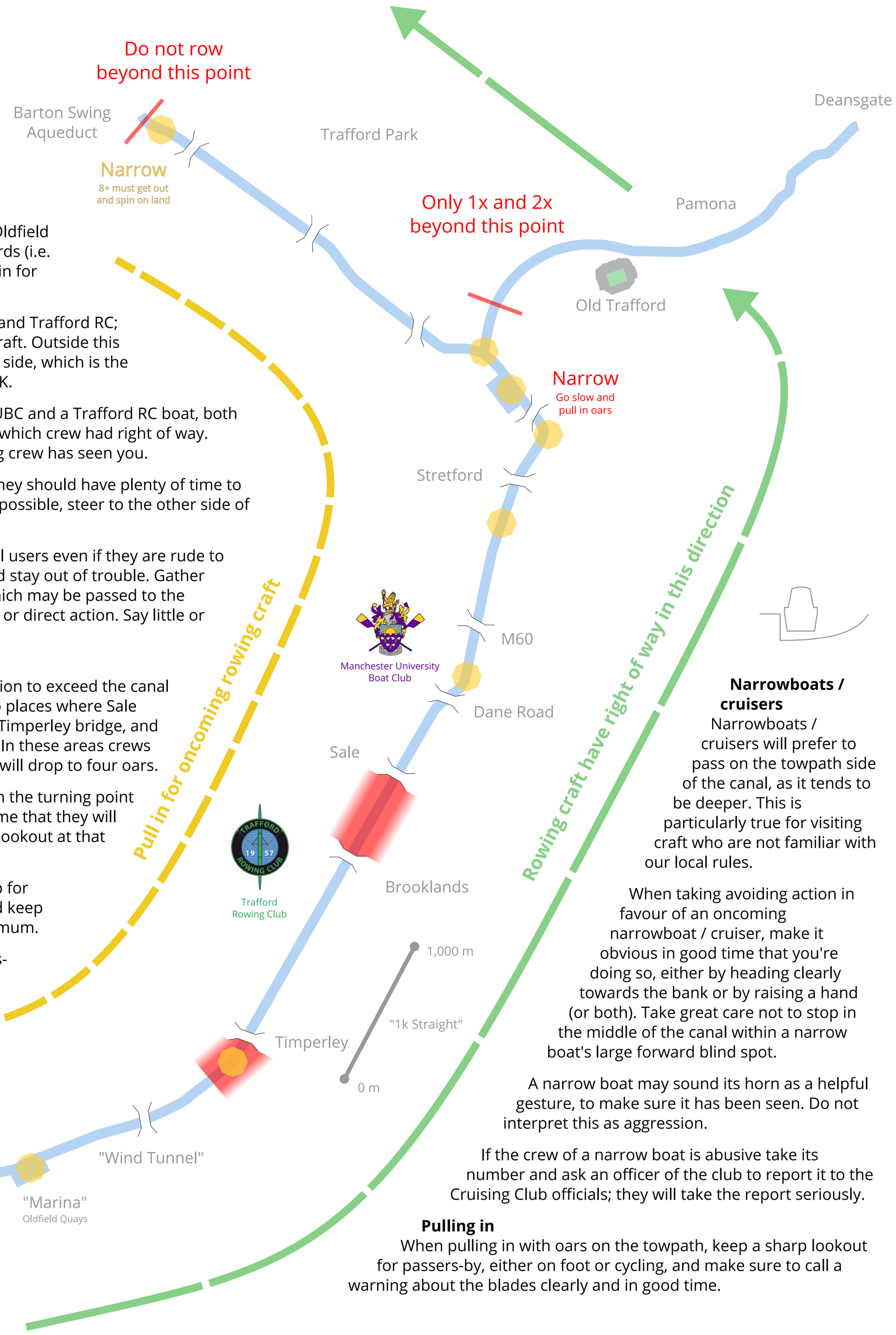
Rowing on the Bridgewater Canal
Deansgate to Dunham

All members should read these rules before going on the water.
Failure to comply with these rules may result in suspension from training.

Legend

- Bridge (not all shown)
- Speed restriction
- 8+ Turning place



Navigation rules
Between Barton Swing Aquduct and Oldfield Brow, rowing craft travelling southwards (i.e. from MUBC to Trafford RC) must pull in for those travelling northwards.

This is an agreement between MUBC and Trafford RC; it does not apply to any other water craft. Outside this agreement, boats pass left side to left side, which is the opposite way to on the roads in the UK.

In the event of a collision between MUBC and a Trafford RC boat, both crews share responsibility, no matter which crew had right of way. STOP if you are unsure if an oncoming crew has seen you.

Be aware of fishing along the canal. They should have plenty of time to see you and pull in their lines. Where possible, steer to the other side of the canal and do not stop within 50m.

Be courteous and polite to other canal users even if they are rude to you. In case of abuse or attack, try and stay out of trouble. Gather information for an incident report, which may be passed to the police. Do not engage in conversation or direct action. Say little or nothing and get away quickly.

Speed restrictions
As a club, we have a special dispensation to exceed the canal speed limit of 4MPH except in the two places where Sale Cruising Club have boats moored: by Timperley bridge, and between Brooklands bridge and Sale. In these areas crews will drop to light pressure, and eights will drop to four oars.

Cruisers will occasionally emerge from the turning point at Timperley bridge. You cannot assume that they will see you. All crews must keep a sharp lookout at that point.

On early morning outings, do not stop for coaching alongside moored boats and keep use of loudspeaker systems to a minimum.

Avoid any stopping on the Brooklands-Sale stretch.

Narrowboats / cruisers
Narrowboats / cruisers will prefer to pass on the towpath side of the canal, as it tends to be deeper. This is particularly true for visiting craft who are not familiar with our local rules.

When taking avoiding action in favour of an oncoming narrowboat / cruiser, make it obvious in good time that you're doing so, either by heading clearly towards the bank or by raising a hand (or both). Take great care not to stop in the middle of the canal within a narrow boat's large forward blind spot.

A narrow boat may sound its horn as a helpful gesture, to make sure it has been seen. Do not interpret this as aggression.

If the crew of a narrow boat is abusive take its number and ask an officer of the club to report it to the Cruising Club officials; they will take the report seriously.

Pulling in
When pulling in with oars on the towpath, keep a sharp lookout for passers-by, either on foot or cycling, and make sure to call a warning about the blades clearly and in good time.

Matthew Layton, 2020