

TYNE AMATEUR ROWING CLUB -- WATER SAFETY RULES
AS ISSUED FEB 2014, REISSUED AUG 2018, NOV 2024 & OCT 2025

Introduction

These safety rules are for all members of and visitors to Tyne Amateur Rowing Club when using club facilities, boats and equipment. Please follow them: they are in everyone's best interests. Failure to abide by these rules may lead to investigation and disciplinary action at the discretion of the Club Captain and Committee. We advise you to follow these rules, even if you are using your own boat and blades.

Please note our definitions of competency in rowing and sculling.

Beginners: Not yet able to enter a novice event for rowing or sculling. Coach to assess.

Novice: Competent enough to enter a novice rowing or sculling event in the boat being used. Someone might be a competent novice rower in an eight but not in other boats. Coach to assess.

Improver: Able to scull at least 6Km in single scull in average conditions. Coach to assess.

Competent and experienced: Coach to assess. Competency will vary according to conditions.

General outings on the water

1. All members taking part in water outings must be conversant with the British Rowing "RowSafe" Guide (now online only), the Tyne Safety Code and Map, and any further rules and safety plans that may be agreed and publicised.
2. Sign all crews in and out using the whiteboard next to the changing rooms. Last person to leave the club premises must check all crews have returned before locking up.
3. If you encounter a boat or crew in difficulties, stop and assist as necessary.
4. Report details of all incidents, including near misses, to the Club Water Safety Adviser using the British Rowing online reporting system.
5. No fast exercises between the Tyne ARC steps and the slipway at Tyne Riverside Country Park when novices and beginners are present on the water. Be prepared to slow down and stop in this zone.
6. Personal devices with headphones must not be used on the water because warnings and instructions cannot be heard.

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7. Swim test and capsize drill should be completed by all members and repeated at least every 5 years.
8. Launch drivers using club craft must have written authorisation from an officer of the Club, and must be conversant with British Rowing launch driving guidance, the River Tyne Safety Code and any club procedures for launch use that may be in place (see notice board or web site). Launch drivers will have to complete basic club training in driving and rescue in order to gain club authorisation and are strongly encouraged to move to the RYA Level 2 Inshore Powerboat qualification.
9. Coaches should have achieved Level 2 coaching qualification (or equivalent) or be moving towards it and must be members of British Rowing for water-based work with juniors and for leading courses on the water on behalf of the club, for adult beginners.

Under 18s (Juniors)

10. Any junior who has not passed the club's swim test must wear a personal flotation device on the water. Juniors under 18 are not allowed on the water alone.
11. Juniors under 18 must have the consent of their coach and a parent's knowledge and consent for water outings, including coxing.
12. Groups of juniors on the water must have supervision at all times, in accordance with the table below. Competency level in rowing and sculling will be determined by junior coach.
13. Juniors will only be permitted to cox at night if they are over 16 years of age, with an experienced crew and under supervision.
14. No one who is J15 or below can row during the hours of darkness and any junior above this age must be experienced.
15. Juniors should only use eights, octs, fours, quads and doubles at night.
16. Juniors should only row between the slipway and Stella Bend at night.
17. Juniors may attend club launch training sessions and become authorised launch drivers under rule 8. However, juniors are not permitted to drive launches unaccompanied. A junior who is authorised can be accompanied by any adult club members. A junior who is not authorised must be accompanied by an adult club member who is authorised.

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18. Club members must not assist a junior or junior crew to boat or cox independently unless they are the parent and/or they have the coach's instructions or agreement. Do not in any circumstances take a junior's word for their competence.
19. If a coach is not present in the boat or in an accompanying safety launch, then an adult cox or in a coxless boat, the steersman or individual who is giving the commands will be personally responsible for the boat and for any junior in the crew. An adult accompanying a junior in a single scull will be similarly responsible.

<i>Table for juniors under para 12</i>	Beginners and special needs novices	Novices	Improvers	Experienced and competent over 16
Should a coach be present on the water?	Yes. Coach plus volunteer assistant present.	Yes. Coach present.	Not necessarily, but there must be coach instructions, agreement, and supervision plus responsible adult appointed to accompany the group.	Not necessarily, but there must be coach instructions, agreement, and supervision plus responsible adult appointed to accompany the group.
Should there be a launch present?	Yes. Coach in launch accompanying, unless the beginners are roped and being instructed from the shore.	Yes, coach in launch accompanying on river with observers on shore and/or volunteer assistants as determined by coach.	Yes. Coach in launch present on the river.	Not necessarily.
Where can they go on the river?	Stay between the club steps and Newburn stream.	Stay between White House and downstream end of the straight.	Wylam "wires" to Derwenthaugh Marina.	Wylam "wires" to Redheugh Bridge.

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Adults learning to row and scull

20. Groups of learners and individuals on the water and using club boats and equipment should have supervision in accordance with the table below. (Note: competency level in rowing and sculling to be determined by the coach). Adults using their own boats and equipment are strongly encouraged to follow this advice.
21. Club members should only assist inexperienced individuals or crews to boat independently if they have the coach's instructions or agreement. (A competent and experienced club member will be deemed to be the "coach" if assisting a novice or beginner to learn to row or scull in the absence of a coach.)

<i>Table for adults under para 20</i>	Beginners and special needs novices	Novices	Improvers	Experienced and competent over 16
Should a coach be present on the water?	Yes. Coach plus volunteer assistant present.	Yes. Coach present.	Not necessarily, but there must be coach instructions, preferably accompanied by a competent and experienced adult.	Not necessarily.
Should there be a launch present?	Yes. Coach in launch accompanying, unless the beginners are roped and being instructed from the shore.	Yes, coach in launch accompanying on river.	Yes. Coach in launch present on the river.	Not necessarily.
Where can they go on the river?	Between the club steps and Newburn Stream; singles between the club steps and the Reigh Burn; crew boats as far as White House.	Stay between White House and downstream end of the straight.	Wylam "wires" to Derwenthaugh Marina.	Wylam "wires" to Redheugh Bridge.

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Visitors boating at Tyne ARC (excluding regattas and head races)

22. A visitor wishing to use club equipment on or off the water must be signed in as a temporary member in order to afford cover under the club's insurance.

Rowing in the dark

23. In an emergency, call 999.
24. In less critical situations, the following numbers are also available:

Club Captain, Thomas Jackson: 07538 816018

Club Rowing Safety Adviser, Sarah Irwin: mobile TBC (updated 09-10-25)

Club Event Safety Adviser, Colin Percy: 07985 003303 (updated 09-10-25)

25. For every night/dark rowing session, a person(s) is required to take ownership of the session. The person(s) should be made aware of any safety-related issues immediately.
26. No novices or children under 16 years old are permitted on the water during night/dark rowing.
27. No boats smaller than a 4- are allowed on the water during night/dark rowing unless permitted by the club captain.
28. It is advised that each squad does not use their top equipment during night/dark rowing.
29. All boats and personnel must sign out (and subsequently back in). The ownership of this is with the person(s) controlling the session.
30. Boats must display a continuous white light at the stern and a flashing white light at the bow, both must be attached securely to the boat. The lights must be of adequate brightness.
31. Night-time rowers must be accompanied by a launch, with a recommended maximum ratio of one launch per three boats.
32. Crews should wear fluorescent or light-coloured clothing, with white being preferred. If worn, a light-coloured hat, as opposed to a dark, is preferred.
33. Power driven boats used for coaching must, as a minimum, display an all-round white light and preferably port and starboard navigation lights.
34. Boats must not row beyond the Newburn straight without a launch within eye-line.
35. Rowing in the dark is not permitted within 24 hours of a spring tide or if there is significant debris present. The club captain will send a communicate across the club if night-time rowing were to be temporarily suspended.
36. Each crew is required to bring at least one phone with them on the water.

END

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Versions

1. As amended and agreed by the Management Committee on 7 January and 4 February 2014.
2. Reformatted but no text changed by CWSA 17 July 2018, pending review, and circulated to Management Committee members only.
3. Updated, but only to club name, taking out references to documents that do not exist and other procedural changes such as signing out - agreed at Management Committee on 7 August 2018.
4. Amendments made to rowing in the dark by CWSA November 2024.
5. Contact names changed and formatting of pages 5 and 6 changed to match pages 1-4 on 9 October 2025 – did not go to Committee as minor; wider review underway.