

WARRINGTON ROWING CLUB

SAFETY PLAN.



The priority at all times is SAFETY.

This safety plan identifies the risks involved in rowing at Warrington Rowing Club (WRC) and outlines the procedures to be adopted by club members and visitors to limit those risks. Contravention of these safety procedures will be taken seriously by the committee.

A. WEATHER CONDITIONS.

1. The River Mersey is subject to the effects of wind, stream and, occasionally, tide.
2. When the river level is high and above the landing stage wellies should be worn and care taken when approaching the edge of the landing stage.
3. If the landing stage is fully submerged the head room under the pipe bridge upstream may be restricted.
4. If the launch jetty adjacent to the landing stage is submerged then no boats are allowed onto the river.

B. RULES OF THE RIVER

1. WRC operates to the British Rowing Row Safe Guidelines.
2. Local Rules. A full copy of the local river rules is displayed on the Safety Notice Board in the clubhouse, along with the waterway plan.
3. Coxes must wear an approved lifejacket or buoyancy aid, properly fitted and adjusted.
4. Under NO circumstances must crews venture further downstream than the black and white footbridge (Howley Suspension Footbridge) as this is the limit of our permitted water and there is a weir downstream.
5. Ability to swim. Rowing members of the club must be able to swim at least 50 metres in rowing kit.

C. COMMUNICATIONS.

1. **Telephones.** A telephone, (for incoming and 999 calls only), situated in the clubroom, is available to summon Emergency Services if required. The telephone number for the clubhouse is 01925 242631.
2. **Public Telephone.** The nearest telephone kiosk to the boathouse is outside the 'Late Shop' on Kingsway South, approximately 200 yards over Kingsway Bridge on the right-hand side. The nearest telephone kiosk to the start is at the end of Howley Lane, furthest from the boathouse.
3. **Emergency Telephone Numbers.** Lists are on the notice board, near the club telephone.

D. MEDICAL & FIRST AID.

1. The **Club Welfare Officer** is identified, with contact details, on the clubhouse

notice-board.

2. **First Aid** kits are situated in the club house and in each launch.
3. **Accidents and Emergencies** requiring hospital treatment will be taken to Warrington General Hospital, Lovely Lane, Warrington.

E. EMERGENCY ACTION PLANS.

1. **Accidents on the water.** In the event of a rower being injured, capsizing or becoming ill whilst rowing, the quickest means of rescue and access to the emergency services is by safety launch. The only vehicular access point to the river is the landing stage.
2. **Emergencies.** In an emergency, the safety launches will have priority over all other traffic. Crews should move to the side of the river so as not to hinder the safety launch.
3. **Evacuation Procedure.** In the event of the Club House being evacuated due to fire or other major incident, all members and visitors will make their way to the Assembly Point in the car park next to Kingsway Bridge. Club members will ensure the access road is clear for emergency vehicles. Crews on the water will muster near Kingsway Bridge and await clearance before proceeding to disembark at the landing stage.
4. **Accidents on land.** First Aid kits are available in the club house and all coaches are trained in First Aid.
5. **Equipment loss.** Any equipment swept below the black and white footbridge must be abandoned.

F. SAFETY LAUNCHES.

1. Lifejackets will be worn by all safety launch crew members and passengers. The launch drivers will hold a minimum of RYA Level II certificates and a complete rescue kit will be carried.
2. Under no circumstances are boats allowed to go downstream of the black and white footbridge, as there is a dangerous weir.

G. BOATS & EQUIPMENT

1. At each outing a safety inspection of the equipment to be used will be carried out by the embarking crews, looking at heel restraints, bow balls, buoyancy compartments, canvasses, rudder lines and general fixings. Boats that are unsafe or improperly equipped will not be used unless a suitable repair can be implemented. All damaged equipment will be clearly marked as such.

H. ROWERS RESPONSIBILITIES.

1. **Fitness.** It is the responsibility of the Rower or Parent / Carer to ensure that members are competent to train on the river without putting themselves at risk. The Committee reserve the right to refuse to allow any member to train if they feel that they are not competent.
2. **Capsize.** In the event of a capsize, crews should hold onto their boat and wait for assistance. The banks are steep and very few places allow egress to dry land.