



Equipment Use Policy

1.0 RATIONALE AND PURPOSE

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

1.2 The Rockland Rowing Association recognises 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 minimising risks and maximising appropriate use of resources

[2018 equipment categories listed here](#)

POLICY GUIDELINES

2.0 EQUIPMENT USE

2.1 Boats belonging to, and under the care of, the Rockland Rowing Association are classified as one of three categories: unrestricted, general and restricted, as designated by the rowing director

2.2 Categories are to be updated as required by the rowing director and published in a prominent place, together with a summary of this policy and current equipment cleaning best practice policy

2.2a Unrestricted: For use by any rower in the Learn To Row program and above

2.2b General: General use, for the use of any rower with a minimum of two competitive seasons training experience of sufficient standard; may be used by crews with less experience under the supervision of a coach

2.2c Restricted: Restricted use, to be used by athletes of a high level of proficiency with the aim of being competitive at regional competition or above, or senior club members with more than five years rowing at a high level. Requires the permission of the Director.

2.3 Equipment allocation on ordinary training days is the responsibility of the coach, in line with the Equipment Use Policy.

2.4 Members wishing to row outside an allocated training session in a club boat can reserve the boat up to one week in advance for a 90-minute time slot by emailing Melissa@rocklandrowing.org. Any boat not reserved may be used by members without a prior reservation on a first come, first served basis.

2.5 A crew with an average weight below a weight specified for the equipment may row the boat if there is not a more appropriate boat available (eg a 70kg crew in an 80kg boat). A crew which is below a may not exceed the specified average weight set for a boat by 10kg or more (eg an 80kg crew in a 70kg boat).

2.6 Equipment care is critically important. Boats must be washed inside first and then outside after a session with care taken to clear away all scum; oar handles must be washed to remove germs and sunscreen; hatch covers must be left open after a row for moisture to evaporate. Equipment must be locked up where applicable.

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

2.8 No permanent alteration in any boat or equipment shall be made without permission from the rowing director.

2.9 All equipment is fixed and adjusted by coaches. Please do not adjust or change a boat's settings or the overall length or inboard of club oars unless directed by a coach. Rowers may however change the foot stretcher fore-and-aft and adjust the oarlock height.

3.0 BOAT DAMAGE

3.1 Boat damage or issues must be reported via the club logbook, and if possible emailed to melissa@rocklandrowing.org with a photograph of the damage and description. The boat must be flagged so that it is not used by others until repaired.

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

- colliding with another boat
- having a rigger hit another boat on the racks 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

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

- rowing without a bow light
- knowingly rowing during a thunderstorm or lightning
- rowing on the wrong side of the course
- failing to lock equipment after use

4.0 BOAT NAMING

4.1 Boats will be named by a boat naming subcommittee, comprising of the rowing director, one board member and one senior club member of at least 5 years.

4.2 The boat naming committee will endeavour to choose names of individuals who have upheld the goals and values of the RRA.