



RowSafe Scotland

## Club Safety Policy

*Draft for Discussion  
(January 2024)*



Glasgow Rowing Club  
*Safety First*

## Glasgow Rowing Club

### Our Approach and Aims

1. Every activity in life presents hazards and risks. Rowing involves dealing with a number of hazards and risks outwith the boundaries of normal day-to-day life, not least through exercising, training and competing on water and also in handling, moving and using rowing boats and equipment. To fully eliminate all hazards and risks from rowing would require refraining from rowing. We will strive to minimise the likelihood of any harm arising from our sport, and also to minimise the level of any harm where it may rarely occur.

2. We will strive to provide an environment in which our sport can be practised safely and enjoyably by our members, guests and visitors. We will also strive to avoid harming others potentially affected by the activities of our members, guests and visitors. We will strive to guide and lead in a way that fulfils these aims.

### Our Club Members

3. Glasgow Rowing Club is a leisure-based amateur sports club with a strong social focus. Our involvement with Glasgow Rowing Club is entirely voluntary, and we foster an ethos of contribution from all members to the operation of our club. The club aims to promote a positive safety culture at all times.

4. The club is represented primarily by the Committee and Officers (current roles and names are available on the Club Main Notice Board and website). All committee members and officers aim to promote a positive safety culture at all times.

5. At the core of Glasgow Rowing Club is a large group of very committed adults with many years of experience in rowing, in organising and coaching rowing, and in running this and other rowing clubs and organisations. Our collective experience covers rowing on the Clyde and in many other locations around Scotland, the UK and worldwide. All experienced members aim to promote a positive safety culture at all times.

6. Within the club there are a number of squads, squad leaders, groups, crews and individuals, with varying degrees of experience and confidence, each seeking to further their enjoyment and development within our sport. We will strive to foster the development of appropriate awareness, knowledge, skills and experience in all members, whilst also maintaining due regard to any additional needs that any member may have. All squads, squad leaders, groups, crews and individuals aim to promote a positive safety culture at all times.

### Safety

7. We recognise and stress that primary responsibility for individual safety and for the safety of others rests with our members, guests and visitors. When heading out onto the river, responsibility lies with the crews and individuals involved. We expect the highest standards of attitudes, behaviours and actions in everyone connected with Glasgow Rowing Club.

*(cont. over)*

8.The club (through its Committee and Officers) will equally encourage safe practices, including having due regard to the rules and guidelines provided by a number of organisations including:

- **Scottish Rowing**, through their guidance document *RowSafe Scotland*.
- We acknowledge the valuable contribution on our local river, the Clyde, of the **Glasgow Humane Society** through the *Rules and Guidelines*, published in collaboration with Glasgow City Council, which reflect agreed practice across all local clubs.
- We also strive to follow the guidelines published by the **HSE (Health and Safety Executive)** in relation to *Running safe amateur sports clubs*.

Following these rules and guidelines will help prevent harm. We encourage all members, guests and visitors to familiarise themselves with the rules and guidelines in these publications, to develop their understanding of the environments in which the club operates.

9. Based upon current external rules and guidelines, and also based upon the collective experience and knowledge of members, the club also has rules and guidelines that it expects members, guests and visitors to respect and follow - these can be found on the club Safety Noticeboard(s) and website. Updates may also be issued to members through the club email system. Following these rules and guidelines will help prevent harm. We encourage all members, guests and visitors to familiarise themselves with the club rules and guidelines, to further develop their understanding of the environments in which the club operates.

10. Alongside our written rules and guidelines we are also committed to ongoing self-checking of our day-to-day activities. A personal approach in sharing face-to-face assistance, advice, guidance and reminders will help prevent harm.

11. Overall, we encourage a '*Safety First*' approach, embodied in the following general principles:

**'Do it SAFELY – or Don't do it at all'**

**'If you need any help or advice - STOP and ASK'**

#### **Incidents**

12. The club is committed to learn from the incidents it becomes aware of and will share this information to help others in the sport to learn too. We have a pro-active incident reporting system operating within the club, and we are also committed to making appropriate use of Scottish Rowing's incident reporting system.

#### **Questions and Queries**

13. Members, visitors, guests and anyone else potentially affected by the activities of Glasgow Rowing Club are invited to refer any questions and concerns relating to safety to the club Safety Office or to any Committee member or Officer.

Signed by Glasgow Rowing Club President:

Date: