



## Melbourne Rowing Club Safety Policy

Document Version	Author	Reviewed	Approved	Date
Original Document	Felicity Nutter President	19/01/2020		

### 1 Purpose

This policy applies to all members of Melbourne Rowing Club who boat from the Yarra River and all other visitors to the premises who use the facilities of Melbourne Rowing Club. The purpose of this policy is to reduce the risk of injury and harm to people, the premises and equipment of Melbourne Rowing Club. Any questions regarding the safety policy, should be directed to the Safety Officer.

### 2 Related Documents and Policies

Melbourne Rowing Club Code of Conduct

Melbourne Rowing Club Child Safe Policy

### 3 Assessment of Effectiveness

The Association will assess how effective its risk management plan is by undertaking structured continuous improvement review. This will ensure continual monitoring and review of risks and controls. The appraisal of risk owners in managing risks should be included in these processes.

### 4 Responsibility

All members are responsible for the safety of each other, equipment (including rowing, gym, towing and regatta equipment) as well as the premises.

Every member has a responsibility to notify the Safety Officer and the Club Captain or Vice Captain of any breach of this safety procedure immediately.

In different circumstances, the safety risks vary and members are required to observe the following practices.

**If in doubt - don't go out**

#### 4.1 Swimming ability

All rowers and beginners must be in good health and able to swim a minimum of **100 metres** in light clothing.

Any member of the Committee or coach will have the authority to prevent anyone from going afloat who they believe cannot swim.

#### 4.2 Members of the public in the precinct

Very occasionally, we receive unwanted attention from local hooligans in the form of verbal abuse, or sticks, stones, etc. being thrown at passing crews. Under no circumstances should members retaliate. Move to the other side of the river and get out of range as quickly as possible. Do not stop and do not retaliate. Report the incident to the Safety Officer, Club Captain or senior committee member present upon return to the Clubhouse.

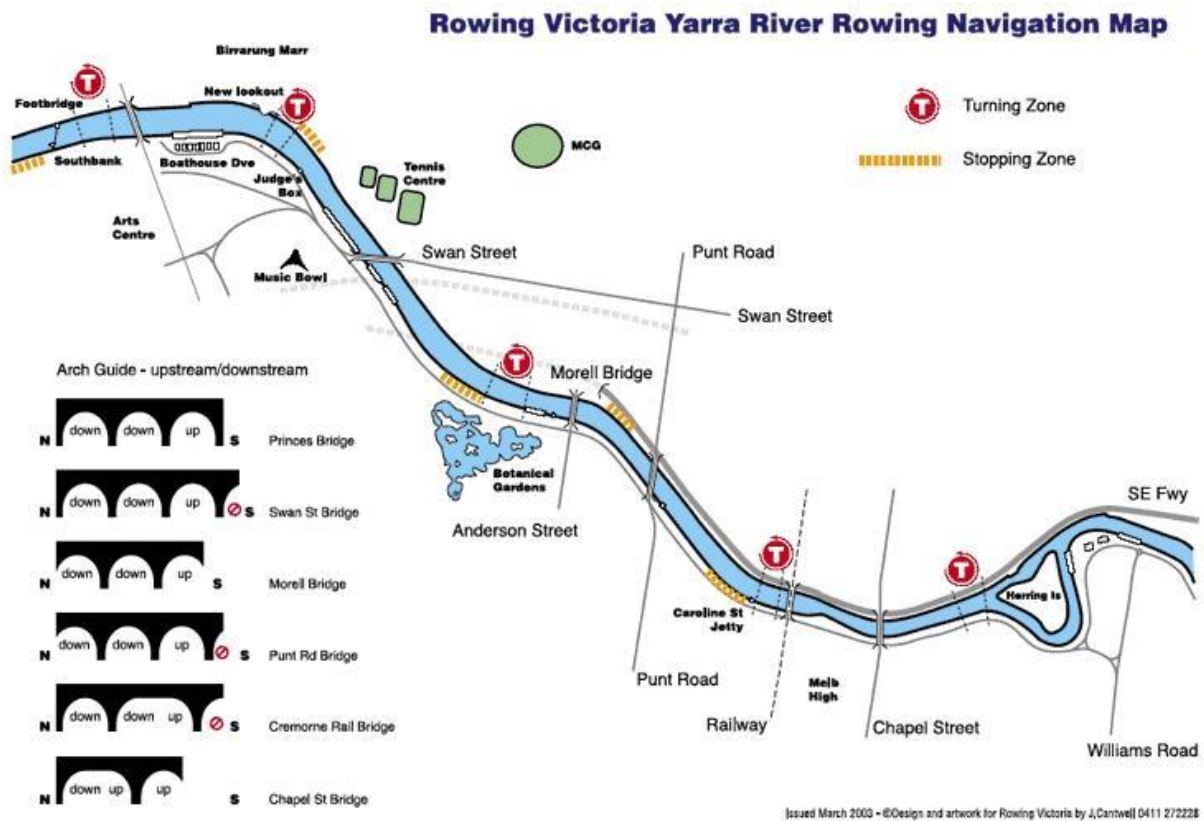
#### 4.3 Navigation on the Yarra River

Navigation of the Yarra River shall be as described by the Yarra River Rules published on the [Rowing Victoria](#) website. Please review the map below for stopping and turning zones for more information.

Under no circumstances should the landing stage be approached via the Club side of the bank when coming downstream. Crews wishing to end their outing must proceed through Princes Bridge before turning around.

Coxless crews are not to proceed beyond the South Yarra Railway Bridge unless accompanied by a Coach.

Rowing Victoria has made available *Life jackets & Rowing: A guide to your responsibilities* in the Rowing > Safety section of their website.



#### 4.4 Adverse Conditions

**Fog:** All outings will be deemed cancelled in poor visibility where Flinders Street Station cannot be seen from the clubhouse.

**Stream:** If the height of the water reaches the grass in front of the club, then the stream will be deemed unsuitable for Novice crews and their outings shall be cancelled.

#### 4.5 Rowing in Darkness

All boats must be well lit in accordance with Marine Safety Victoria Guidelines. If the lights are not available then the crew must not boat.

It is the responsibility of the crew to provide appropriate lighting. Lights must be positioned centrally, and not on the side/riggers.

In the event of a light failing, the boat must return immediately to the club at light pressure/slow speed, staying close to the bank and exercising extreme caution.

Novices may only row in darkness in coxed boats, steered by a competent coxswain.

#### 4.6 Coxed crew boat rowing

It is the responsibility of the crew (including the coxswain) to ensure that the boat is correctly lit in conditions of poor light/visibility in accordance with the guidelines mentioned below.

Each person of the crew must bring any equipment failure or safety issues to the attention of the coxswain or steer-person immediately.

#### 4.7 Coxless crew boat rowing

Coxless boats are primarily for the use of experienced crews.

Less experienced crews may use coxless boats under the supervision of a coach with the permission of the Club Captain and/or Vice Captain but not in darkness or adverse conditions.

Coxless boats may only be used unsupervised when steered by a competent steersperson and/or at the discretion of the Captain or Vice Captain.

The Club Secretary, Captain and Vice Captain keep a list of authorised steerspersons and crews. If you wish to be added to the list, please see the Captain or Vice Captain.

All coxless boats must be steered from the bow when in use on rivers with the exception of racing or training on straight line/lane courses or when agreed by the Captain and/or Vice Captain.

### 5 Breach of safety policy

If a crew/sculler is found to be in breach of this policy, the following action shall be taken:

The entire crew will be told they are in breach of the Safety Procedure.

The crew may also be issued with a written warning outlining their breach of the procedure and stating that a further offence may lead to the suspension of the crew boating from MRC and from racing (at the committee's discretion).

Repeated breaches of the water safety procedure may lead to further disciplinary action at the committee's discretion in accordance with the Club rules.

All members of Melbourne Rowing Club and visitors to the Club using the Club's facilities are bound by this policy.

### 6 Reporting

The Safety Officer reports to the Committee regularly on identification of hazards, incidents and harm reduction.

### 7 Access to the policy

This Policy is available on the Association's website.