

ISLAND PARK ROWING RULES

Logbook

1. All boats, including motor launches, must sign out in the logbook prior to launching, and check back in after returning.

Traffic Pattern & Etiquette

1. The basic traffic pattern is the same as on the road. Keep to the right (starboard) as much as is prudent while avoiding obstacles near the shore.
2. Do not cross the center/buoy line unless it is clearly safe to do so.
3. Never cross the centerline under the Helena Street bridge regardless of how safe it may appear to be. The centerline is defined as the center of the middle arch.
4. Race pace should not be continued downstream of the 2000 meter mark (i.e. the mouth of Stillwater River).
5. If being overtaken by a faster shell, call out "look ahead!" well in advance. Continue calling out until you are heard. For your own safety, when being overtaken, stay toward the shore. Although Ohio Watercraft Laws & Rules say that the slower boat has the right-of-way, yielding to a faster rowing shell by moving toward the shore is the prudent course of action.
6. If overtaking a slower boat, move toward the center of the river, being aware of the centerline of the river and the presence of oncoming traffic. The faster boat must leave the slower boat safe and sufficient rowing space. If it is not safe to pass, then the overtaking boat must reduce its speed or stop until such time that it is safe to execute a pass.
7. Always move nearer to the shore before stopping. Do not stop near bridges. A rowing shell or coach's launch at a stop has an obligation to keep a lookout for boats underway and to call out "look ahead!" well in advance of any possible collision.

8. Scullers and coxswains should find out where known hazards exist before boating each day. Immediately document any new hazards (e.g. snags) encountered during your row on the Safety Board in the boathouse.

9. Canoes and fishermen often do not realize how limited our forward vision is. Look out for them. Be courteous.

Motor Launches

1. Coaches' launches must keep their wake to a minimum when passing other boats, including rowing shells, canoes and fishing boats.
2. Each launch and trailer should be prominently marked with the name of the organization to which it belongs.

Bowballs

1. All shells must be equipped with a bow ball.

Lighting during darkness or reduced visibility

1. Launches shall exhibit a red/green (port/starboard) bow light and white stern light, in compliance with Ohio law.
2. Shells shall display a red bow light and white stern light.

Dock Area

1. Launch with bow facing upstream.
2. When other boats are waiting for dock space, tie-in and adjust footstretches on the water.
3. Team boats should place oars and other equipment on shore. Single scullers should place their oars away from the outer edge of the dock.
4. When landing, typically approach the dock from downstream.
5. When landing, typically use the most downstream section of available dock space, and walk the boat upstream to make room for the next incoming boat.

Danger of Low-Head Dam

1. All rowers, coxswains and coaches must be aware of the location and inherent danger of the low-head dam just downstream from our dock. Low-head dams are referred to as "drowning machines" by Ohio DNR. The suction created at their base can trap even a strong swimmer below the surface.

Safety Incident Reporting

1. Safety incidents should be reported on the Incident Report Form and deposited in the mail slot in the boathouse. The GDRA Safety Committee will periodically review these reports.
2. Situations that present an ongoing hazard, such as a new snag, should be marked on the map of the river on the Safety Board in the boathouse.
3. Suggestions on how to improve safety conditions should be brought to the attention of your coach or a member of the Safety Committee.

Boathouse Security & Emergency Aid

1. The last person leaving the boathouse is responsible for checking that all of the bay doors and the side door are locked.
2. The boathouse combination is not to be given out to anyone who is not a member of GDRA.
3. Call **225-4357** for Park Rangers.
Call **911** for emergency aid.