

GDR Club Rules

Club Purpose

The Greater Dayton Rowing Association was founded in 1992 to further the sport of rowing as an athletic and recreational activity. GDR membership is open to adults age 18 and over. The Association promotes the sport's numerous health and physical development benefits while encouraging the tenets and spirit of sportsmanship.

Club Organization

GDR is able to operate thanks to the volunteer efforts of our members. All the members pitch in on the many programs and projects that make rowing possible, ranging from dock building to boat maintenance to picking up litter. If you see something that needs doing, then you may be the best person to do it!

We are led by a volunteer Board of Trustees, who are elected by the membership at the annual meeting. The Trustees then appoint the President, Treasurer, Corporate Secretary and other Officers and Committees to handle specific responsibilities.

In order to make rowing in Dayton possible and to keep our fees low, we ask all of our members to contribute a minimum of 10 hours of official volunteer time every year. Renewing members who put in their volunteer time the previous year are eligible for a substantial discount on their membership fees.

Membership

Adult Members

Age 27 and over. Membership covers the use of club boats and oars for both local training and for away regattas. Adult members have a volunteer requirement and will have voting privileges after 1 year.

Young Adult Members

Age 18-26. Young Adult membership is exactly the same as Adult membership, but at a reduced fee.

Under Age 18

No rowing by anyone under 18, with the exception that a child may row with their own parent as per the requirements in the Section "Parent/Child Rowing".

Supporting, *Emeritus, Non-Resident, Social or In-Active* Members

For *members* who want to support the club and stay in touch. No volunteer requirement *and no voting privileges*. You can still come down and row three times a year, before you are considered "active" again. If you become active, then pay the difference to switch to the appropriate Adult membership.

Special Membership

Special memberships can be set up by the Board of Trustees on a case-by-case basis. These are rare and intended to cover unique circumstances, such as a non-rowing member who puts in large amounts of volunteer time to support the club.

Reduced Fees for Late Season

Reduced membership fees for new members are based on when they first start using club equipment and facilities. Reduced boat storage fees are based upon when the boat first appeared at the boathouse.

Joining the Club

*There are two primary ways to become a member of the club:
(1) New rowers can enroll in and graduate from GDR's Learn-To-Row program, or
(2) Experienced rowers can skip LTR by taking a documented Club Orientation, which includes a basic rowing test.
In both cases, full membership is provisional pending approval by the Board of Trustees.*

Parent/Child Rowing

No rowing by anyone under the age of 18, with the exception that a child may row with their own parent after approval from the Club President. The parent is responsible for the conduct of the child and must be in direct line-of-sight with the child at all times, both on and off the water, whenever at or using GDR facilities, equipment or programs. When the child is on the water, the parent must also be on the water, in a rowing shell or a launch. The President may impose additional requirements or deny or revoke permission at his/her discretion. The child is normally limited to rowing recreational shells, but if the child has passed the Captain's Test they may row a Performance shell after paying an additional fee. The definition of "parent" in this document includes a child's court appointed, full time, legal guardian.

Everyone Must Sign Waiver

Anyone using our equipment, whether a member of GDR or not, must sign a current USRowing waiver .

Boat Sign Out

All club and private boats must be signed out using the GDR Sign Out Log.

Sculling: Rowing Performance Shells

Captain's Test for Scullers

The club's Adult Rowing Program shells are designated as either "Recreational" or "Performance". The Performance shells are the more delicate and expensive boats. You must pass the

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Captain's Test prior to going out in a Performance shell. **For Performance doubles and quads, two of the scullers must be Captains.**

New scullers are required to have rowed 100 miles (161 km) in a single before taking the Captain's Test. The emphasis here is on demonstrating that you can handle these fragile boats without risk of damage.

Doubles and Quads

Doubles and Quads require additional knowledge and skills beyond single sculling. Get training from an experienced team boat sculler before taking these boats out.

Sweep: Boats and Lineups

Sweep rowing is inherently a team sport. Decisions on adult sweep boat lineups and equipment use are made by the Sweep Captain.

Reserving Club Boats

Reserving Boats to Use in Dayton

Club boats can be reserved via the Reservation Book in the boathouse. When you reserve equipment, you are expected to show up and row it (weather and water conditions permitting).

- **If you are more than 15 minutes late, then you lose your reservation.**
- If you repeatedly fail to show up for boats that you have reserved, then you may lose your right to reserve boats.

Requesting Club Boats for Use at a Regatta

To request a club boat for use at a regatta, block out the time the boat will be away in the Reservation Book. Please sign up as early as possible, so that we have time to resolve schedule conflicts when they arise. Do not hesitate to sign up just because there is already a request in for the boat. We will try to work something out.

Club Boats at Regattas

When you row a boat at an out of town regatta, you are expected to take an active part in transporting that boat safely. You must be available to derig, load, unload and rereg the boat.

Regatta Scheduling Conflicts

GDRA wants to encourage club members to race. There will be occasional scheduling conflicts. This is inevitable at any active, growing rowing club. If a scheduling conflict cannot be worked out between the rowers, then it will be resolved by the Racing Captain and Club President. Schedule conflicts will **not** be resolved solely by "first dibs". Typical factors that may be considered when resolving scheduling conflicts, include, by way of example and not limitation:

1. Does the entire crew consist of paid GDRA members?
2. How long have they been preparing for this event?
3. What other regattas have they raced at this year?
4. What other regattas can they race at this year?
5. What is the level of competition at the event?
6. What contributions have the rowers made to the club over the past year? (volunteer hours, coaching, etc.).

The goal is to get as many people racing as possible, to be fair in resolving conflicts and to promote the long-term growth of GDRA. There may be times when these goals conflict with one another, but we will strive to balance them as much as possible. The Board of Trustees has ultimate authority to confirm or deny access to equipment.

Guest Rowing

Intro Guests

Members who are highly experienced rowers may take an adult non-member out for a row for the purpose of introducing them to the sport of rowing. The member must be on the water with the guest. The limit is 3 rows per guest. Even if a guest has multiple members taking them out, the limit is still just 3 rows total per guest. After the third row, guests must enroll in Learn-To-Row or work out some other arrangement with the Club President (see Special Guests below). For single sculling, only entry level recreational equipment may be used, specifically Zephyrs. For sweep or sculling team boats, there should be more experienced members in the boat than guests. The guest's name must be printed in the GDRA Sign Out Log and the entry should be marked as "GUEST". The guest must sign a USRowing Waiver Form prior to their first row. The member hosting the guest must notify the President, who will notify other club officers.

Experienced rowers and members of other rowing clubs do not qualify as Intro Guests.

Private Guests

Non-members who row a member's privately owned boat are called "Private Guests". Adult members may host an adult Private Guest up to three times a year. The guest's name must be clearly printed in the GDRA Sign Out Log, along with the name of the Adult member hosting them. The entry should be clearly marked as "Private Guest". The guest must sign a USRowing Waiver Form prior to their first row. The member hosting the guest must notify the Club President, who will notify other club officers.

Private Guest privileges are intended to allow private boat owners to lend their boat out on an occasional basis, such as when a friend visits from out of town. They are not to be used as an ongoing method of avoiding membership dues. Anyone who is regularly rowing out of the GDRA facilities is expected to join the club.

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Special Guests

The Club President may extend temporary rowing privileges to adults on a special case basis. This is primarily envisioned for experienced rowers visiting from out of town. If the guest will be making heavy use of GDRA equipment, then compensation may be required. Special guests must sign in the GDRA Sign Out Log and they must sign a USRowing waiver Form prior to their first row. The President will notify other club officers and the Board of arrangements made for Special Guests.

Composite Crews

GDRA highly values the racing success of our competitive members. Combined with a desire to provide an environment conducive for all of our members to excel, GDRA regulates the use of club-owned equipment to ensure its longevity and availability. This is particularly relevant in the case of composite-crew rowing (i.e. non-members rowing in GDRA owned boats).

Rowing With Members of Other Clubs

Training or racing in GDRA equipment by non-members must be approved by the Club President. It is the responsibility of The GDRA member(s) involved to contact the President and sort out the details.

Note: A crew composed 100% of paid GDRA members will always take precedence over any composite crew. Despite rental fees paid, composite crew usage is therefore considered "non-proprietary" for both training and racing.

Competing under the Name GDRA

Whenever possible, a GDRA member should compete under the name "Greater Dayton Rowing Association" or "GDRA".

When competing in boats that are owned by GDRA, members are required to compete under GDRA's name. When competing in boats that are not owned by GDRA, members are encouraged, but not required, to race under GDRA's name.

A composite crew entry should embody the name of each club being represented. Crewmembers from other clubs are encouraged to include the name of their respective clubs, thereby showing the multi-club composition of the crew. In some cases, it may be necessary to enter regattas under a generic name such as "Rowers of Dayton".

Boathouse Lockers

Lockers are available for either long-term or day-use. Long-term assignments are made by the Boathouse Manager. Assigned lockers must have the occupants' names affixed to them. Unassigned lockers may be used by any member to secure belongings during their row (day-use). Simply bring your own lock and remove it afterward.

Equipment Damage and Repairs

No matter how careful we are, accidents involving expensive equipment occur occasionally.

All damage to, or loss of, club owned rowing equipment must be documented on an Incident report form and must be reported within 24 hours of the incident to the Boathouse Manager and Club President. If the usability of the equipment has been compromised, then a "Do Not Row" tag should be placed on the damaged equipment.

GDRA carries insurance to cover damage to GDRA owned rowing equipment, but there is a deductible that must be met. Loss of fins, broken footstretches & shoes, broken oarlocks, broken steering systems, and small chips will usually be handled as a club expense via the equipment repair budget. Unfortunately, large holes, cracks, scratches, broken rigging, oars, etc. are first and foremost the responsibility of the member who caused them. Depending on circumstances (negligence), you may or may not be responsible for the deductible that applies. The degree of that responsibility will be determined by the Board of Trustees.

Keep in mind that rowing at GDRA is a privilege, and not a right. The penalty for not reporting damage to equipment could be expulsion.

All damage caused to privately owned equipment should be reported immediately to the owner. Please accept responsibility for damage you may have caused.

Privately Owned Boats

All privately owned boats in the GDRA bays pay storage fees. Private boats are found on racks marked with the owner's name or slung from the ceiling. Private oars should be clearly marked with the owners name. Owners of private shells must sign a Boat Storage Agreement. Owners are responsible for their own insurance on their boats. GDRA insurance does not apply.

As demand for rack space increases, GDRA may reassign boat storage. Rack space is rented, not sold.

If you want a boat storage spot, please contact the Boathouse Manager. If there is a waiting list for boat storage, then the Board of Trustees may establish priorities other than first come-first served.

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Equipment Care & Handling

Rowing Equipment

You should become familiar with the proper care and handling of all equipment. Please follow these guidelines:

1. Every Saturday is Boat Wash Day. If you use a club boat on Saturday, then wash it down with soap and water afterward. On other days, you should at least wipe down the boat following your row.
2. Extreme care and caution should be maintained when removing shells and returning them to their racks. Your shell must **never** touch another shell.
3. At dock's edge, shells must be rolled carefully toward the water and then placed lightly on the water without brushing or touching the edge of the dock. Be aware of the fin's position and its angle to the dock - keep it clear.
4. Position the shell toward the rear of the rack; this is a safer location and also makes it easier to reach other shells on the same rack.

GDR Club Personal Safety Guidelines

1. Dangerously high water occurs several times every year on our river. The river may look calm, but the current can sweep you over the dam. A color-coded height stick at the dock indicates the height of the water. There is no rowing in GDR Club owned boats when the river is in the "red zone". There is no novice rowing in GDR Club owned boats when in the "yellow zone". If the height stick at the dock is damaged or missing, then the online USGS gage for Dayton should be used for guidance.
2. All novice members should follow the "Rule of Four Oars". This means that four oars must be present before your workout can commence. That is, two singles or two pairs must go out together and maintain sight of each other during the row. Or row in a double, quad, four or eight. Experienced rowers are encouraged to adhere to the Rule of Four Oars in colder weather.
3. *Cold water can be very dangerous and potentially deadly. "Cold shock" can incapacitate even good swimmers, and it can lead to drowning within minutes. See the GDR Club Cold Water Guidelines for more detailed recommendations.*
4. During days of high water, high wind and/or cold, rowers should use common sense and scrap their row if conditions are questionable. IF IN DOUBT, DON'T GO OUT.
5. Do not row in an electrical storm. If caught on the water when a storm arises, immediately head for shore. Take the boat ashore, and wait for the storm to pass.

6. A sculler who flips should stay with his/her shell and swim it to shore, using the boat and oars for flotation.

7. All rowers must be good swimmers, able to swim 100 yards while using their shell for flotation. Rowers must be in good physical condition, with no known physical or mental impediment to safe participation in the sport.

Island Park Rowing Rules

All GDR Club members and program participants are expected to know and abide by the Island Park Rowing Rules.

Disciplinary Procedures

All participants (including athletes, coaches, volunteers, members and employees) are required to review and follow the GDR Club Rules, GDR Club Cold Water Guidelines, Island Park Rowing Rules *and GDR Club SafeSport* at all times. Failure to adhere to these may result in disciplinary action, including termination of rowing privileges and expulsion from the club.

Club members are required to conduct themselves in a responsible and civil manner towards all other members and the general public.

Disciplinary Authority

1. Coaches running a scheduled practice have authority to direct all of the activities of the participants in that practice. The senior coach present at a practice has authority to dismiss a participant from that practice.
2. All Coaches and Club Officers have authority to order any participant to immediately cease an activity that they judge to present a real risk of injury or property damage or is a flagrant violation of the Rules.
3. All Coaches, Club Officers *and Members* have authority to request *disciplinary action up to and including* the immediate suspension of a participant. Such requests shall be made to the Club President. The President may decide to then convene a three member Disciplinary Board consisting of the President and two major Club Officers, other than the person requesting the suspension. A unanimous vote by the Disciplinary Board is required to impose any disciplinary action.
4. *All disciplinary decisions by the President or Disciplinary Board may be appealed to the Board of Trustees.*
5. *All disciplinary decisions by the President or Disciplinary Board must be reported to the Board of Trustees.*
6. The Board of Trustees may impose disciplinary measures up to and including termination of membership, participation and/or employment.