



BRITISH ROWING

Environment Policy 2020

TEAMWORK | OPEN TO ALL | COMMITMENT

Introduction

Rowing is an environmentally friendly activity. British Rowing will undertake to ensure that all who take part are aware of the steps we recommend towards environmental sustainability and are committed to inspiring a culture of respect for the environment within rowing.





British Rowing is guided by the following principles which are the principles of World Rowing:

<p>Protection of the habitat of fauna and flora and biodiversity</p>	<p>Rowing provides opportunities to observe wildlife in its natural environment across thousands of miles of waterways and coastlines. With this in mind it's important to be conscious to avoid disturbance, damage and disruption to nature.</p>
<p>Conservation of resources both renewable and non-renewable</p>	<p>Consideration of how we use our resources are key to reducing our carbon footprint, or non-renewable waste. By minimising use of fossil fuels and using greener sources of energy it will make a small but vital impact.</p>
<p>Reduction of the production of waste and pollutants in all their forms</p>	<p>How boats are cleaned after use, can have an impact on our waterways and coast. Careless storage of boat fuel, for example, has the potential to pollute waters, or improper disposal of plastic waste could result in water pollution.</p>
<p>Recognition of the importance of heritage and indigenous cultural values</p>	<p>Many cultures and local communities are reliant on biodiversity and have a particular relationship with their landscapes and seascapes. If competing, running an event or travelling to row, consider the local impact to surrounding communities.</p>
<p>Promotion of healthy conditions for all involved in the sport of rowing</p>	<p>Hosting an event or providing facilities in safe and healthy conditions, is important to the wellbeing, comfort and enjoyment of all involved.</p>
<p>Fostering environmental awareness and education about sustainable development within the rowing community</p>	<p>Raise awareness and nurture an ethos where all members can contribute to and learn about environmental sustainability. Share ideas and encourage innovative approaches which can be applied in everyday life, outside of rowing, as well.</p>
<p>Consulting the wider community to foster positive partnerships.</p>	<p>By identifying local organisations who can advise you in your endeavours, it will give you all the support you need to become more environmentally sustainable</p>



In line with World Rowing's 'Small Steps towards Environmental Sustainability' British Rowing encourage the following to be considered during regattas, around the boathouse and at home rowing courses:

Around the Boathouse

- Minimize water consumption and use of hoses and instead use a bucket and sponge!
- Prevent the spread of invasive non-native species and wash and clean boats thoroughly, especially before transporting boats to another lake or river.
- Use biodegradable cleaning agents for boats and equipment.
- Avoid wastewater from washing boats or equipment going directly into your river/lake/sea. Ideally identify an area 30m from the shore with a permeable surface so the wash water is filtered through the ground.
- Keep hazardous goods in a secure and well-ventilated locker or room and use them with care to prevent spillages.
- Keep a record of what materials boats and other equipment are made of to enable easy and safe disposal or recycling.
- Recycle whenever possible – place well labelled recycling bins or containers in plain view.
- Maintain good hygiene around the boathouse to keep vermin under control.

Motorboats and Fuel

- Whenever possible use 4 stroke motors to avoid pollution of the water, air and noise.
- Engines should be well maintained to ensure energy efficiency as well as reduced air and water pollution.

- Carry out equipment maintenance in a designated area where fuel or oil spills can be contained.
- Refuelling should be undertaken away from the waterway to avoid fuel spillage into the water.
- Have a plan and equipment available to deal with accidental fuel spillages.

On the Water

- Be aware of sensitive habitats and put in place measures to avoid disturbing them with noise or boat wake.
- Take extra care during nesting or spawning seasons giving wildlife a wide berth where possible.
- Avoid contributing to shoreline erosion, and if evidence of erosion becomes apparent, report it to the appropriate authority.
- Do not discard waste into the waterway – make sure bins are clearly visible and available.
- Keep bottles and other items secured in boats to prevent their loss into the water.

Other Considerations

- Pledge to reduce single use plastic; encourage the re-use of water bottles by identifying where individuals can source drinking water.
- Encourage carpooling and use of public or non-motorised modes of transport such as walking and cycling.
- Consider the use of lights on timers or motion sensors and water efficient fixtures in showers and basins.

Contribution towards this policy should be encouraged by all who take part in rowing and is crucial for the ongoing protection of our environment.