



Rowing at Night – Policy and Guidelines

Rev:02/18

RTRC rowing at night statement and rationale:

Rowing at night raises several additional concerns for rowers to be able to row safely. The aim of this policy is to allow safe rowing at night if required. As a club RTRC aims to minimise the need to row at night, and where possible encourages all rowers to row during daylight hours.

In determining this policy the RTRC have considered *The International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, Rule 25 Sailing Vessels Underway and Vessels Under Oars, British Rowing Safety Alert – Lights on Rowing Boats* as well as consulting the Teignmouth Harbour Commission.

Definitions and guidance:

Rowing at night includes all rowing activity that is planned to take place after official sunset. Other additional circumstances and conditions may warrant the use of the night time rowing policy at the discretion of the cox.

Only RTRC registered coxes with suitable experience may cox a boat at night. Coxes must ensure they keep a more vigilant watch for other vessels and navigation aids when coxing at night. Coxes must also ensure they are familiar with all night time navigation marks before deciding to row at night.

Any cox intending to take a crew rowing at night must have prior approval from the Club Safety Officer for the intended activities. Coxes must allow sufficient time for the Safety Officer to consider the request.

Rowing at night will usually be during winter months and will always be colder than equivalent daytime rowing. Therefore coxes/crew must take adequate precautions to deal with the risk of cold or hypothermia, including, but not limited to, the consideration of jackets for the crew and thermal protection aids etc.

Rowing at night must only be undertaken when conditions are benign, conditions which may be acceptable to row in daylight may not be considered acceptable for night rowing.

Additional night rowing equipment requirements inc. lights & safety equipment

Gigs – Over 7m vessel RTRC lighting requirements:

- Must have port and starboard side lights as well as a stern light.
 - Recommend a battery powered LED TRI light mounted on a pole behind or to the side of the cox.
 - Alternatively a bi-colour light on the bow with a stern light mounted to the stern.

Seine Boats – Under 7m vessel RTRC lighting requirements:

- Must have a single all round white light mounted on a pole on the stern.
- Alternatively the same light arrangement as for a Gig above may be used.

All Boats

- The lighting must be mounted in such a way as to not adversely affect the Cox's night vision.
 - Do not mount a stern light on the bow in the cox's line of vision.



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- A spare, waterproof torch must be carried by the cox that is sufficiently powerful and must be readily available if necessary.
 - Head torches are not acceptable as the movement of the head with a light may cause confusion to other water users and traffic.
- A Grab bag must be carried containing lifejackets for all rowers and flares, other equipment as required by the RTRC Grab Bag checklist.
- Coxes must carry a working, charged VHF radio that must be on at all times listening to CH16.
- The cox must have read the RTRC night rowing risk assessment and made sure that all mitigating factors are accounted for directly before going on the water.
- Cox's must ensure they notify a suitable person, or the Gig coxes What's App group (As per the RTRC policy), that they are leaving shore and then again on their safe return.