



RULES and REGULATIONS

Updated March 2023

The Rules and Regulations of the Greater Columbus Rowing Association (GCRA) contains IMPORTANT information with regards to Membership, Safety, Club Facilities, Club Boats, Private Boats, and more. Please take your time to read this document so that you are fully educated on all things GCRA!

GCRA Vision and Mission from By-Laws

Vision statement: GCRA – Advancing Health and Happiness through Rowing. An Oar in Every Hand.

Mission statement: The Greater Columbus Rowing Association fosters accessible and exceptional rowing opportunities for adults of all ages and capabilities.

Land Acknowledgment

We acknowledge that the land where we live, work and play is not ours and was the homeland of indigenous cultures of Shawnee, Lenape/Delaware, Wyandot, Miami, and Seneca-Cayuga nations and has long served as a site of meeting and exchange among Indigenous peoples.

We further acknowledge that we row on life sustaining waters. The health of the waters in which we row and the land which we live deserves our respect.

The health of these waters reflects the health of our community. Its important for each of us to commit to being good stewards and to honor the Indigenous groups who have been and continue to be connected to this land and water.

Elected Positions

GCRA Officers			
President	Claire Duesdieker Keohane	Term 11/2021-11/2023	gcrapresident@gmail.com
Vice President	Patrick Kielty	Term 11/2022-11/2024	gcravicepresident@gmail.com
Treasurer	Katherine Tucker	Term 11/2021-11/2023	gcratreasurer@gmail.com
Secretary	Larissa West	Term 11/2022-11/2024	gcrasecretary@gmail.com

GCRA Trustees			
Term 11/2021-11/2023	DalAnn Martin – Chair	Barb Wyslouzil	Bonnie Drummond
Term 11/2022-11/2024	Charlie Gagliano	Jen Bullock	John King

The official website is <https://www.columbusrowing.org> where information about history, programs, and more can be found.

Registration for Membership, Learn to Row, and other programs are handled using the website iCrew, which can be accessed at [[iCrew Registration](#)]. The REGISTRATION CODE is: **Miles**. More information about iCrew registration can be found in **Section B**. iCrew is also used as the official Logbook for GCRA. Information about iCrew Logbook can be found in **Section E**.

The Greater Columbus Rowing Association is a member of USRowing, the National Governing Body for Rowing. Individuals can also have memberships with USRowing, which provides insurance coverage, access to perks, and the ability to race at regattas.

The GCRA Club Code on USRowing is **YBFYD**. See these instructions for Registering with USRowing:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/603d82930854444b3d298a6f/t/607770fe73a8cd5d3593eda5/1618440446245/USRowing+Registration.pdf>

Griggs Water Temp Link - <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/monitoring-location/03221500/#parameterCode=00010&period=P7D>

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Section A – Griggs Reservoir Boathouse & Griggs Reservoir/Scioto River

A.1. Grounds, Boathouse

The Association leases the boathouse (located at 3033 Thoburn Rd., Columbus, Ohio 43221) from the City of Columbus. The facility is shared with The Ohio State University's Varsity Women's Rowing Team and the Columbus Department of Parks and Recreation. Some spaces are common areas such as the restrooms, the Scioto Room, hallways and docks. Other areas are restricted to use by specific groups. The main floor locker rooms, the GCRA administrative offices, and the GCRA boat bays are intended for use by GCRA members and their guests only.

All City of Columbus park rules, including the prohibition of alcohol anywhere on the premises, apply. (Exceptions to the rule on serving alcohol include city sanctioned events held inside the boathouse.)

Current members receive a FOB and access code that can be used to enter the upper and lower doors of the boathouse. The last person off the water, and/or out of the boathouse and leaving the grounds on any particular day is responsible for turning off all lights.

The main level of the boathouse, including the Scioto Room, is accessible. The boat bay on the lower level is accessible via the driveway ramp only. Caution should be used, particularly in inclement weather. All members should take care to return all equipment to proper storage and avoid creating obstacles for other members. No items should be stored in such a manner as to block access to doors or lights.

Use of the boathouse for any activity outside of GCRA functions or programs is prohibited.

A.2. Parking (Exhibit II)

All members and guests are required to park in marked parking spots, and never on the grass. Review Exhibit II. If the parking lot immediately next to the boathouse is full, the parking lot East of Duranceau Park along Indian Village Road should be used.

Members making deliveries of supplies or equipment for official GCRA purposes may drive to the boat bays in the lower level of the boathouse. Boat trailers may be parked outside the boathouse on the upper or lower level, as necessary, for loading and unloading equipment.

There is one handicap parking spot assigned on the concrete between the boat bays on the lower level. Adaptive members also use the available space on the lower level for parking or drop off and pick up during PARP practice sessions.

A.3. Boat Bays and Docks

The area immediately outside of the boat bay doors are to be kept free from obstructions such as slings, tees and hoses when not in use. Slings should be left outside the boat bay as long as rowers remain on the water, but should not obstruct the movement of boats into or out of the GCRA boat bays or the Parks and Recreation boat bay. In consideration of others, especially during busy times, entry and exit from the water should be accomplished quickly.

The last person off the water must erect the goose fence on the dock (after checking iCrew to ensure that no other rowers are on the water), close all doors, and turn off all lights.

A.4. Clean-Up

Everyone using the Association's facilities are responsible for maintaining its cleanliness. All club boats must be washed and dried after use and all equipment (boats, oars, and slings, etc.) must be properly stored. Towels used to dry boats should be used only once and then placed in the basket to be laundered.

Personal belongings (clothing, towels, and water bottles, etc.) must be stored in boathouse lockers or removed from the premises when not in use. All trash and recycling should be deposited in the appropriate receptacles in the restrooms and boat bays.

A.5. Bulletin Boards

GCRA maintains bulletin boards in the boathouse to post updates on rules and regulations, regattas, equipment, and miscellaneous messages. These boards are maintained by the GCRA Officers Some of the boards may be set aside for use by sub committees.

A.6. Dogs

Dogs are prohibited in the boathouse (except service dogs).

A.7. Traffic Patterns (Exhibit I)

Leaving the GCRA dock:

- All boats must leave the dock and head Southbound toward the Dam, and when the boats spin, they need to move far over to the Eastern shore, avoiding any hazards, and proceed Northbound along the Eastern shore. Be as close as you can safely can to the Eastern shore.
- When going Northbound, you will proceed under the Eastern side of Fishinger Bridge. When coming Southbound, you will CONTINUE TO go under the Western side of the Bridge.
- For turning at Fishinger Bridge to do "Fish loops," please turn on the NORTH SIDE of the Bridge if possible.
- Turning below the Fishinger Bridge must be done with extreme care.

Traveling North from the Fishinger Bridge to the Hayden Run Bridge:

- Shells must remain within 100 feet of the East shore traveling North.
- There are two designated crossing points: one at "the wall" and one just South of the Hayden Run Bridge.

Traveling North from the Hayden Run Bridge

- All travel North of Hayden Run is two way traffic on the West side of the river, no more than 100 feet from shore. Northbound boats must leave room for Southbound shells toward the shore. Eights are not permitted to row North of Hayden Run.

Traveling South from the Hayden Run Bridge or "the wall":

- Shells must cross to the West side of the river at designated crossing points only and remain within 100 feet of the West shore while traveling South.

Being Good Water Users and Neighbors to those who share the waterway

- Shells must cross to the West side of the river at designated crossing points only and remain within 100 feet of the West shore while traveling South.

A.8. Sharing Griggs

The Association shares the waterway with several other official organizations on the water: The Ohio State University Varsity Women's Rowing Team, Upper Arlington High School, Central Ohio Rowing, Scioto Boat Club, and a Marine Police sub-station. Additionally, recreational boaters, fisherman, and other activities use the water. It is imperative that Association members follow the above traffic pattern, all rules included within this document, and the Ohio Revised Code rules. Instances of not following the rules may result in disciplinary action within the Association, a ticket from the Marine Police, or in the worst case, a dangerous and avoidable incident on the water.

Section B – Membership

B.1. Classes of Membership

Membership types of GCRA are defined in the GCRA By-Laws, and include the following:

- Regular Member
- Adaptive Member
- Half-Year Member
- Collegiate Member
- Honorary Member
- Coxswain Member
- Cox2Row Member
- Lifetime Emeritus Member
- Temporary Non-Resident
- National Competitive Athlete Membership
- Coach2Row Member

B.2. Membership Application

The application for Membership is defined in the GCRA By-Laws and currently requires accessing the link below, filling out the required information, signing the waiver, and making the appropriate payment for the Membership type.

Membership Link: <https://icrew.club/register?club=GCRA>

B.3. Special Membership Requirements

There are two Memberships, Cox2Row, and Coach2Row, which are different than other Membership types as have a requirement of contribution to GCRA Programs in lieu of regular Membership fees or payment for their services.

GCRA Officers must approve a Cox2Row or Coach2Row membership. To inquire, please contact one of the GCRA Officers (contact information listed on the first page of this document).

Cox2Row

For a Cox2Row Member, they must Cox for a GCRA Program at least 20 times between May 1 and October 31. This only includes GCRA Programs that take place on Griggs Reservoir. A GCRA Program is one that is under the Programs Committee, or a special event approved by the Officers. Once a Coxswain has reached the threshold, they CANNOT be paid for contributions to GCRA Programs. It is the responsibility of the Cox2Row Member to track their coxing and communicate with the Officers.

Coach2Row

For a Coach2Row Member, they must Coach for a GCRA Program at least 20 times between May 1 and October 31. This only includes GCRA Programs that take place on Griggs Reservoir. A GCRA Program is one that is under the Programs Committee, or a special event approved by the Officers. Once a Coach has reached the threshold, they CANNOT be paid for contributions to GCRA Programs. It is the responsibility of the Coach2Row Member to track their coaching and communicate with the Officers.

Section C – Safety

C.1. Safety Committee

A Safety Committee will be appointed annually by the President. The responsibilities of the Safety Committee include the following:

- Developing and maintaining boathouse and water rules and recommending same to the Association officers for approval
- Updating approved safety rules before April 1st of each year
- Reviewing safety issues, as needed
- Posting safety rules and regulations prominently in the boathouse
- Reviewing safety incidents by investigating incidents and reporting to the Association officers regarding recommendations for further action
- Advising members of the dangers of cold water rowing and notifying members when the “4 Oar Rule” is in effect or when it is unsafe to row
- Maintaining Kippy Liddle Kits for launches

C.2. Safety Rules

Safety Rules are intended to promote safe and responsible use of equipment, rowing, and coaching. GCRA views safe and responsible rowing as a foundation for successful recreational and competitive rowing. All members must be familiar with the safety procedures and must sign GCRA's Waiver. In signing the waiver, members attest to their ability to swim 100 yards without stopping, to tread water for at least 15 minutes, and to put on a life jacket while treading water. Learn to Row (LTR) students are required to pass a swim test comprised of those same skills prior to beginning the LTR class.

Emergencies

If a boat capsizes or is swamped, rowers in doubles or larger boats should swim to shore holding onto the boat. Rowers in a single, may or may not choose to reenter the boat versus swimming to shore holding onto the boat. During an emergency, it is always permissible to use any private dock along the river.

Rowers who use an inhaler or other rescue medications (e.g. Epi Pens) should take them with them on the water. The coxswain (if present) can be requested to secure the item(s) during rowing.

There is an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) located in the boathouse in the office adjacent to the Scioto Room that is maintained by the City of Columbus. There is a First Aid Kit in the cage in the hallway outside the GCRA boat bay. There are two fire extinguishers in the boathouse, one in the hallway adjacent to the Scioto Room and one in the hallway outside of the GCRA boat bay.

Emergency Numbers and Phones

Emergency: 911

Columbus Marine Police: 645-4945

Columbus Police: 645-4545 (non-emergency)

There is a phone on the wall in the hallway outside the GCRA boat bay that can be used for outgoing calls. Callers must dial 9 before dialing an external number.

Accidents

In the case of an accident or collision involving a rowing shell, the rower(s) should immediately row back to the dock and check the equipment for damage. If the boat cannot be rowed safely back to the dock, assistance should be sought and the boat should be towed back to the boathouse. If equipment is damaged, a sign should be attached to the boat's rigger to indicate that it is not to be rowed. The rower or bow/coxswain should also notify the Equipment Committee and the Safety Committee regarding the incident. Here is the contact information for the Equipment Chair: gcraequipchair@gmail.com. Contact for Safety Committee TBD June 2023.

Rowing Schedules

For the purposes of describing when rowing is permitted on the reservoir, the year is divided into two seasons, the first is from October 1st to April 30th, and the second is from May 1st to September 30th.

October 1st - April 30th: Rowing is permitted at all times on all days of the week. Any shell or launch on the water before sunrise or after sunset, must have lights as set forth below.

May 1st - September 30th: Rowing is permitted as follows:
Rowing is permitted from sunrise through sunset on all weekdays, except holidays
Rowing on weekends and holidays is permitted from sunrise until 10:00 a.m.

In addition to those rules set forth above, rowing is permitted one hour before sunrise on weekdays, weekends, and holidays provided the shell has lights as following:

Lighting Requirements: (City code 921.01-3(B)(1))

A red port and green starboard light on the bow of the boat

A white light visible from at least 500 feet on the stern of the boat

Personal flotation device requirement

A USCG-approved personal floatation device is required for each rower and coxswain. It is recommended the rower at a minimum bring the PFD in the boat with them, and encouraged to wear the PFD.

The coach may carry the rower's PFD if the coach stays with the athlete for the entire coaching session.

PFDs are offered by GCRA in the boat bays and must be signed out.

The Marine Police may ticket members on the water without a PFD in their boat or coach's launch in the immediate proximity

Cold Weather/Winter Rowing

Rowing when the water temperature falls *below 50 degrees* should be done with great caution. The Four Oar Rule applies when the water temperature reported on the USGS website is below 50 degrees Fahrenheit. The Four Oar Rule dictates that a boat must either have four

oars OR, if individuals go out in singles, they must do so in pairs and stay within 100 feet of each other. Rowing is prohibited when ice is visible on the water. Although ice may not be visible when launching, some conditions allow ice to form very quickly, even while rowers are on the water. Members rowing privately owned shells are strongly encouraged, but not required, to abide by the Four Oar Rule.

Inclement Weather

Coaches and rowers should use caution in inclement weather such as high winds, extreme temperatures, lightning storms, and fog. In addition, rowers need to be aware of situations in which large amounts of debris are present in the water. If such conditions exist or are seriously threatening, rowers should not launch. Additional details follow:

- Wind - In high winds, rowers of all levels should not launch.
- Lightning - Rowers should not launch in the presence of thunder or lightning. Thirty minutes must elapse after the last lightning or thunder before launching. If lightning or thunder strikes when a shell is on the water, return immediately to the dock or proceed immediately to shore. Get out of the boat and seek cover if the boathouse is too distant. There does not have to be thunder or rain for lightning to occur.
- Fog - Not only does fog limit visibility, but it also mutes sound. Shells should not launch if the rowers cannot see the opposite shore from GCRA's dock. If caught in fog, rowers should proceed with extreme caution at slow speeds back to GCRA's dock.

Coaches

All coaches should have the necessary training and be currently certified in first-aid and CPR or equivalent. Level I USRowing Certification is recommended. It is the responsibility of all Coaches and instructors to minimize potential accidents, implement the Safety Rules of GCRA and provide assistance to any capsized boat, even if the boat is not a rowing shell or launch. Coaches should make sure that they have the following information for each rower/coxswain they are coaching:

1. Name
2. Phone Number
3. Emergency contact information (name and address)
4. Medical needs related to rowing

Coaches are expected to exercise good judgment as to how many shells they can adequately supervise and stay within 1000 feet of all their rowers.

Launches

A coaching launch increases the safety of rowers on the water. Every launch shall have the following safety items:

1. Sufficient personal floatation devices (PFDs) for rowers, coxswains, the launch driver and people in the launch
2. A paddle
3. A cell phone or other 2-way communication device, which the driver can use to summon help, is highly recommended
4. A Kippy Liddle Kit, which includes:
 - a. An **extra** paddle (for extreme conditions) and anchor/line
 - b. A rescue throw bag with safety line

- c. Warming blankets
- d. A basic tool kit
- e. A first aid kit
- f. A whistle
- g. A waterproof flashlight, and
- h. A fire extinguisher

Each launch is required to have lighting consistent with state law. All launch motors must be equipped with safety/kill switches. Occupants of launches should be kept to a minimum. Four people should be the maximum in any launch and in no event should the launch carry more people more than the boat capacity plate specifies. Each launch shall be properly registered. To operate a launch, the driver must be a member or coach of a GCRA sanctioned event or activity, over 18 years of age, and certified by the Safety Committee. All launch drivers should wear a PFD at all times. The gasoline tanks must be stored in a locked fire cabinet when not in use.

Carrying Shells

There must be sufficient people to carry boats safely. A coxswain or other oarsperson should walk with the boat and give all necessary commands to pick up the boat, carry it, and put it in the water. Once a coxswain says "lay hold" all talking should cease so that rowers can focus on the coxswain's commands. Individuals rowing club singles are strongly encouraged to have assistance removing and replacing singles on the racks to minimize risk of rack-related damage.

C.3. Adherence to Safety Rules

Coaches, instructors, and members are responsible for adhering to boathouse and water rules issued by the Safety Committee. These rules serve as minimum standards. Individuals or groups who repeatedly or egregiously disregard the safety rules may be referred to the Safety Committee for resolution in accordance with the following procedures:

1. Referrals may be made by coaches, instructors, or club members
2. Referrals should be in writing and should describe the incident(s) in as much detail as possible.
3. The Safety Committee will notify the alleged offender, review the referral, gather additional information from involved parties as needed, and recommend to the Association officers any action or sanctions, if any, to be taken.

Section D – SafeSport

D.1. Description of SafeSport background and policy

USRowing's mission is to champion participation and the passionate pursuit of excellence in the sport of rowing. The organization seeks to achieve these goals with a commitment to integrity, teamwork, and—above all—safety.

The U.S. Congress designated the U.S. Center for SafeSport with the authority to respond to reports of sexual misconduct within the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Movement by passing the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017. This legislation designates the U.S. Center for SafeSport to serve as the independent national safe sport organization.

USRowing's SafeSport program is designed to assure athlete safety by promoting and enforcing policies and programs that address: bullying, hazing, harassment (including sexual harassment), emotional misconduct, physical misconduct, and sexual misconduct (including child sexual abuse and/or grooming behaviors).

All USRowing Member Organizations are required to have their own athlete safety program or agree to USRowing's policy during organization renewal or registration. While the primary focus is to safeguard children, these policies extend to all age groups including masters and college level.?

As a condition of membership, USRowing Member Organizations must accept the jurisdictional role of the U.S. Center for SafeSport to investigate and adjudicate any issues of sexual misconduct within their organization.

SafeSport violations for behaviors other than sexual misconduct should be investigated and handled within each member organization following its internal policies and procedures. After exhausting all remedies afforded by the member organization's policy, issues of misconduct may be brought to USRowing.

Effective immediately, all USRowing Relevant Adult Participants are required to take the 90-minute SafeSport Trained course. 30-minute Refresher courses are available as parts of this series after the initial training has been completed. **Any member who is not defined as a Relevant Adult Participant (below), is not required to complete any form of SafeSport training.** For more information, review our 2023 USRowing Safe Sport Policy.

D.2. Description of Relevant Adult Participants

The following Relevant Adult Participants are required by the USRowing Safe Sport Policy and the U.S. Center for SafeSport to take SafeSport training:

- Any employee, board member, committee member, coach, or administrator of USRowing or one of its Member Organizations
- Any USRowing licensed Referee
- Any current or potential National Team athlete with the goal to participate in National Team selection such as development camp, trials, or selection camp

- Any person(s) authorized, approved, or appointed by USRowing or its Member Organizations to have Regular Contact with or authority over Minor Athletes. This may include coaches, volunteers, medical staff, trainers, chaperones, monitors, contract personnel, bus/van drivers, or officials who have Regular Contact* with a Minor Athlete, staff, board members, and any other individual who meets the Adult Participant definition
- An adult athlete who has Regular Contact* with any Minor Athlete

*Regular Contact is defined as ongoing interaction where an Adult Participant is in a role of direct and active engagement with any amateur athlete who is a minor. **USRowing defines ongoing interactions as five (5) or more instances of In-Program Contact during a 12-month period.** For purposes of this definition, a competition is considered a single instance of In-Program Contact regardless of duration.

D.3. Reporting Information

All reports involving sexual misconduct must be submitted directly to the U.S. Center for SafeSport at <https://uscenterforsafesport.org/report-a-concern/> or 833-5US-SAFE (587-7233), as well as to state and local enforcement agencies as required.

All other reports of misconduct may be reported to USRowing. USRowing encourages initial reporting of such matters to the relevant member organization using the member organization's internal reporting processes. If following review by the member organization, the issue remains unresolved or is not susceptible to resolution at the member organization level, it may be reported to USRowing.

Reporting issues of misconduct to USRowing may be done using the USRowing Safe Sport Reporting Form (below), USRowing Safe Sport e-mail: USRowingSafeSport@USRowing.org, or by phone at 609-751-0713.

Reporting of issues of misconduct may be made anonymously. However, USRowing encourages the complainant to provide enough detail to allow for a proper investigation, if required.

USRowing appreciates your willingness to report inappropriate behavior. Out of respect for the importance of this issue and to encourage honest and effective reporting, knowingly making a false or vindictive report will not be tolerated and is a violation of USRowing's Safe Sport Policy.

<https://form.jotform.com/230033648350145>

Section E – Club Equipment

E.1. Association Equipment

GCRA has Club Equipment in two boat bays in Griggs Reservoir Boathouse, Club Equipment in 2 Equipment Cages in the shared hallway, Equipment in the Storage Shed, and Equipment on the far dock.

E.2. Association Boat Scheduling

- Individuals or groups can schedule equipment by signing up on the reservation schedule in iCrew. During peak rowing season (May-September) and peak rowing hours of 6am-8am, members may only reserve a specific boat three times during the week. They may check out an available boat without reservation as a “grab and go” unlimited times.
- Rowers should check boat classifications to determine the skill level and weight class appropriate for each boat.
- Learn-to-Row (LTR) and other GCRA Programs have priority over all club-owned equipment. All coached/organized groups must coordinate scheduling with other coached/organized groups.
- Boats must be claimed within 15 minutes of the scheduled time, and all boats must be returned on time, in case others are waiting to use that boat.
- If a rower decides they will not be using a boat that has been scheduled, they should cancel their reservation in iCrew as soon as possible so that someone else may use the boat.
- Rowers who have not reserved a boat in advance should always check the schedule before taking equipment.
- Weekends and holidays are busy times. Therefore, boats should be scheduled between the times of 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. or 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. so that boats can be used twice during the allowed rowing times, May through September. In other words, boats should not be scheduled from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. during those months of the year. In addition, rowing crews may not schedule the same shell more than twice in a 1 week period in a single time slot to allow shell access to other members.
- For regattas hosted by GCRA: Include the event number and schedule the reservation around the intended event. For sprints, the boat should be reserved 45 minutes prior to an event start time until 20 minutes after the end of the event. For head races, the boat should be reserved one hour before an event start time until 45 minutes after the end of the event. Competitors should coordinate efforts to ensure smooth equipment hand offs between events.
- For regattas not located on Griggs Reservoir: Shells should be reserved for the entire time the shell will be gone, including trailer time. Those travelling to the regatta will organize a separate reservation schedule to be used at the event, based on the event schedule or restrictions imposed by the regatta organizers.
- Should equipment become damaged and/or need to be taken out of circulation for maintenance, this should be noted in iCrew. Rowers who hold reservations for said equipment should be notified or reassigned a new reservation by those aware of the situation.

E.3. Association Equipment Sign-Out

All shells (including those privately owned) must be signed out in iCrew. Maintenance of this logging system is required for both member safety and to maintain a record of club and private equipment usage.

E.4. Association Equipment Maintenance

All shells should be rinsed/washed and wiped dry after use. Vents should be left open. Tracks should be wiped down. Care should be taken while moving shells on, and off racks, and in and out of the boathouse. Boats should be put on the rack so that all boats in a stack have riggers facing the same direction.

The Equipment Committee will establish the rigging standards for each GCRA boat. If major rigging changes are made (e.g. changing stroke from port to starboard) by rowers, the rigging must be converted back to the standard for that boat after use. Questions and concerns regarding rigging of boats and oars should be referred to the Equipment Committee for resolution.

E.5. Association Equipment Damage

Damage to Association equipment must be reported to the Equipment Committee Chair in iCrew. Damage or loss resulting from an Association member's or guest's blatant misuse or neglect, as determined by the Officers or Trustees, may result in demand from such individuals for reimbursement of the cost of repair or replacement. If questions, contact Equipment Chair (gcraequipchair@gmail.com), or an Officer, whose contact information is on the first page.

E.6. Association Launches and Engines

Launches and engines may be reserved according to the reservation system applicable to shells and oars. Individuals reserving and using the launches and engines must be recognized as:

- Current members of the Association OR Coaches for GCRA Programs
- Qualified (by the Safety Committee) launch operators.

When not in use, launches must be secured by whatever means is currently required. Engines not currently locked to a launch must be removed from the launch and stored in the locked shed or the boathouse. GCRA launches and motors, and the gasoline purchased for the motors, are to be used for GCRA purposes only. Life preservers (for each launch occupant), Kippy Liddle Kit, and paddles must be in the launch prior to usage. "No Wake" zones, as posted on the river, must be observed by all Association launch drivers. Any launch driver not securing equipment as required will lose the privilege to use that equipment for a minimum of one week. If equipment is lost or damaged due to a launch driver's negligence, they may be asked to pay the cost of repair or replacement.

Section F – Private Equipment

F.1. Private Boat Storage

A portion of the boathouse is allocated to the storage of members' privately owned rowing shells. Spaces are assigned as they become available and members pay an additional fee for this privilege.

Private boats must be rowed at least 30 times (A row is defined as up and back to the wall once or up and back to Fishinger Bridge twice) between April 1 and March 31 each year for the member to retain their storage space from year to year. The number of rows are calculated from records in iCrew. Members may allow other members to row their privately owned boat and those rows are included in the 30 rows needed to maintain a storage space.

If extenuating circumstances (e.g. injury or temporary work relocation) cause a member to believe that they will not be able to meet the 30 row/year requirement, the member must contact the officers as soon as possible to discuss ongoing boat storage. The Officer's contact information is on the first page of this document.

If GCRA needs additional space for club boats, the officers have the authority to reduce the amount of space devoted to private boat storage and can require members to remove their private boats from the boathouse.

GCRA Officers have the authority to adjust private to club storage.

F.2. Private Boat Waitlist

Only GCRA paid members can be placed on the waitlist for a storage spot. When a spot opens up, the first person on the Waitlist will be asked if they would like to take the spot. If they, or anyone else who is asked, say "No" after being asked twice, then they will be moved to the bottom of the Waitlist.

Link to Sign-Up for Waitlist:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeF_v4qF0P3YhtbCPulyFbAdJrazxSSK3_E9pnTF657z5UI4A/viewform

Link to Waitlist: [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-379tdK7ut8FhC1QqVYmB1OipNQctqz2bbBXDx9fQdY/edit#gid=0)

[379tdK7ut8FhC1QqVYmB1OipNQctqz2bbBXDx9fQdY/edit#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-379tdK7ut8FhC1QqVYmB1OipNQctqz2bbBXDx9fQdY/edit#gid=0)

F.3. Unique Situation Private Boat Space Rental

If there are reasons why a member's private boat will not be in the boathouse for over 2 weeks (whether for repairs or traveling or other), than the Officers reserve the right to utilize that space for the benefit of GCRA Members who are on the Private Boat Waitlist. There will be no cost associated with this process as it is managed by the GCRA Officers. If the duration is over 8 weeks, there may be a discussion about cost. This list will also start with the first person on the waitlist, however if they say no and it moves to the next person, then there are no consequences.

Section G – Member Skill Level Classification

G.1. Sculler Classifications

Scullers are divided into two classifications: novice and experienced. In order to row GCRA equipment of a particular level, a sculler must be classified by the Safety Committee. The requirements of novice and experienced classifications are set forth below.

Novice Sculler Requirements

A novice sculler must be able to swim and tread water. Additionally, in order to row a GCRA single, a novice sculler must be enrolled in or have graduated from a GCRA Small Boats Safety Class. In order to use GCRA sculling equipment, a rower must:

- Watch the USRowing Safety video the current calendar year;
- Review and understand all GCRA Rules and Regulations; and
- Graduate from sculling Learn to Row or its equivalent, as determined by the Safety Committee.

Novice singles may be used by novice scullers meeting the above requirements as long as they are supervised by a coach in a launch or an experienced rower rowing on the water with the novice single sculler. A novice double may be used by a novice sculler meeting the above requirements without supervision, if the second sculler is an experienced sculler. If four novice scullers row a coxed quad with a novice coxswain they must be accompanied by a coach in a launch. Novice rowers may only row in uncoxed quads with an experienced sculler in the bow seat.

Experienced Sculler Requirements

An experienced sculler must:

- Achieve “novice sculler” status;
- Row in a single or double at least 10 times as a novice sculler and log their rows in a “rowing log”; (A row is defined as up and back to the wall once or up and back to Fishinger Bridge twice.)
- Graduate from a GCRA Small Boats Class or its equivalent; and
- Pass the Experienced Sculling Test (See Exhibit VI)

Upon achieving experienced sculler status, a sculler may use all novice and experienced sculling equipment, unsupervised.

Experienced Sculler Requirements for rowers with significant experience

An Association officer or coach, either directly or through an appointed mentor, will make sure that an experienced sculler who joins GCRA:

- Views the USRowing Safety video.
- Reviews and understands all GCRA Rules and Regulations.
- Is accompanied on at least one row to ensure the new member’s competency to carry the boat and oars, maneuver the boat at least to the wall and back, and dock safely.

Once the mentor is satisfied that the new member has fulfilled the above requirements, they will be classified as an experienced sculler.

G.2. Sweep Rower Classifications

Sweep rowers are divided into two classifications: novice and experienced. In order to row GCRA equipment of a particular level, a sweep rower must be classified by the Safety Committee. The requirements of novice and experienced classifications are set forth below. Separate rules follow for the use of the GCRA pairs and straight fours.

Novice Sweep Rower Requirements

In order to be classified as a novice sweep rower, a sweep rower must be able to swim and tread water. Additionally, a sweep rower must:

- View the USRowing Safety video in the current calendar year
- Review and understand the current GCRA Rules and Regulations
- Graduate from Learn to Sweep or its equivalent, as determined by the Safety Committee.

Once these requirements are met, a novice sweep rower may row in novice sweep shells.

Experienced Sweep Rower Requirements

In order to be classified as an experienced sweep rower, a rower must:

- achieve “novice sweep rower” status
- Complete one year of coached and/or competitive rowing
- Or be classified as experienced by the Safety Committee or a coach, if the rower has significant sweep rowing experience and can demonstrate the ability to perform at an experienced level.

Once classified as an experienced sweep rower, the rower may row in any novice or experienced rowing shells.

G.3. Requirements for rowing a GCRA Pair or Straight Four

Rowers must demonstrate the necessary skill and pass an evaluation by the Safety Committee to be certified to row a GCRA pair or straight four. These requirements apply to experienced rowers who join GCRA and guest rowers as well.

G.4. Coxswain Classifications

The levels of coxing are divided into two classifications: novice and experienced.

Novice Coxswains are ones who have little coxing experience and have not had formal training in coxing.

Experienced Coxswains are ones who have received training prior to joining GCRA or at GCRA. If their training is prior to GCRA, then they will need to be certified as Experienced by the Safety Committee.

Unlike rowers, coxswains may be GCRA members or independent contractors associated with various GCRA programs. Individuals hired and compensated as coxswains using any GCRA equipment (e.g., cox boxes, shells, and launches) must have the experience level necessary to qualify as Experienced Coxswains. This includes those compensated by the club or individual members.

Novice Coxswain Requirements

In order to be classified as a novice coxswain, a coxswain must be able to swim and tread water. Additionally, a novice coxswain must:

- Watch the USRowing Safety video in the current calendar year
- Review and understand the current GCRA Rules and Regulations
- Understand the traffic pattern

A novice coxswain may cox novice or experience shells as long as they are supervised by a coach or an experienced GCRA member. Once the novice coxswain has coxed a shell on the water for at least six hours under supervision, they may cox a shell without supervision as long as 50% of the rowers are classified as Experienced Rowers. There are exceptions to this rule in that novice coxswains should not cox specially designated intermediate boats regardless of the level of the rowers.

Experienced Coxswain Requirements

To be classified as an experienced coxswain, a coxswain must:

- Meet the criteria associated with “experienced coxswain” status from prior experience
- Complete 30 hours of on-the-water coxing with predominantly Experienced Rowers at GCRA or their equivalent (logged by the coxswain in iCrew and presented to the Safety Committee or Officers).
- Obtain racing experience as a coxswain in at least two official racing events with at least one of those racing experiences being a non-GCRA sponsored regatta.

An experienced level coxswain can cox all shells without supervision.

G.5. Sculler/Rower Classifications for Boats of Mixed Skill Levels

Even if all of the rowers in a particular shell do not meet the classification level of that shell, in some cases combinations of less and more experienced rowers are allowed, as described below.

- For coxless quads, with or without a coach, the bow rower must be an experienced sculler.
- In a coxed four with a novice level coxswain, at least two of the rowers must be experienced level rowers.
- In a four or eight with a novice or experienced coxswain and no coach, at least three of the five participants in a four, or five of the nine participants in an eight must be experienced rowers or coxswains.

GCRA sponsored programs (e.g. LTR) may use GCRA novice equipment for rowers that do not meet the criteria set forth in these guidelines.

Section H – Committees

There are 4 Committees: Boathouse Operations, Safety & Inclusion, Finance, and Programs.

It is expected that GCRA Members to be involved in a Committee. Being “involved in a committee” either means being part of the planning process for operations or events, or being a volunteer for a specific program or event.

As a volunteer run organization, it is fundamental to have Members volunteer to assist with the planning and programming of GCRA Operations as decided by, or delegated from the GCRA Officers.

How to get involved in a Committee will be communicated through weekly communications to the club about upcoming opportunities. If questions, you can always reach out to the GCRA Officers on how to get involved. Their contact information is on the first page.

Boathouse Operations

Sub-Committees: Equipment and Membership & Boathouse

Safety & Inclusion

Sub-Committees: Safety, SafeSport, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Finance

Sub-Committees: Finance and Development

Programs

Sub-Committees: PARP, Speakmon, Learn-to-Row, Club & Coach Row, and Regatta-Away

H.1. Boathouse Operations

Subject to the approval of the Officers, the Boathouse Operations Committee shall review the Rules and Regulations and make recommendations to the Officers regarding practices and procedures for items related to the Boathouse, Membership, and Equipment.

- Boathouse & Membership Committee
 - The Committee shall maintain the cleanliness and general order of the Corporation's facilities, including locker rooms and non-equipment related items (i.e. laundering the towels)
 - The Committee shall organize and participate in a minimum of two work parties per year to thoroughly clean and organize the Corporation's facilities. This committee shall announce each such work party to the Members and obtain the necessary supplies for each work party.
 - The Committee will be tasked with introducing new members to GCRA, transitioning new members into the general membership, assisting guest rowers with guest rows
- Equipment Committee
 - Led by Equipment Chair

- The Committee shall maintain boats, oars, and other misc. GCRA-owned items; document and track process for reporting issues with equipment so all Members are aware of the process; recommend to the Officers equipment to buy, sell and/or retire; recruit individuals to maintain and repair equipment; and provide a budget to the Officers.

H.2. Safety & Inclusion

Subject to the approval of the Officers, the Safety and Inclusion Committee shall review the Rules and Regulations and make recommendations to the Officers regarding practices and procedures to maintain member safety and inclusion.

- Safety Committee
 - See Section C for a full outlining of Committee responsibilities.
 - Additionally shall oversee Small Boat Class, maintain Member Skill Classifications, and Coxswain Skill Classifications.
- SafeSport Committee
 - See Section D for a full outlining of Committee responsibilities.
- Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI)
 - The Committee shall work with the Officers and, as needed, GCRA Programs, to champion DEI initiatives.

H.3. Finance

- Finance Committee
 - Lead by Finance Chair
 - The Committee ensures the financial stability of the corporation by providing checks and balances on financial reporting and spending. The Finance Committee shall review and provide input regarding the corporation's proposed annual budget, prior to it being presented to and approved by the Trustees. The Finance Committee chair, along with the Treasurer, shall work directly with the Corporation's current investment partner(s) to ensure that GCRA funds are appropriated properly.
- Development Committee
 - The Development Committee shall be a subcommittee of the Finance Committee.
 - The Development Committee supports the mission of GCRA by identifying, implementing, and managing fund raising initiatives in support of the long-term sustainability of the Corporation.

H.4. Programs

The Programs Committee develops, recommends, evaluates and oversees the programs approved by the Officers and made available to the membership and external people. All Training Programs shall be financially self-sustaining.

- PARP – Para-Adaptive Rowing Program

- The Para-Adaptive Rowing Program is a community program of the Greater Columbus Rowing Association which introduces people with physical challenges and various disabilities to the sport of rowing.
- PARP may submit for Grants with the review and approval of the Officers.
- Speakmon
 - Led by Regatta Director
 - The Committee facilitates the planning, operations, and execution of the Speakmon Regatta.
 - **Every GCRA Member is expected to volunteer for the Speakmon Regatta, whether in planning in the lead-up or volunteering on the day**
- Learn To Row
 - The Committee organizes an annual Learn to Row program to introduce new people to the sport across multiple sessions (i.e. a sweep and a sculling session each).
 - Coordinates the Orientation and Swim Test, Coaches, Coxswains, Fill-In Rowers, and other details associated with Learn to Row Program
 - Facilitates open houses to allow people to experience the sport before signing up for a multi-week class
- Club & Coach Row
 - The Committee operates to provide programming for Members whether they want to have a recreational row a few times a week or for training for specific regattas throughout the year.
 - The Committee's primary role is to organize sessions, reserve shells and assist in the scheduling.
- Regatta– Away
 - The Committee facilitates the planning and logistics of competing at regattas.
 - Members are encouraged to participate in out of town regattas. Members are expected to represent the Association appropriately and to comply with all regatta rules and policies. Negative behavior by association members (e.g. late payment or non-payment of entry fees, event eligibility infractions, or a blatant display of unsportsmanlike conduct) at a regatta will not be tolerated by the Association.

Section I – Guest Policy

Members in good standing may invite a guest to row and use GCRA equipment (in accordance with the “GCRA Equipment Use Rules”). Local residents may row as a guest a maximum of three times per season. Out-of-town residents may row a maximum of one week per season as a guest. Anyone other than a special GCRA program participant who desires to row more than these allowed periods will be requested to pay dues. Members are responsible for evaluating the skill level of their guest before placing him/her in a shell. Only accomplished scullers shall be permitted to go out in a single shell and will be accompanied by the member in another shell or launch. Guests must sign a Waiver of Liability (Exhibit IV) and the hosting member must submit the Waiver to the Association Secretary by placing it in the Secretary’s mailbox prior to the guest using GCRA and/or private equipment.

Guest privileges may be extended only those persons who are experienced rowers and who may potentially be candidates for first-time Association membership, or who are out-of-town visitors.

Exhibit II – Parking Locations

Red – parking lot next to the Boathouse is primary option

Purple – if no parking available, park West of Boathouse along Indian Village Rd.
NEVER PARK IN THE GRASS

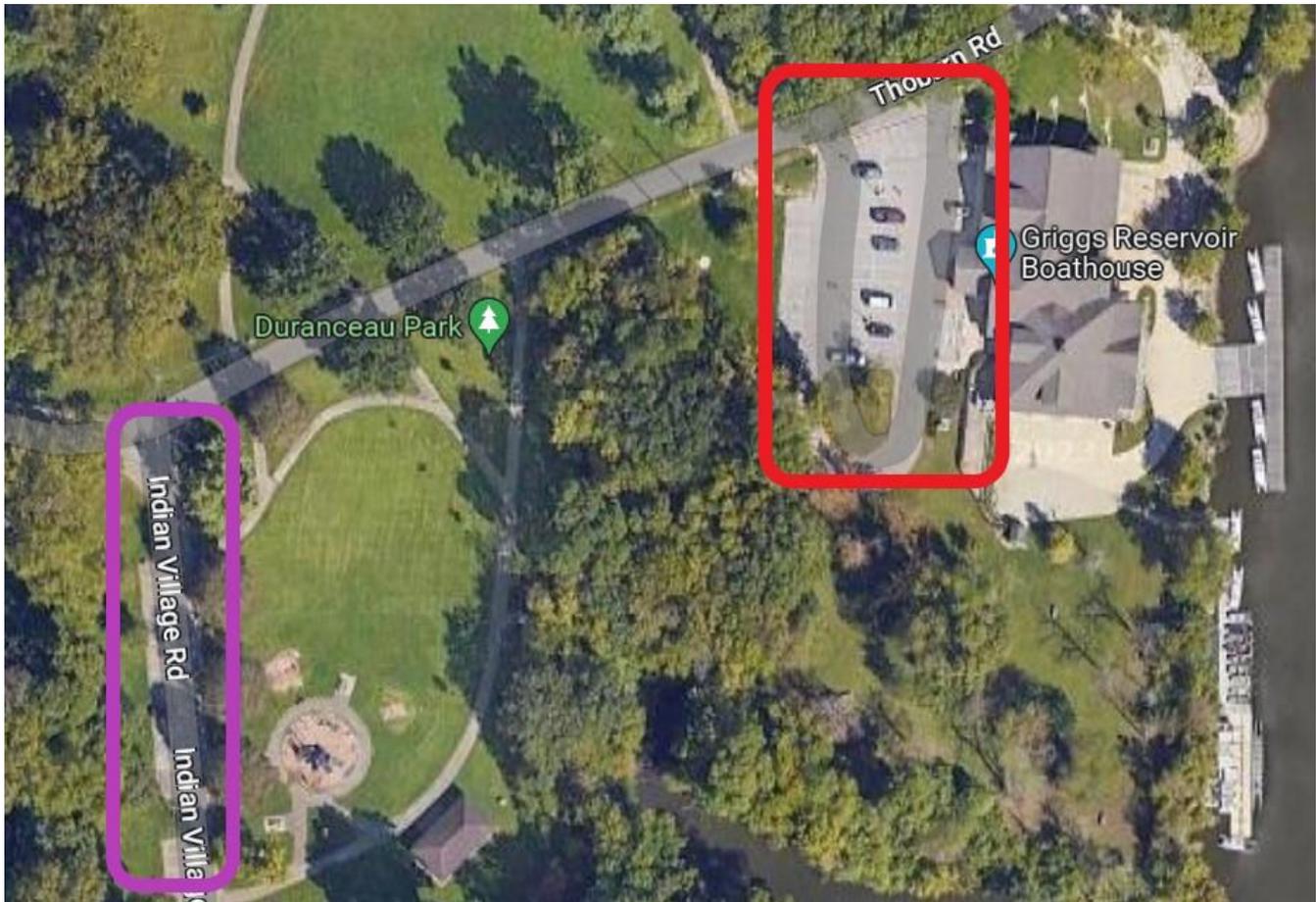


Exhibit III Equipment Inventory & Classifications

To be provided by Equipment Committee by June 2023

Exhibit IV Liability Waiver

Available at this link:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/603d82930854444b3d298a6f/t/6049025068537d44a5c24a9f/1615397457095/GCRA+Waiver+-+online+or+paper+4.6.17.pdf>

Text for reference:

By agreeing to this waiver via a website check box, button or similar, or by signing below -- I AGREE to the following for myself, my personal representatives, assigns, heirs, and next of kin.

1. PRECAUTIONS I WILL TAKE:

I will examine and inspect each of my actions or activities that is in any way associated with the Greater Columbus Rowing Association (the Club) -- both on water & on land and including rowing, motor-boat (launch) operation, carrying, storing, and launching boats, erging, work crews, coaching, labor or services of any sort, activities I pay for, am compensated for, or volunteer for, and any activities whatsoever (hereinafter the Activity).

As soon as I observe any condition that I consider to be unsafe or unacceptably hazardous or dangerous, I will refuse to take part or further participate in the Activity until the condition has been corrected to my satisfaction. In addition, I will notify any person in charge of the activity.

I will ensure that I am qualified, in good health, and in proper physical condition to participate in the Activity. I will also ensure that I can swim 100 yards without stopping, tread water for 15 minutes, and put on a life jacket while in the water.

I will learn and follow both good practices and the Club rules applicable to the Activity.

2. RISKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES I ACCEPT:

I fully understand that: (a.) the Activity, including rowing activities, involves risks and dangers of SERIOUS BODILY INJURY, INCLUDING PERMANENT DISABILITY, PARALYSIS AND DEATH (Risks); (b.) these Risks and dangers may be caused by my own actions or inactions, the actions or inactions of others participating in the Activity, the condition in which the Activity takes place, or the negligence of the Releasees named below; (c.) there may be other risks and social and economic losses either not known to me or not readily foreseeable at this time; and I fully accept and assume all such risks and all responsibility for losses, costs, and damages that I incur as a result of my participation in the Activity.

3. ADDITIONAL RIGHTS I GIVE UP AND PERSONS I WILL INDEMNIFY:

I hereby release, discharge, and covenant not to sue USRowing, any regatta associated with the Activity, the Club, their administrators, directors, agents, officers, volunteers, employees, independent contractors, members, guests, other participants, other participating regatta organizers, any sponsors, advertisers, and if applicable, owners and lessors of premises on which the Activity takes place (each considered one of the Releasees herein) from all liability,

claims, demands, losses or damages on my account caused or alleged to be caused in whole or in part by the negligence of the Releasees or otherwise, including negligent rescue operations; and I further agree that if, despite this Release and Waiver of Liability, Assumption of Risk, and Indemnity Agreement, I, or anyone on my behalf, makes a claim against any of the Releasees, I WILL INDEMNIFY, SAVE AND HOLD HARMLESS each of the Releasees from any litigation expenses, attorney fees, loss, liability, damage, or cost which any may incur as a result of such claim, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

I have read this agreement, fully understand its terms, understand that I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY AGREEING TO IT, have agreed to it freely and without any inducement or assurance of any nature, intend it to be a complete and unconditional release of all liability to the greatest extent allowed by law, and agree that if any portion of this agreement is held to be invalid, the balance, notwithstanding, shall continue in full force and effect.

Exhibit V Buddy Rows Tracking Document

To Be Completed by Safety Committee by June 2023

Exhibit VI Experienced Sculler Test

To Be Completed by Safety Committee by June 2023

Appendix

The official colors of the Greater Columbus Rowing Association (“the Association”) (GCRA) are orange and gray. The Association’s logo features the union of silhouetted rowing blades, modern typography, and a functional orange/gray color palette that represents a vibrant and balanced organization.

Pantone Color

GCRA Orange

PANTONE 716 C

716 C

Color values:

RGB 234 118 0

HEX/HTML EA7600

CMYK 0 59 100 0

GCRA Grey

PANTONE 431C

Color values:

RGB 100 12 14

HEX/HTML 737B82

CMYK 54 36 28 26

Font

SOHO STANDARD

SOHO Gothic Pro

Substitute SWIS 721 BT

