



LRC Safety and Care Policy

In summary:

- Safety is of paramount importance. Boats are a key resource of the Club and Members must take care with them.
- If you are involved in an accident, you must follow the steps outlined below.
- Individual financial and membership consequences may apply if you do not follow this policy.

Safety

Rower safety, and boat safety and care are very important to LRC and its members.

All members must be aware of their safety obligations on the water, on the pontoon and in the shed. Members must be familiar with the "Being safe" page on the LRC website which contains this Accident Policy, NSW Maritime requirements for lights on rowing boats, boat handling and safety on the water, and other important information. It includes concepts such as:

- the correct way to get boats on and off the racks;
- the correct way to get boats on and off the water;
- the correct way to get in and out of the boat, and away from or returning to the pontoon;
- how to handle boats to avoid damage;
- keeping to the correct side of the river (ie, your bow-side should be closest to the land);
- the cox, or the bow seat in a non-coxed boat, is responsible for keeping a lookout for other crews and navigation hazards on the water;
- always watching out for other crews and boats, and calling out to other boats to avoid collision;
- turning only when safe to do so;
- turning by taking the shortest path across the river (ie, cross at a right angle);
- always displaying both bow and stern lights when rowing in between sunset and sunrise, and when visibility is restricted;
- sweep oar boats that do not have foot steering connected must carry a cox; and
- social rowers must demonstrate to the Club Captain that they have adequate knowledge of the safety and navigation rules before they will be given allocation of a non-coxed boat.

The Being safe page is updated from time to time and new information is added when it is deemed relevant.

What do I do if I am in an accident on the water?

At the time:

1. Render assistance to anyone who needs it.
2. Remain calm.

3. Don't admit fault.
4. Exchange names, rowing club, and boat details.
5. Identify landmarks so you can be clear on your positions in the harbour.

Once you're back at the Club:

1. Fill in the NSW Maritime Vessel Incident Form which is in the office in the clubhouse.
2. Give the form to Richard Stanistreet, and explain what happened to the Property Master (Tim Tindale). They will inform the relevant people within the Club.
3. Note any boat damage in the book on the blue cupboard near the entrance to the club.

What do I do if I damage equipment off the water?

1. Secure the boat or equipment which has been damaged to ensure no further damage or injury will occur.
2. You must provide the following details your coach, the Property Master, and Club Captain:
 - a. Identify the boat;
 - b. Describe the damage; and
 - c. Describe how the damage occurred.

What are the consequences of my accident?

If the damage is caused by not behaving responsibly and / or through lack of reasonable care, LRC will require member(s) to contribute to repair costs.

Why?

- Boat and rower safety is very important.
- This policy will encourage a compliant, accident-free club.
- LRC cannot afford to cover people who do not act according to this policy, nor is it fair on those members of the Club who are responsible in their behaviour and do the right thing, to indirectly pay for avoidable repair expenses.
- It is a NSW Rowing Association requirement that all incidents / collisions are reported by completing the NSW Maritime Vessel Incident Form and forwarding it to the NSWRA Safety Officer.

Who?

- All those in the boat or handling it may be held responsible.
- Coaches who are in the immediate vicinity of the accident and do nothing to prevent an accident will also be held responsible.

When?

- A penalty will apply when:
 - you are at fault (see description below);
 - there is personal injury;
 - you are in a boat which is not allocated to your training squad;
 - you are not an LRC financial member; or
 - you are rowing a coxed boat without a cox.

'Fault' will be determined having regard to the NSW Maritime and LRC rules and, ultimately, discretion will reside with the President, Captain and Treasurer.

For example: an accident will be deemed to be your fault if you are on the wrong side of the river, if you do not have lights on your boat when rowing in darkness, if you are in a boat which is not allocated to your training squad, if you are careless in handling boats etc.

Fault will not be determined by whether an insurance claim is made or, if made, whether the insurer deems the LRC boat to be at fault. LRC reserves the right to

claim on insurance or not. Often it is in LRC's best interests not to make an insurance claim.

What?

- A penalty may be:
 - payment of the insurance excess (up to \$1,000 per person);
 - payment of the costs incurred to fix any damage caused to all property, and to LRC's and other damaged boats (up to \$1,000 per person);
 - restricted access to boats;
 - restricted use of facilities; and/or
 - membership restrictions or cancellation.
- The President, Captain and Treasurer will determine the applicable penalty and who will be penalised.
- The NSWRA Safety Officer, in conjunction with NSW Maritime, may also impose fines on rowers deemed to have breached navigation safety rules. Any such fines imposed will be the responsibility of the crew for payment.
- A Club member will have an opportunity to make their case by written submission to the Committee if they dispute the way in which this policy is implemented.

Boat allocation

Please note that you can only use boats which are within your allocation. The Boat Usage Policy is on the website, has been published in Easy Oar, and is up at the shed on the blue cupboard and at the bottom of the stairs on the eastern end of the shed.

A penalty will apply if any damage occurs when you are training in a boat which is not allocated to your training squad.

Jane Hutchison
Club Captain
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