



Melbourne Rowing Club Boat Allocation Policy

Purpose

Melbourne Rowing Club ('MRC') maintains a fleet of rowing shells ('boats') for the use of eligible members, and subject to the boat allocation policy ('this policy') approved by the Committee, and administered by the Captain.

The intent of this policy is to ensure that eligible members have access to appropriate equipment, so that training and competition occur safely and that equipment is protected and maintained in the best possible condition. But boat allocation involves competing needs and priorities, is somewhat subjective, and may pose conflicting possibilities from time to time.

The Club maintains a large and diverse fleet of boats in order to meet member's needs, but the Club can't guarantee that it will be able to satisfy the boat requirements of all members at all times.

This policy outlines the factors that the Captain and any delegates will consider when allocating equipment.

Allocation Responsibility

1. The Captain (or his or her delegate) is responsible for the allocation of boats for crews or scullers to train and compete in.
2. The Captain (or his or her delegate) may delegate authority to Squad Coordinators to allocate boats to crews and members of the relevant squad, where the Captain has assigned boats to the squad. In doing so, the Captain (or his or her delegate) will determine any conditions that must be complied with by the Squad Coordinators, and by the crews and members assigned the boat. This delegated authority does not permit Squad Coordinators to allocate boats not assigned to their squad.
3. Where the Captain has not delegated authority, no inferred or implied authority exists for any Member of the Club to allocate boats to crews or scullers.

Allocation Considerations

This policy prescribes the factors to be applied when allocating boats to crews for training and competition.

1. The following factors apply:
 - a) All individual crew members must be eligible to compete, being financial Melbourne Rowing Club members in a suitable membership class, with an active standing authority. Crews with ineligible members will not be allocated boats; and
 - b) Crews training and competing in the prevailing season (i.e. Score/Open during the main season, Masters during the Masters season) will receive priority; and
 - c) Crews with the greatest chance of winning based on recent results, or competing in higher levels of competition, with reasonable prospects, will receive priority; and
 - d) The skill, fitness and competence of the crew or sculler will determine which boats are available; and
 - e) The weight and gender will determine which boats are available; and
 - f) The demand for particular boat types, boat sizes and rigging configurations will determine whether additional factors are considered during boat allocation; and
 - g) Overall suitability of the crew for the available equipment.
2. The Captain will consider the following additional factors when demand for a particular boat type exceeds the number of boats available (e.g. eights for the Head of the Yarra):
 - a) An alternating priority between Masters and Score/Open squads;
 - b) Likely performance of the crews or scullers based on results achieved during the eight weeks prior to the event in question;
 - c) Crews are finalised and all members financial four weeks prior to the event in question;
 - d) Where no recent results exist, trialing may be conducted to provide an objective allocation basis; and
 - e) The proportion of Melbourne members in the crew.
3. After considering the factors listed under 1, and where necessary under 2, above, the Captain will prioritise crews seeking access to equipment, and agree with the:
 - a) top priority crew, which boat that is allocated to them, then
 - b) next, and subsequent, crew, which boat will be allocated, until no suitable boats are available.

Alternating Priority

Where consistent year on year demand for boats exists for specific regattas and boat types, the Captain may request that the Committee approve alternating priority.

Alternating priority means:

1. The priority squad will alternate between female Masters and RS/Open Squad and male Masters and RS/Open Squad each year.
2. The priority squad selects their desired boat, and the remaining available equipment is allocated by the Captain in accordance with this policy.

3. The following regattas and boat types have been approved by the Committee for alternating priority:

a) Regatta: Head of the Yarra, Boat Type: Eights

4. At its discretion, the Committee may interrupt the alternation where the priority squad has insufficient numbers with the necessary skill, fitness or competence to warrant priority. In doing so, the Committee will 'reset' the alternation so that the priority squad receives priority in the subsequent year.

Guidance: Alternating priority only applies to the 'top' boat in the relevant boat type. It does not mean that the priority squad is given priority access to all available boats in the relevant boat type.

Trialing

Where necessary to provide an objective basis for allocating boats when demand exceeds capacity, then competing crews will be required to trial under the following conditions:

1. a time will be selected that accommodates at least 75% of the proposed crews – if this is not achievable, a trial will be set with no less than 3 weeks' notice and any substitutes must have a similar or higher score/age for the trial at the agreed time,
2. conducted over a suitable length course on the Yarra River, at approximately the same time on the same day, in order to minimize the impact of tidal movement on outcomes,
3. timed, with appropriate time adjustments being made where handicaps apply for the target event, and
4. witnessed by relevant coaches, and an independent Club Official or Squad Coordinator.

Following the trial, the Captain will factor the trial results into the allocation decision, along with all other factors in accordance with this policy.

Referral of Allocation Decisions

The Captain, or crew representatives, may refer any difficult, or complex, boat allocations to the Committee for determination. Such referrals must be in writing to the Secretary providing all relevant information including all available objective information that has been obtained from recent competition or trialing. The Committee's decision is final.