

Rules regarding Conduct and Safety when at Evesham Rowing Club or representing Evesham Rowing Club at Regattas and Heads.

Section 7 – Steering

COXES, COXLESS BOATS & SCULLING

Rules for the steering of any boat at ERC

1 – Use the Safety Matrix

- A risk assessment must be completed before the outing based on the Safety matrix.
- For squad sessions and junior or novice outings the assessment will always be done by the supervising coach.
- For non-squad outings the assessment must be done by a competent steersperson.
- A competent steersperson is anyone defined by an ERC coach as being capable of steering the boat to be used and who has a full understanding of the navigation rules
- Steerspersons “learning their trade” must be kept under coach or coach helper supervision at all times

The individual performing the risk assessment will consider all relevant issues including the following:

- **water conditions** – e.g. rate of water flow, water conditions, traffic, debris, etc
- **weather conditions** – e.g. visibility. wind direction and strength, etc
- **crew competence** – e.g. experience on our river, technical ability, at sculling or rowing, physical strength , type of outing requirement e.g. racing practice, etc
- **safety factors** – e.g. launch boat in attendance, land-based coach, etc

The cox/steersperson is always responsible for the conduct of the boat during an outing. He/she and any coach must be confident that the combination of conditions and crew competence including his/her own steering skills gives tolerable risk.

2 – Preparation – Checks

In addition to the normal outing checks the cox/steersperson and any coach must

- Ensure the crew know what they will be doing during the outing.
- Agree to advise the crew during the outing of any change in this plan if there are any difficulties in steering for any reason.
- Check that any steering mechanism is working correctly and any rudder responds to movement of the handles or shoe
- Confirm the crew is familiar with how to carry out an emergency stop.
- Ensure the boat is booked out in the diary and on the white board.

3 – Circulation Pattern

- The Evesham Rowing Club circulation pattern is as follows. Boats leaving the ERC landing stage shall head down stream on the right-hand side of the river (ERC side) as

4 – Turning Points

- Due to the number of rowers using the river during training sessions it is necessary to use a number of specified points on the river where turning is allowed. When approaching these points make especially sure that the river is clear ahead of you

3 – Boat Handling

In addition to the normal outing procedures:

- The cox/steersperson is responsible for taking regular looks ahead to check for other craft and debris as well as maintenance of the boats course. **The cox/steersperson must shout a warning to any other river craft including other rowing boats if they believe a collision is even a remote possibility.**
- If in doubt about clearance of blades or proximity to other objects on the water the cox/steersman must ensure the crew is informed of the danger early and that the appropriate action taken to stop or slow the boat including ensuring the crew does not make the situation worse by pulling harder on side furthest away from the object.
- Always steer the boat with due consideration and respect for other river users

4 – Return to Boathouse

In addition to the normal outing procedures:

None

5 – Coxless “Fast Boats”

In addition to the normal outing procedures and those above:

- A “Fast Boat” outing is one where the boat is being used at high speed. A technical outing in a coxless quad or four may not be considered a “fast boat” and a race training outing in a double may be
- Normally any outing above moderate pressure in any coxless boat bigger than a double must be considered a “fast boat” outing.
- “Fast Boat” outings should be supervised by a coach in a launch. On the occasion where this is not practical a pre-defined “fast boat” plan is required. This may include boating outside normal squad times and / or using a section of the river marked off limits to other ERC boats for that period.
- The “Fast Boat” outing – supervised or otherwise - must be indicated on the temporary hazard board.