



Nashville Rowing Boat Reservation Policy (For Independent Rows Using Nashville Rowing Equipment)

With the exceptions of our members and our coaches, Nashville Rowing's (NR) equipment is our most valuable asset. It must be treated accordingly. Every boat that NR owns is used regularly, making safety and competence on the water essentially important.

****All independent rowers must pass the Independent Rowing Certification with a NR Staff member***

Objectives of Boat Reservations

- Allow scullers and sweep rowers to maximize on-water time and stay competitive personally, regionally, and nationally.
- Allow scullers and sweep rowers the flexibility to row safely and independently in accessible equipment.
- Add a clear, fair, and regularly available benefit to a NR membership.
- Protect NR's financial investment in shared equipment.

General Usage

Reserving boats for independent use is a privilege of a NR membership, and it is available pending respect for the guidelines and rules detailed within.

- Club boats may be used from up to 1 hour before sunrise to 1 hour after sunset year-round only in safe weather and water conditions.
 - See NR Policy Manual section 5.3 for details on acceptable weather conditions.
- All coached programs have priority use of club-owned boats during any scheduled practices.
- It is the rower's responsibility to return a boat to its rack no less than 10 minutes prior to a coached practice during which the boat will be used. If a boat is still available 15 minutes after the start of a scheduled practice, and a coach determines that boat will not

be used for that practice, a properly certified independent NR sculler or rower may use that approved available boat suited to their skill/competency level.

- Outside of the coached practice times, boats are generally available on a first-come, first-serve basis.
 - Exception: at the recommendation of the coaches and/or Equipment Manager, with the final discretion of the Executive Director, boats may be temporarily or permanently removed from the boat reservation list. Those reasons may include boat repair and reserving equipment for specific national competition. This information is highlighted on the boat reservation form.

Supervision

Outside of coached practices, use of sculling and rowing equipment is *entirely* at one's own risk. All independent scullers and rowers should use common sense, adhering to the purpose and spirit of all guidelines.

Periodically, coaches can choose to supervise independent rows. These times may include when boat availability has been limited due to recurring damage to specific boats or recently certified rowers take out a boat. This oversight helps to ensure the safety of the rowers and equipment. Coaches are not obligated to supervise independent rows.

Reservations

1. All boat reservations and requests will be handled by a NR staff employee designated by the Executive Director, hereafter named "Reservation Manager."
2. Requests for *any* boat must be made at least 24 hours in advance of the requested launch time.
 - a. Exception: 4+ or 8+ for Open Rows. Those requests are to be made at the start of each season, including dates, and will become a standing reservation for the duration of that season. If an Open Row is cancelled, the organizer must let the Reservation Manager know at least 1 hour prior to the proposed start time.
3. Responses to reservation requests can be expected within a reasonable amount of time (within 24 hours for requests made 48 hours or more in advance, prior to the day-of for rows requested by the 24-hour minimum).
4. All requests will receive a response. Please do not e-mail or ask for an update on the status of your request.
5. The Reservation Manager will maintain a calendar of approved reservations and times so those wanting to request a boat will know if the boat is available for planning purposes.
6. The boat approved by the Reservation Manager is the *only* boat that may be taken out. Rowers may not choose to row a boat for which they have not been approved.

Pre-Row Protocol for Scullers and Rowers:

Prior to taking any NR boat on the water, rowers should inspect all equipment for existing damage or surface marks (scratches, dents, holes) of any kind.

Do not make any repairs to any boat. Only the Equipment Manager and coaches are approved to repair Nashville Rowing boats.

- Do not make extensive rigging adjustments to boats (ex. changing span of rigging)
- Do not make extensive adjustments to oars (ex. changing overall or in-board length)
- Fill out the log book (located in trailer) before every row.
- Report any minor damage or marks in the log book, even if the boat is still rowable.

If the boat appears damaged to the extent that it is unsafe to row:

- Do not take it on the water.
- Take a photo of the damage in question.
- Contact the Reservation Manager via text or e-mail with a request for a different boat.
- Await further instruction from the Reservation Manager.
- Availability of an alternate boat will be based on certification level and boat availability.

Rigging:

Any damage incurred during this process is the responsibility of the rowers. Once the boat is in slings:

- If the boat is re-rigged for the row, removed riggers must be stored properly in the equipment trailer.
- Use wrenches to loosen all of the hardware on the shell.
- Rowers will then remove the hardware, and place it either in the shoes, or in the tracks. ALL hardware needs to stay with the boat.
- Once the riggers have been unwrapped/located, athletes may begin to attach them to their proper seats, tightening the bolts with their fingers.
- When all riggers are attached, the coxswain or bow seat will go through to tighten the bolts.

If you cannot tighten any further using two fingers, then the bolt is tight enough. NR hulls, particularly the ones with euro riggers, have seen significant damage from over tightening.

Rowing Protocol for Scullers and Rowers:

Certified NR scullers and rowers are expected to adhere to all on-water guidelines and policies found in [Article V of the NR Policy Manual](#).

Click [HERE](#) for additional safety guidelines outlined by US Rowing.

Post-Row Protocol for Scullers and Rowers:

- Scan the boat for any new damage or surface marks to ensure it is returned in the same condition in which it was launched. See below for how to report new damage.
- Boats do not need to be re-rigged after the row.
- Wipe down boat with a dry washcloth after use.
- Cover (if applicable) and securely strap the boat in its original, designated rack/location.
- If you note any new damage, regardless of the circumstances that caused the damage:
 - Take a photo of the damage.
 - Immediately report the boat name and any damage to the Reservation Manager via text or e-mail.
 - As soon as possible, fill out in detail the damage report.
 - Do not attempt to make any repairs to the boat (ex. repair holes or cracks in the hull or deck of the boat).
 - Await further instruction from the Reservation Manager.

Liability

Any time NR boats are taken out without the oversight of coaches, full responsibility becomes that of the rowers. This applies to both independent rows and designated Open Rows.

The NR liability policy can be found [HERE](#)

Blades and Oars

Unless they are on the trailer at a competition, there will be blades and oars available for use with your requested boat outside of regularly scheduled practices. Rowers may choose their

preferred blades and oars based on availability. Because equipment is shared, rowers may not have access to their first choice equipment.