

Rowing Water Safety Code 2016



The water safety code sets minimum standards for safe rowing operations. It also incorporates the alternative arrangements to the carriage and wearing of PFD's on rowing skiffs approved under the Maritime Transport Act.

Operating in accordance with the code may help rowing operations meet certain applicable regulatory requirements under the Maritime Transport Act, and, where applicable, some of their PCBU duties under the Health and Safety at Work Act.

1. Club Requirements

Within their safety policy every rowing association, club, school/university rowing programme shall:
(hereafter all referenced as Club)

- 1.1. Appoint a Safety Officer each season that shall be registered with Rowing NZ, the Safety Officer shall advise the club on the requirements of the Water Safety Code and oversee its implementation and operation. If the Safety Officer does not attend camps or regattas then the club should also appoint a Travelling Safety Officer.
- 1.2. Ensure the following is developed and prominently displayed in the club building:
 - a) detailed address of the rowing club so that this can be given to emergency services
 - b) the contact details of the club's Safety Officer
 - c) plan of local waterway showing the navigation rules and traffic plan for the area
 - d) Risk Management Plan (*examples are available at www.rowingnz.kiwi*)
 - e) list of Hazards for both on and off the water
- 1.3. Ensure that a First Aid kit is available on shore which is kept complete and regularly checked
- 1.4. Ensure a boat maintenance log is kept for the support vessels showing the maintenance and repairs of the boat and equipment and the date it was carried out.
- 1.5. Ensure all incidents and accidents are reported to the Safety Officer at the first reasonable opportunity and detailed records are kept (*time, place, nature, injuries/damage and contact details*). If a serious incident or accident occurs it is mandatory for the Safety Officer to notify Rowing NZ, Maritime NZ and the Harbour Masters Office.
- 1.6. Ensure that the rowing and coaching equipment of the club is in a good and safe order. Rowing skiffs must meet Rules 26.e, 27, 28 and 29 of the Rowing NZ Rules of Racing 2013 (relating to floatation, bow balls, quick release foot stretchers and the coxswain's seat).
- 1.7. Conduct and document a Safety Induction with all members which covers the clubs waterway plan, hazards, emergency procedures and considers a person's swimming ability (*it is recommended that they are able to swim 50m in light clothing*). The Club Safety Officer should be notified of anyone unable to swim adequately in order to mitigate this issue.
- 1.8. Ensure coaches and support vessel drivers complete the Coastguard 'Club Safety Boat Operator' course within their first season.
- 1.9. Conduct a regular review of the clubs safety practices and procedures.

2. Preparation to go Rowing

2.1. Type of Rowing

- a) Supported – skiffs which are accompanied by a support vessel and remain under their supervision (all boats remain within 500m of each other).
- b) Observed – skiffs which are in sheltered waters (where flow is stagnant and the sides of the waterway are less than 200 meters apart) and are under the observation of an individual who is not in a vessel but is able to summon additional help if required.
- c) Unsupported – skiffs which are not accompanied by a support vessel in unsheltered waters and each person is carrying an easily accessible approved floatation belt on their skiff.

2.2. Responsibility to be assigned

- a) The Stroke is responsible for the rowing crew and is considered the skipper of the skiff.
- b) The driver of the support vessel is considered the skipper of that vessel.

2.3. Supervision of Crews

- a) The Coach (or person in a support vessel) is at all times responsible for the safety of all crews under their observation. Making due allowance for weather, water, ability of crews and other conditions, it is incumbent upon the coach or support person, to make an assessment of the number of crews for which they can safely be responsible and supervise. All crews and the support vessel need to remain within 500m of each other otherwise they are no longer under supervision and will then be required to carry an easily accessible approved floatation belt on their skiff.
(It is recommended that one support vessel observe no more than three crews)

2.4. Checks to complete

The **Coach/Support Person** and **Stroke** will ensure that:

- a) all members of the crew are suitably attired for the rowing conditions
- b) the crew is familiar with the local waterway rules and hazards
- c) the weather forecast has been checked and is suitable for rowing
- d) crew intentions are lodged (e.g. on a whiteboard or log book)
- e) the rowing skiff is compliant with Rule 26.e, 27, 28 and 29 of the Rowing NZ Rules of Racing 2013 (relating to floatation requirements, bow balls, quick release foot stretchers and coxswain's seat) and any support vessel is fit for purpose and carrying the required safety equipment

The **other crew members** will ensure that:

- a) they are suitably attired for the rowing conditions
- b) if they are rowing in unsheltered waters without the supervision of a support vessel then each person must carry on board an easily accessible approved floatation belt on their skiff.

3. Equipment for Safety

3.1. Personal Floatation Devices

Certified personal floatation device (PFD), lifejackets or buoyancy aids are those certified under the Maritime Rule 91.4(1)

- a) certified PFD's must be worn at all times by coaches, persons in support vessels, coxswains and open water rowers (rowers more than 1500m from shore or bank)
- b) any rower that is training in unsheltered waters without a support vessel supervising them must carry on board an easily accessible approved floatation belt

3.2. Communication

- a) A coach or support person must carry on board a form of waterproof communication (e.g. cell phone in water tight bag)
- b) An unsupported rower training more than 500m from the shore must also carry a form of waterproof communication

3.3. Support Vessel

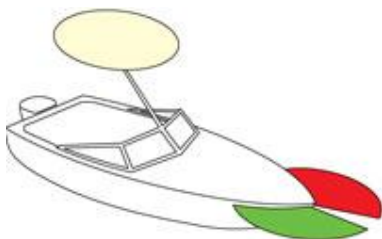
The following is the necessary equipment for a support vessel:

- a) bailer, and for inflatable rubber dinghies, a suitable pump and a spare inflation valve
- b) sound signalling warning device
- c) grab line or 'throw bag'
- d) sufficient approved floatation belts for the largest skiff being supervised (8 max)
- e) basic first aid kit including a survival blanket
- f) sharp knife in carrying sheath
- g) paddle
- h) engine cut-out lanyard device which should be worn at all times
- i) fire extinguisher
- j) when operating more than 500m from the shore a flare should also be carried

3.4. Light Requirements

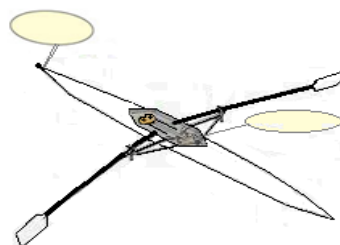
Any activity on the water before dawn and after dusk (*between the hours of 30 mins before sunset to 30 mins after sunrise*) requires the rowing skiffs and support vessel to be fitted with lights as laid down by Maritime Rules Part 22, summarized below.

Note: training when lights are required is dangerous and should be avoided if at all possible.



Support Vessel under 12m

Solid white 360° (which is above the height of craft) and red port and green starboard



Rowing Skiffs

Solid white on bow and a torch on board (to warn craft in sufficient time to avoid collision)