



Club Safety Policy

Version Number

11.2025

Last revision date

10/11/2025

Safety Statement	1
RowSafe Statement	2
Weather & Water Conditions	2
Bright Clothing & Lighting Policy	2
Bank Support	3
Right of Way	3
First Aid	4
Medical Emergency Plan	5
Fire Emergency Plan	5
Race Rules	6
Contact Information	6

Safety Statement

Manchester University Boat Club has a zero tolerance for anyone being harmed as a result of our members' participation in the sport.

We believe that harm is not an inevitable consequence of our activities and that incidents that cause harm can be avoided. We will strive to provide an environment in which the sport can be practised safely and enjoyably by our members. We will guide and lead our members in a way that fulfils these aims.

We recognise that our members have primary responsibility for their own safety and the safety of others. The Club, through its Officers and Committee, will encourage safe practice having due regard for the guidance provided by British Rowing in RowSafe.

The Club has safety rules that it expects its members to respect; these can be found on the notice boat at the boathouse and are also available online. Complying with these rules will help to prevent harm.

The Club is also committed to learn from the incidents it becomes aware of and will share this information to help others in the sport to learn too. We are committed to make appropriate use of British Rowing's Incident Reporting System.

Members are invited to refer any questions and concerns relating to safety to the Club's Safety and Equipment Officer, George Coxshall, or his deputy Matthew Mace.

RowSafe Statement

The Club complies with the contents of [British Rowing RowSafe](#), and expects all of its members to have read and understood its contents before going afloat. Where a specific policy has not been outlined in this document, the Club defers to the policy stated in RowSafe.

Weather & Water Conditions

- Outings are only permitted within the hours of civil twilight.
- Outings are not permitted in visibility of less than 100m. This applies for light visibility as well as adverse weather (fog, snow, heavy rain).
- Outings are not permitted if wind gusts exceed 37mph.
- Outings when wind gusts exceed 30mph should be carefully considered by Captains and the Safety & Equipment officer, taking into consideration wind direction, boat class, and experience of the crew.
- Outings are not permitted if the canal is frozen to any extent.

It is the responsibility of the Captains and the Safety & Equipment Officer to make a decision with regards to the weather & water conditions as to whether it is safe for an outing to take place.

It is the responsibility of the athlete to respect this decision and to wear the appropriate clothing. The Captains and the Safety & Equipment Officer retain the right to stop any athlete from going afloat if they do not think they have appropriate clothing for the conditions.

Bright Clothing & Lighting Policy

The bow seat of all crews must be wearing a bright layer. A "bright layer" is defined as the following colours:

- Bright **Yellow**
- Bright **Green / Lime**
- Bright **Orange**
- Bright **Blue**
- Bright **Pink**

All fours, quads, and eights must go out with a flashing light affixed to the bow canvas of the boat.

Bank Support

All sessions at MUBC must be accompanied by appropriately trained bank support. The primary roles of bank supports is outlined in the “Bank Support Information Pack”, which can be procured either on the Club’s website or from the Safety & Equipment Officer.

It is essential to note that the bank support is there to ensure the safety of both MUBC club members and of all canal users, however the primary responsibility for keeping a good lookout and avoiding collisions falls upon the cox, bowperson, or steer (depending on boat class). Bank support exists as additional insurance against the risks of collisions, and the presence of a bank support does not reduce the standard of awareness required of crews.

Novice & Recreational Sessions

For novice and recreational sessions, a 1:1 ratio of bank support:boats is required. The only exception to this rule is with single sculls, where a 1:3 ratio is permitted, with the added condition that all single sculls must be within sight and audible shouting distance of the bank support.

Senior Sessions

For senior sessions, one bank support is required per squad. For example, if the senior women’s squad and senior men’s squad are going out at the same time, a minimum of two bank supports is required.

Any eights doing work at high rate or speed must have bank support. One bank support may support two eights doing work in the same direction as long as both boats are within audible shouting distance and as long as the bank support cycles with the lead eight.

Expectations of Bow Seats

Bow seats / steers in any coxless boat are expected to regularly look over their shoulder for canal traffic every 3-5 strokes.

Bow seats of coxed boats are expected to regularly look over their shoulder for canal traffic every 8-12 strokes.

Right of Way

Boats must pull over in good time to avoid any collisions with barges. Crews should be aware that barges may expect you to pass them on their port side, as this is the standard rule on the canal (and internationally) for water vessels passing each other. As it is not possible for rowing boats to pull over on the non-towpath side of the canal, it is particularly important for northbound crews to make their intention to pull over on the towpath side clear to any barges early.

Boats travelling towards Timperley or Marina (southbound) **do not have right of way and must pull in** for any oncoming rowing boats. When travelling back towards the boathouse from Timperley or Marina (northbound), **boats have right of way and are not required to pull in** for other rowers.

This is an agreement exclusive to MUBC and Trafford RC. This agreement only applies to rowing boats and does not apply to other canal going vessels such as barges, canoes, kayaks.

In the event of a collision between MUBC and Trafford RC, both crews share responsibility, no matter who had right of way.

Please be aware of Anglers along the canal. While they should have plenty of time to see the boat and pull in their line, please attempt to give them as much room as possible. This will avoid boats being tangled in their lines and damaging club and angling equipment.

First Aid

The First Aid kit can be found in between the men's and women's changing rooms. The details of Club First Aiders can be found below.

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY RING 999.

If you do not have a mobile phone with you: find another member of the club, a member of the public, another canal user, a local business or a public telephone.

First Aider Name	Telephone Number
Matt Mace	07934002338
George Coxshall	07410522811
Sam Shailer	07762872234
Eoghan Dunne	+353 87 356 6743
Sarah Sharkey	07745847715
Cajsa Jonsson	07961846755
Kat Gauci	07393506201

In the Event of an Incident

Your first priority must always be the safety of yourself and your crew. If all involved members are safe, it is important to record the details of the incident as soon as possible – include names of all people involved, details of what happened, the location, time and date, the damage to any equipment*

Photos are useful if you have a mobile phone with you, but not necessary. You must pass this information on to the Safety & Equipment Officer who will log the incident on the British Rowing Incident Reporting System within 24 hours. .

In the event of an issue with the boathouse facility (including landing stage and surrounding areas), please notify the Safety & Equipment officer.

Medical Emergency Plan

If a medical emergency is reported, dial 999 and request an ambulance.

Provide the following information:

- Number and location of victim(s)
- Nature of injury and illness
- Meet the ambulance at the nearest entrance or emergency access point; direct them to the victim(s)

Fire Emergency Plan

If a fire is reported or discovered, loudly call out “**FIRE!**” to warn members to evacuate. Then dial 999 to alert the Fire Service. Provide the following information:

- The club’s address (Manchester University Boat Club, Dane Rd, Sale M33 7BP)
- Nature of fire
- Fire location
- Type of fire alarm
- Location of fire alarm
- Name of person reporting fire
- Telephone number for return call

The most senior committee members or coaches are to direct evacuation of members and visitors.

Procedures:

- Evacuate building occupants along evacuation routes to primary assembly areas outside (in the yard to the side of the building, by the gate of M60 Self-Storage).
- Redirect members and visitors to exits away from the fire.
- The most senior committee member or coach to account for all members and visitors at the assembly area, using outing plans as a register.
- Meet the Fire Service. Inform them if everyone has been accounted for and if there are any injuries. Provide an update on the nature of the emergency and actions taken. Provide building details, keys and other assistance as requested.

Property Conservation

- Contact the University's Sports Compliance Officer.
- Identify preparations before a forecast event such as severe weather.
- Identify how you will assess damage; salvage undamaged goods; and clean up the building following an incident.

Plan Distribution & Access

The Plan will be distributed to members of the Committee. A master copy of the document should be maintained by the Club President. Provide a copy of this plan in the boathouse facility. An electronic copy of this plan should be available to committee members.

In the Event of a Collapse on the Water

There should always be bank support, (someone cycling alongside on the tow path with a mobile phone), all members are made aware that there is an AED near the EZ Hampers shop, 5km from the boathouse along the towpath towards the marina. Furthermore, Trafford Rowing Club is 3km from the boathouse in the event of an emergency.

In the event of a collapse:

- Pull boat to the side of the tow path, get casualty onto a hard surface
- Call 999
- Cycle to the AED (located at the EZ Hampers shop, 5km from boathouse along route)
- While bank support cycle to AED, begin chest compressions (CPR)
- Follow instructions on AED and begin resuscitation

Contact Information

Safety & Equipment Officer (2025-2026)

George Coxshall

safety@mubc.org.uk

07410522811

British Rowing Club Rowing Safety Advisor (2025-2026)

George Coxshall

safety@mubc.org.uk

07410522811

British Rowing Deputy Club Rowing Safety Advisor (2025-2026)

Matthew Mace (President)

president@mubc.org.uk

07934002338