

# Members' Charter and Safety Code



*“Nothing is more important to us than the safety of our members and other river users”*

Artwork Courtesy Paul Barclay Designs of Dartmouth

# KINGSWEAR ROWING CLUB MEMBERS' CHARTER



Welcome to Kingswear Rowing Club! (KRC)

The purpose of this charter is to lay out KRC's responsibilities to its membership and what the Club in turn expects from you - our members. A condition of membership is that you must visit our website regularly, to be updated on safety matters, Club rules and upcoming events. It is the responsibility of the Club to ensure this information is made available to members via our website and it is the responsibility of members to ensure they are aware of all of the Club rules and safety regulations and act on them. Failure to do this may result in the Club's insurance being invalidated. Please ensure you bookmark the club website which is: [www.kingswearrc.co.uk](http://www.kingswearrc.co.uk). The site can also be accessed through the Club's facebook page.

***Nothing is more important  
to us than safety***

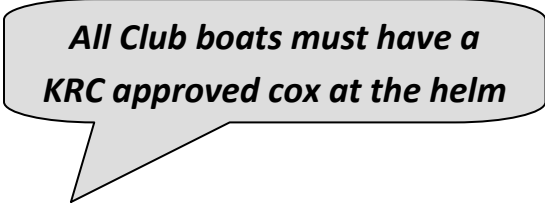
## SAFETY

***Members should be aware that nothing is more important to KRC than the safety of our members, other river users and our equipment.***

With this in mind, KRC has nominated a committee member responsible for safety matters and has also appointed a Safety Advisor, who is responsible for working with the committee to advise on safety policy. The Safety Advisor will be independent of the committee and not necessarily a Committee Member.

The committee as a whole is responsible for agreeing safety policy and ensuring that the policy is actioned. The committee will also carry out hazard reviews where appropriate. KRC's safety rules and regulations are posted on our website for all members to read, learn and action.

The summary information in this booklet is not meant to be a replacement for our safety regulations but will provide some more background to them.



**All Club boats must have a  
KRC approved cox at the helm**

## **COXES - AND HOW TO BECOME ONE**

All Club boats must have a KRC approved cox at the helm before leaving its mooring. There are no exceptions to this rule, except during training as explained below. Any member may become a coxswain by putting their name forward to a committee member. A KRC approved cox will be put in charge of the training of the “*trainee cox*” and when they believe the *trainee cox* is ready for the written and practical test, they will inform a qualified “Cox Examiner” to carry out the necessary tests. During training a “*trainee cox*” may sit in the cox’s seat and helm the boat - provided a KRC approved cox is in charge of the boat providing necessary guidance and advice.

The current list of coxes and cox testers is published on the KRC website.

Cox training notes and syllabus for the coxes test are available to download from the website. “*Trainee coxes*” must download and understand these training notes prior to undergoing the training programme.

Once the cox has passed the test by gaining the minimum points required in both the written and practical examinations, (s)he will be authorised in writing by the club to cox the club’s boats.

## BOOKING THE BOATS

*Our boats must be booked for one hour only – on the hour*

All KRC's boats must be booked prior to use via the online booking system, details of which are on the KRC website.

Bookings can be made for any of the boats and will usually be for one hour, on the hour. This ensures everyone has a fair chance of getting a row. A repeat booking can be made to reserve the same hour every week. However, no bookings should be made further ahead than the end of the following month.

Given the above, we also wish to encourage teams to stretch themselves further and do approve of booking the boats for longer, on an occasional basis, for a more challenging or social row. We ask that all members take care not to disrupt a regular row and to avoid the most popular times. Leave your name on the booking so that any problems can be resolved.

*The cox is responsible for the safety of the boat at all times*

## COX'S CHARTER

Be aware of safety at all times. Check the tide tables and weather forecast to ensure you are satisfied with the prevailing and forecast conditions. Ensure you have read the document "Guide to Rowers and Coxes" available on the KRC website. In the event of fog and mist do not go out.

Remember: **IF IN DOUBT - DON'T GO OUT!**

*If in doubt – don't go out!*

Ensure you have the contact details of the coastguard, Darthaven Marina and other emergency services in your mobile phone.

Consideration must be given to other river users and you must give way to commercial power driven vessels and ferries which may have limited manoeuvrability and be restricted to certain channels.

Pay particular attention to the Kingswear-Dartmouth ferries and do not race them under any circumstances. If they are crossing, stop rowing and stand off. Be aware of the cables on the Higher Ferry and give plenty of clearance once the ferry has passed.

If a boat requires help it is incumbent on nearby boats to provide assistance. In the event of any collision between boats crews must keep their hands inside the boat at all times. In the unlikely event of boat capsize all crewmembers must stay with the boat and await rescue. Do not swim around the boat collecting oars or other equipment. Our Seine Boats have buoyancy chambers to ensure the boat does not sink.

In the event of any incident or 'near miss' the Coxswain must fill in an incident report (available on the website) and give it to a committee member. The Committee will investigate and take corrective actions as necessary.

As well as being responsible for the safety of the boats and crew our coxes must ensure that all rowers in the boat are fully paid up members of KRC. Failure to do this may invalidate the insurance of the boat and crew. All rowers must have completed and signed an application form before they get in the boat even if they are not yet members. There are no exceptions to this rule and coxes are required to ensure it is strictly implemented.

If the crew has any rowers under 16, or a non swimmer, such rowers and the cox must wear a lifejacket.

The Club has approved life jackets (in the boathouse) for all junior members to use. The lifejacket must be of the correct size (S or M) and worn as the top layer and not worn under any clothing.

Only experienced coxes should take charge of crews with novice rowers. If there is any doubt, then the competence of the rowers should be assessed under safe conditions such as on the Creek.

Due consideration must be taken of the strength of the crew when deciding what route to take. Generally, it is better to start a row against the tidal flow to ensure an easier return if the crew is tired.

Whilst it is permissible to go beyond Dartmouth Castle, this requires considerable experience by the cox and should not be attempted for the first time without a more experienced cox on board. The sea can be quite rough and dangerous for the weaker crews.

Coxswains also have the right to refuse to leave the mooring if they believe conditions are not suitable to row. Crew members must respect the role of the cox as the person in charge of the boat.

All instructions given by the cox during an outing should be given in a clear and concise manner using the correct nautical terms and correct names for parts of the boat

Any damage to the boat must be reported to the Committee.

# ROWERS' CHARTER

*All rowers must be fully paid up members of KRC*

1. All rowers must be fully paid up members of KRC. Failure to obey this rule may invalidate the insurance of the boat and the crew and coxswain may become financially liable in the event of any accident or claim.
  2. Any potential new members are entitled to 2 free rows before they decide to join. However they must have completed and signed an application form before they get in the boat even if they are not yet members. Coxes are required to ensure this rule is strictly implemented.
  3. Crews must never row without an approved KRC coxswain at the helm or in the boat if training. All crew members must be aware of the procedures for contacting the emergency services.
  4. Crews must also be physically capable to safely row in the boat. Any disability must be declared to the committee and on the membership Application Form.
  5. All rowers must be aware of KRC's rules and procedures and act on them. Such rules and procedures are clearly laid out on the KRC website and on application forms.
- All rowers must be aware of the Club's rules and Safety Codes*
6. Rowers must also understand the cox is responsible for the safety of the boat and its occupants and obey the cox's instructions accordingly.
  7. If any new members are having problems getting into a crew, try contacting other rowers via our **facebook** website, contact the club secretary or a committee member for a members contact list.
  8. Any member wishing to use the Club's Concept II Ergometers in the Village Hall must sign the separate disclaimer and read the notes and

attachments from the document “Guide to Rowers and Coxes” available on the KRC website

## YOUTH PROTECTION

*The welfare of young people is paramount*

The welfare of young people is paramount and minors, whatever their background should be able to participate in rowing in a fun and safe environment, subject to the Club’s age rules. KRC will take all reasonable steps to protect minors from harm and to respect their rights, wishes and feelings.

If any junior member is concerned about their treatment by any other KRC member, they should contact the Club Youth Protection Advisor. The contact details of the advisor are on the website and parents should ensure they have this information. Any such contact will be treated in confidence.

*The Dart is a magical place - let’s keep it a safe place!*

In conclusion, thank you for joining our Club. Please contact a committee member if you have any questions about our Charter and Safety Code. We really hope you enjoy using our equipment on the beautiful River Dart. It is a magical place – let’s keep it safe place!



More at: [www.kingswearrc.co.uk](http://www.kingswearrc.co.uk)

**PUBLISHED BY  
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