

## EQUIPMENT SAFETY AND MAINTENANCE CHECKS

When using club equipment you are personally responsible for the boat and oars, including riggers, foot stretchers, seat and slide. Before leaving the pontoon and on return to the shed, you **must** check that:

- shoes fitted to the boat do not have more than 7cm play (lift) on the heels to allow hands free release of the feet in the event of capsize. If there is more than 7cm play – tie/adjust the heel to ensure correct maximum amount of play. If you don't know how to do this – please ask.
- the bow ball is in good condition.
- rudder lines, steering mechanisms and fins are secure and in good working order.
- riggers, gates, foot stretchers, seat and slide are functioning properly and securely fastened and quick release mechanisms are working.
- slides have two wing nuts each and are secured.
- screws in adjustable oars are secured.
- all vents of the rowing shell are closed to preserve buoyancy.
- there are no cracks, leaks or other damage to the shell.
- you comply with lighting requirements (see Common Hazards).
- on return to the shed you must check the boat for any defect or damage (in crew boats this is the **Stroke's** responsibility).
- If the defect is minor – please try to fix it yourself. This is a fast way of getting to know the boats and is greatly appreciated by others.
- If you cannot fix it yourself – report it directly to the Boat Captain and/or through the Boat Maintenance Log.

**A member/ members who damages an oar or boat through recklessness or negligence may be required to contribute towards the cost of repair.**

### **OARS – DOCK LAUNCHING AND LANDING:**

- Avoid pushing off docks/shorelines with oar blades (this creates dings/gouges, which may splinter or cause other damage. Splintered/jagged tips create danger for others on the water, if you were to be involved in a collision).
- Landing on docks - it is best to approach at low speed. The blades are not to be used as friction brakes. Approach slowly; blades should be concave up (tips up) to avoid scraping and getting caught.
- Use your hand to grab the dock. If you know your hand is going to grab the dock, you are likely to adjust your speed appropriately.

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## RACKING AND UN-RACKING BOATS:

Please ensure that you understand how to rack and un-rack the boat you are using – if in doubt ask for help:

- Ensure obstacles are removed to allow clear exit and entry to the shed.
- Concentrate at all times on safety, lifting boat correctly and avoiding damage to yourself and the boat.
- Bend your knees when lifting.
- To avoid damage to other boats - replace gate covers on **ALL** boats (although not required on bottom racks, it gets you in the habit).
- Secure boats on the racks, do not let them rest on riggers or on the sneak or touch another boat.
- Ask for help if needed.

## BOAT WASHING:

- This is the perfect time to check for damage to the shell.
- Boats should be thoroughly cleaned inside and out– wipe all boats dry after cleaning for best results.
- It is not necessary to slosh water inside a boat unless there is dirt, a wet chamois is effective and doesn't leave water in the boat.
- Do not wet shoes.
- Slides should also be cleaned with a chamois or cloth.
- Ensure any blood left on oar handles or in the boat is cleaned off for hygiene reasons.

## BEFORE LEAVING THE SHED:

- Slings should be returned to the shed, unless there is another rower on the water.
- If you think you are the last rower at the shed – check that there are no club rowers out on the water (check the boat racks, shoes on the pontoons and/or cars in the car park).
- Check **ALL** oars (you own and other peoples') have been returned to the shed.
- If you are the last rower – check that all equipment - is safely stowed in the shed (just in case equipment has been forgotten by other rowers).
- Please ensure the shed is securely locked when leaving.