

# GDRA Cold Water Rules

**If the water is below 40°F (4.4°C), then no rowing is permitted.**

**If the water is between 40 and 50°F (4.4 and 10°C), then Cold Water Rules are in effect, specifically:**

## **Launches when water between 40 and 50°F:**

- (1) Everyone in a launch must wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved Type I, II or III PFD.
- (2) Every launch must carry:
  - space blankets for largest crew on the water,
  - PFDs for largest crew on the water,
  - cell phone,
  - horn, whistle or megaphone with a siren,
  - anchor & two oars,
  - throw rope.

## **Junior/Youth Program when water between 40 and 50°F:**

- (1) Only rowers with more than 3 months on-the-water experience are permitted to row in singles and pairs.
- (2) Rowers who have been in the water are not permitted to continue rowing, except to return to the boathouse accompanied by a launch.
- (3) Sufficient launches must be on the water to ensure continued safe operations in case one launch becomes engaged in an assistance operation.
- (4) It is not necessary that all launch operators be coaches. Experienced launch operators of age 18 or greater can be trained to cover possible assistance operations.

## **Adults when water between 40 and 50°F:**

- (1) Only rowers with more than 3 months on-the-water experience are permitted to row without a launch.
- (2) Singles and pairs must wear a PFD.
- (3) Singles, pairs and doubles must be accompanied by a launch, or at least one other boat, in close proximity.
- (4) Rowers who have been in the water are not permitted to continue rowing, except to return to the boathouse.

## **Reporting:**

An Incident Report must be filed for anyone being in the water when water below 50°F (10°C).

## **Common Sense:**

Just because you are “permitted” to do something, does not mean that you should. Always consider all other factors, such as wind, river height and crews experience. If in doubt, don’t go out.

## **Scope:**

Cold Water Rules apply to all boats associated with rowing on Island Park, including privately owned shells.

## **Temperature Measurement:**

GDRA Safety Director will determine how water temperature is determined.

## **Waivers:**

Any person who wishes to row outside the Cold Water Rules may apply to the GDRA Safety Director for a special waiver.