@torrenslowingclub.com.au](mailto:brokenboat@torrenslowingclub.com.au) with a photograph of the damage and description. Details of when and how the damage occurred (where applicable) also needs to be provided.



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7.2 If a boat is involved in an accident with a boat from another club or of other non-TRC property the incident must be reported to the President immediately ([president@torrensrowingclub.com.au](mailto:president@torrensrowingclub.com.au)). Photographs and the contact details of any other persons involved should be provided.

7.3 An individual or member of a crew must attach a notice to any boat in the West Lakes shed or city Clubhouse that is damaged and not safe to row (i.e boat is quarantined).

7.4 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
- failing to secure a boat in high winds, resulting in damage
- bending the fin/rudder whilst placing the boat on the water
- failing to report damage

7.5 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 a bow light in poor light conditions
- knowingly rowing during a thunderstorm or lightning
- rowing on the wrong side of the course

7.6 No permanent alteration in any boat or equipment shall be made without permission from the Captain/Committee.

## 8. BOAT USE: MAINTENANCE

8.1 All members are expected to assist with boat maintenance.

8.2 All members using the TRC equipment and facilities are expected to participate in at least one TRC maintenance session annually.

8.3 Amateur repairs should not be undertaken without consultation with the Captain/Committee.



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## 9. BOAT NAMING

9.1 Boats will be named by a boat-naming sub-committee.

9.2 The boat naming sub-committee will endeavour to choose names of individuals who have upheld the goals and values of the Torrens Rowing Club.

9.3 Boats need not bear the name of a person

Revised and ratified by committee: 12 May 2020