

## **NRR BOAT-USE POLICY**

### **1. RATIONALE AND PURPOSE**

- 1.1 NRR is committed to providing rowing opportunities that match rowers' skill levels and members' goals.
- 1.2 NRR recognizes 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 minimizing risks and maximizing appropriate use of resources.
- 1.4 NRR members, youth rowers, and learn to row participants who do not follow rules and policies risk having their rowing privileges suspended or revoked.

### **2. BOAT USE**

- 2.1 Boats belonging to and under the care of NRR are classified as one of two categories: general and restricted.
  - 2.1a General: For use by any rower in the Learn To Row program and above
  - 2.1b Restricted: For use by members of a high level of proficiency as determined by coaches or senior club members. All privately owned shells and equipment are restricted. Only members designated by the board may operate NRR coaching launches and only for official NRR activities.
- 2.2 Boat allocation on ordinary training days is the responsibility of the coach, in line with the Boat Use Policy.
- 2.3 All boats, including dinghies, shall only be used for member recreation, training and racing unless permission is given for alternate use.
- 2.4 All rowers, except those in Adult Beginner Lessons (ABL), must pass the NRR swim test. The test consists of swimming 50 yards, treading water for two minutes, donning a PFD, and treading water an additional two minutes. The test is administered in a variety of ways (e.g. YMCA, Neptune Aquatic Center, certified lifeguard) and successful results must be documented and on file with NRR. ABL rowers certify their ability to swim and must complete the test to continue rowing with NRR.

- 2.5 No permanent alteration to any boat or equipment shall be made without permission from the coaches or senior members.

### **3. BOAT DAMAGE**

- 3.1 Boat damage must be reported via the club log book, and if possible emailed to Phil Flego (philflegousa51@verizon.net) with a detailed description.
- 3.2 Reckless rowing/negligence will incur a fine of up to \$100 per individual or crewmember at the discretion of the Board. This includes, but is not limited to
  - 3.2a colliding with another boat;
  - 3.2b intentionally capsizing any NRR vessel;
  - 3.2c beaching or dragging boats;
  - 3.2d hitting pilings, buoys, or other stationary objects;
  - 3.2e having a rigger hit another boat causing damage
  - 3.2f failing to properly secure a boat resulting in damage
  - 3.2g bending the fin/rudder while placing the boat on the water
  - 3.2h failing to report damage
  - 3.2i unauthorized use of equipment
- 3.3 Careless conduct that does not result in damage may incur a fine of up to \$100 per individual or crewmember. This includes but is not limited to
  - 3.3a unauthorized use of shells, oars, dinghies, or any NRR equipment.
  - 3.3b hitting the deck with the hull, no damage
  - 3.3c rowing without a bow light
  - 3.4d knowingly rowing during a thunderstorm or lightning
  - 3.4e rowing on the wrong side of the course except when wind or storm conditions require.
- 3.4 Damage penalties apply during any use of NRR equipment, including but not limited to, use on the water, transport to the water, or transport to an event. Participants in the youth program and/or beginner sculling lessons are subject to conduct penalties 3.2b, 3.2c, 3.2h, 3.2i.

## **4. TAKING OUT A SHELL**

### **4.1 Before Rowing**

- 4.1a Put your oars on the beach with blades facing up and, if they are not already out, set up a pair of slings. If you are unsure of yourself, arrange for help carrying your shell to the water.
- 4.1b Before taking your shell off the rack unlatch safety restraints and ensure that you have a clear pathway to the beach. Do not bump your oarlocks, riggers or hull into the other shells. As you walk your shell from the racks, hold the boat securely and be wary of other people and equipment.
- 4.1c Keep shells off the beach. Once your shell is on the water ensure the hatch is closed, and examine shell for damage or unsafe conditions (such as missing drain plug, hatch, or seat, loose rigger, oarlock, or foot stretcher). Fix any problems before rowing, or red-tag with a tag from the shed, log problems, and choose another shell. If needed, clean any dirt or grime from the oar sleeves. Do not jam the oar shafts into the oarlocks. Make sure the oarlocks are closed before getting into the shell.
- 4.1d Before getting into the shell make sure the stern is in water deep enough to keep the skeg (fin) from hitting bottom when you get in.

### **4.2 After Your Row**

- 4.2a Wash all equipment taken on the water. Wash off all sand, dirt, scum from boats (inside, outside, caring especially for oarlocks and seat tracks) and oars.
- 4.2b Carry the boat to its designated rack—the one with the same label as the shell-- place it bow in or out (depending on the label, which should be showing), and strap it down. Close the oarlock gates, and open the hatch.
- 4.2c Return oars to the shed. Remember to red-tag unsafe equipment.
- 4.2d Log-out. Include comments on equipment, weather conditions or other matters as needed. Lock up. Determine if you are the last rower(s) in by checking the logbook and/or looking to see if shells are missing from the racks. If you are, lock the shed before you leave.