

WADHAM COLLEGE BOAT CLUB

Small Boat Rules of Use

These rules apply to all members of the boat club who wish to use a small boat. Additionally, small boat users must follow the pre-existing boating rules provided by OURCs, including river restrictions, flag rules and circulation patterns.

1. Coaching and bankriding

All small boat users **must be accompanied by a WCBC coach with a throw line**, unless they have been approved to go out with either (a) a bankrider with a throw line, who may be another member of WCBC, or (b) without a coach or a bankrider. If going out without a coach then users must accept that they are responsible for their own safety, and should only go out if they are fully confident in their own abilities.

If more than one user is in a boat at a time (eg a double or pair) then **both users must have approval**, unless one of the users is a coach.

2. Boats available to small boat users

Small boat users will ordinarily use the **two Janousek's (Ben Arber and Harry Fawcett)** and the **double/pair**. To use any of the other small boats, all users must have the approval of a coach beforehand.

3. Giving notice of small boat outings

All small boat outings will need to be **approved by either the Open or Women's Captain in advance of the outing going ahead** (it is recommended to give notice of the outing at least a few days' before so that the Captains have time to respond). The request must include the time and day of the outing, the boat to be used and the coach / bankrider accompanying the user (if applicable). If any details of the outing change then these must be approved as well, including changes in coaches / bankriders.

4. Flag status

All outings on **anything other than a 'Green Flag'** must be approved **on an outing-by-outing basis by a WCBC coach** as well as a Captain. Confirmation of the coach's approval (eg an email or Whatsapp message) should be provided to the Captain when giving notice of the outing. A longer term agreement for relaxation of this rule may be applied for experienced scullers, with a WCBC coach's approval.

5. Clothing guidelines

Please note that sensible clothing must be worn when sculling. Inexperienced scullers should **wear clothing that they would be able to swim in**, and should bring a towel / change of clothes to the boathouse with them. All small boat users should ensure they are **clearly visible** to other river users, such as by wearing a brightly coloured top / jacket.

6. Weather and river conditions

All small boat users must take responsibility for their own safety. Even if an outing has been approved and the river is on 'Green Flag', users should assess whether they believe they are capable of rowing in the conditions when they arrive for their outing. This is particularly important for inexperienced scullers, who must assess whether they believe they would be **capable of swimming** in those conditions in the event of a capsized. Temperature, visibility, stream, business of the river, and weather conditions such as rain, wind or fog must be taken into consideration.

All approvals by a coach must be in the form of a **written communication** (such as an email or Whatsapp message) from the coach to either the Open or Women's Captain, who will keep a record of who is allowed to go out without a coach, who can use which boat, and who has relaxed rules around flag status. **The lists will be reviewed termly to ensure ongoing proficiency.**

ALL SMALL BOAT USERS MUST CONFIRM THAT THEY HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD THESE RULES, AS WELL AS THE GENERAL RIVER RULES PROVIDED BY OURCS, AND THAT THEY HAVE COMPLETED A RECOGNISED CAPSIZE DRILL. THIS CAN BE DONE USING A GOOGLE FORM: <https://forms.gle/mwXR4vp7VjtC9EwQ7>

The OURCs website can be found here, which includes the current flag status: [OURCs: Home](#)

These rules were last modified by Leah Harper on 30/10/2023.