

BCCC Boat & Equipment Usage Policy

Booking out Club Boats

Membership of BCCC entitles you to borrow a boat for your own use to paddle at your own risk, providing you have a minimum of BCU 1 Star award in the relevant discipline or have demonstrated your ability to a BCCC coach. (eg you may only use a club open canoe if you have your BCU 1 Star in open canoe. Likewise with closed cockpit kayaks).

Boats and other equipment must be booked out after checking that no one else wishes to use it and details must be filled in the diary. All club boats have an identification number. Members should return the boat as soon as possible after use.

Any damage must be reported to any member of the Committee at the earliest opportunity.

Safety is your responsibility and members are advised to never paddle alone. Children should be supervised by a parent or other responsible adult.

Buoyancy aids or lifejackets must be worn by all members paddling club boats. The only exception is during marathon race training sessions where paddlers who are in Divisions 1-6 may be exempted from wearing them by the coach in charge of the activity. Kayak rankings are not transferable to canoes.

Members are not allowed to borrow more than one boat at a time or loan out Club equipment to their friends.

If you have friends or acquaintances who would like to try canoeing then they can take part in a taster session at one of the regular Club meetings subject to availability of equipment and a qualified person to instruct them. Members who are qualified BCU coaches may at their discretion run taster sessions for interested groups for which there is a minimum charge of £5 per person (£4 for group sessions) payable to BCCC.

Using Club Boats away from the Canal

Club boats are licenced to be used on the Basingstoke Canal. Members are responsible for having the appropriate waterways licence for paddling club boats away from the canal. (Membership of Canoe England includes licence to paddle many other rivers and waterways throughout England – see their website www.canoe-england.org.uk/membership for details.

If you have used Club equipment away from the canal, all buoyancy aids and spraydecks should be immersed in hot water over 45 deg C for 15 minutes and dried before returning to the barn. Boats should have the buoyancy bags removed and be rinsed out and dried thoroughly for 24 hours before re- use on the canal. This is to prevent the transmission of non-native invasive species.

Taking care of Club Boats and Equipment

Members are asked to return all equipment to its allotted space. Buoyancy Aids and spraydecks will rot and go mouldy if not hung up to dry. It costs a few seconds of your time to look after kit properly, it costs £40 to replace a buoyancy aid that has been abused and £25 to replace a spraydeck.

All boats must have some form of buoyancy fitted before use. Buoyancy bags where fitted should be inflated to 90% of capacity. (Over inflation causes them to leak when the weather gets hot). Rigid buoyancy must be securely fixed.

Buoyancy aids are for use by beginners. Members paddling at a higher level should have their own.

Boats must not be dragged along the ground.

Boats must be returned to the barn in a clean condition, with any water fully bailed out and put back in their space.

You must check all nuts and fittings are secure before taking the boat out on the water and return the boat with all of these fittings in place or report parts missing to the Flat Water Racing Group or committee member.

Straps which are tightened using a mechanical ratchet are not to be used on any Club boat (because of the risk of damage caused by overtightening)

If you are the only person on site you must make sure that the boat store is securely locked when you leave. You are not allowed to tell anyone else the key code.

Damage Policy

Any damage must be reported to a member of the Committee at the earliest opportunity.

You are responsible for any damage that may occur to a Club boat whilst in your care. You are expected to have repairs done to a professional standard or replace the boat as necessary. (Note, plastic boats are not indestructible; folding it around a rock usually requires its replacement, this could cost you £1000)

Limitations on use of Club Boats

We expect you to buy your own boats. Club boats are to introduce beginners to the sport and enable you to try out different aspects of the sport. As such there are some limitations on what you can do with Club boats.

- White water type boats are not designed for use on water above Grade 3.
- Slalom boats are not for use in Div 2 and above.
- Racing boats are not for use on any "Descent " type races and the committee may limit the use of some racing boats in events where there is a high risk of damage eg Watersides, DW

Where there is a high demand for boats (eg Paddlepower, Hasler Races) the Committee reserve the right to allocate them as they see fit.

Using Competition Boats

The club's competition boats are typically lighter weight and of a composite (fibre reinforced resin) construction. Thus, they are more fragile and more expensive than the plastic general purpose or whitewater style boats. These boats require more care in their use and handling if they are to remain in good repair and available to all. You will need to become aware of such considerations and how to look after these boats. Consequently, the following additional rules apply to these club boats.

Flatwater Racing Kayaks

You are not allowed to borrow flatwater racing K1s and K2s for *unsupervised use* until you have either attended an 'introduction to racing course' or have demonstrated your experience in such boats to one of the club's racing coaches. Flatwater racing K1s and K2s includes any flatwater racing or touring boat fitted with a rudder.

Other Competition boats

You are not allowed to borrow other competition boats (i.e. racing canoes or slalom boats) for *unsupervised use* until you must have demonstrated your competence to a member of the

competition coaching team (Liz Murnaghan for racing canoes, any level 3 coach for slalom boats). This includes capsizing drill, safe emptying, carrying the boat, securing it to a roof rack and adjusting it correctly.

Note: In this context, “*unsupervised use*” means use of this equipment outside of a club organised coaching session (e.g. the regular evening or Saturday race training sessions or equivalent coach led sessions).

V bars must be used when transporting the club’s flatwater racing boats (kayak or canoes) on vehicles.

If you borrow a Club boat to enter a competition then you must race under the Club name unless permission to do otherwise has been granted in writing by the Committee.

Members who wish to borrow a boat to compete in the Devizes to Westminster race must have been active members of the race squad for the previous 2 years.

If you change the seat(s) of a flatwater racing boat please return the original seat after use.

Do not sit in a racing boat unless it is floating on the water. Use a tape measure or a piece of string to gauge the gap between the front of the seat and the footrest for your leg length. Make any adjustments on dry land (seats and bolts sink!). Refloat the boat to check you have the correct position.

The flatwater racing boats are in high-demand and are frequently used for training. They should be returned on the same day of use unless agreed otherwise by the FWRG. For races on Sunday they should not be removed from the boatstore until midday Saturday and they must be returned to the boatstore immediately after each event.

Sea Kayaks

V-bars or other cradles that are purpose designed for sea- kayaks must be used when transporting the club’s sea kayaks on vehicles. Using just a pair of roof bars is not sufficient.

Extended loan of Club Boats

Occasionally members may require access to a club boat for extended periods (for example preparing for the DW). Medium terms loans of club equipment must be arranged in advance with the FWRG and QM and booked out using the loan book as usual. In addition borrowers must be prepared to make available (possibly at short notice) such equipment for any prearranged club training session. Any modifications required (e.g. fitting of pumps, tie down points) must be agreed with the FWRG before being undertaken and shall either be left in place or made good prior to return. The club will not pay for any modifications.

Ice policy

For Hare and Hounds and race events it is the decision of the organiser if the event goes ahead. For all other daytime sessions the coach in charge of each group is responsible for safety.

Night time sessions, if they go afloat paddlers must turn back at ice.

Buoyancy aids must be worn by junior race paddlers in higher divisions in adverse weather and are strongly recommended for all paddlers..

Club competition boats and paddles are not to be used through ice.

Use by Affiliated Groups

Affiliated groups (eg Scouts etc) may only use Club equipment at the venue where it is stored and are not permitted to take it offsite to paddle elsewhere.

Affiliated members are not allowed to use boats during regular Club training sessions at Mytchett as detailed in Waterfront and elsewhere unless by prior arrangement with the event organizer.

Affiliated groups must use coaches with BCU recognised coaching qualifications to run their sessions. **The minimum** requirement is a UKCC Level 1 qualified coach with site-specific training (Site specific training to be provided by a BCCC representative nominated by the committee)

All affiliated groups must operate coach:student ratios within their coaching remit as detailed in the BCU Terms of Reference for Coaches and Leaders.

Revised May 2015.