



EDMONTON ROWING CLUB

Personal Flotation Device (PFD) Policy

Policy Title	Personal Flotation Device (PFD) Policy
Effective date	January 1, 2021
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Replaces and/or amends	Personal Flotation Device (PFD) Policy
Approved by and date	ERC Board September 20, 2020
Appendix(-ces) to this policy	RCA Safety Requirements & Guidelines

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Purpose

1. The purpose of this policy is to ensure the ERC is consistently following Transport Canada requirements, and to minimize the risk to ERC members and program participants should a boat capsize out of sight from a coach and safety boat.

Application

2. This policy applies to all ERC members and program participants including but not limited to coaches, athletes, private boat owners, administrators, volunteers, and staff.

Policy Statement

3. The ERC is committed to maintaining the safety of all its members and program participants through risk management. Rowing, like other water activities, presents various risks and the ERC understands that accidents in the sport of rowing do happen. Therefore, the ERC enacts this policy to ensure we are operating a safe sporting environment that acts in accordance with Transport Canada's Shipping Act (2001): Small Vessel Regulations.

Definitions

4. **Member** means a member in good standing.
5. **Member in Good Standing** is defined as an individual who:
 - holds a current membership in one of the ERC membership categories – Junior, Sport, Senior, Master, or Life;
 - has paid all applicable membership fees to the ERC, the Alberta Rowing Association (ARA) and Rowing Canada Aviron (RCA);
 - has read and signed the ERC liability waiver relevant to the individual's situation; and;
 - is compliant with non-monetary membership requirements including bingo and volunteer commitments.
6. **Participant** is defined as an individual who:
 - Has registered in an ERC fixed term program such as Row for Kids, Learn to Row, or Summer Camp, but who has not purchased a membership in the ERC;
 - Has paid relevant program fees and ARA/RCA fees; and
 - Has read and signed the ERC liability waiver relevant to their situation.
7. For the purpose of this policy, a Personal Flotation Device (PFD) refers to an inflatable or inherently buoyant personal flotation device that is approved by Transport Canada, the Canadian Coast Guard, or Ocean and Fisheries Canada.

Responsibilities

8. Members and private boat owners are responsible for providing their own PFD and ensuring it is in functioning condition.
9. The Edmonton Rowing Club is responsible for providing PFDs to program participants.
10. The Club Manager will ensure that club owned PFDs are in functional condition.
11. Coaches are responsible to ensure that all of their athletes are carrying a PFD with them while in a rowing shell.
12. The Club Manager will arrange bulk PFD orders to reduce costs for ERC members.

Procedures

13. For all ERC programs: each rower and coxswain in a 1x, 2x-, 4x-, or 8+ rowing shell must carry a PFD, *regardless of whether not a crew will be accompanied by a safety boat.*
14. Private boat owners are also required to carry a PFD at all times, *regardless of whether not a crew will be accompanied by a safety boat.*
15. If rowers and coxswains are less than 16 years of age and/or weigh less than 36 kilograms (80 pounds), they must carry an inherently buoyant PFD.
16. PFDs do not have to be worn on the rower or coxswain but must be securely attached to the rowing shell while participating in on water activities.
17. Safety boats are still required to carry enough PFDs for everyone on board the safety boat in addition to enough extra PFDs for the largest crew on the water (e.g., 9 extra PFDs for an 8+). See the Safety Boat Equipment Policy.

Policy Violations

18. Violation of this policy may result in discipline and/or suspension of an individual, as outlined in the ERC Discipline and Suspension Policy.

References

19. This policy is read in conjunction with Transport Canada's Shipping Act (2001): Small Vessel Regulations (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/sor-2010-91/>), the ERC Safety Boat Equipment Policy, and the ERC Discipline and Suspension Policy.

Questions

20. Questions about this policy can be directed to the [Club Manager](#).

Appendix

RCA SAFETY REQUIREMENTS & GUIDELINES

The following is taken from Rowing Canada Aviron's Safety Requirements and Safety Guidelines as of 2013.

The Small Vessels Regulations (SVR) apply to all boats associated with rowing (powered boats and rowing shells) and to the persons operating the craft, be they competitive rowers, recreational rowers, touring rowers, coastal rowers, instructors, coaches, umpires, or regatta officials.

Rowing enjoys certain exceptions to the SVR regarding rowing shells. The exceptions are, nonetheless, regulations, and must be adhered to. The following are the SVR applicable to safety boats and rowing shells.

Transport Canada's Shipping Act

The following are excerpts taken directly from Transport Canada's Shipping Act: Small Vessel Regulations.

Personal Life-Saving Appliances

10. (1) A personal flotation device or lifejacket that is required by these regulations, if it is of an inflatable type, shall be worn by a person in an open vessel, or if the vessel is not open, shall be worn when the person is on deck or in the cockpit.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to a sealed-hull rowing shell engaged in training that is governed by safety guidelines and procedures established by the governing body.

Part 2 Safety Equipment for Pleasure Craft

Sub-Part 1 Pleasure Craft Other than Human-Powered Pleasure Craft

204. A pleasure craft shall carry on board:

- (a) a personal flotation device or lifejacket of an appropriate size for each person on board;
- (b) a reboarding device, unless the vertical height that must be climbed in order to reboard the pleasure craft is not more than 0.5m; and

For the length of the pleasure craft set out in column 1 of the table to this section, the additional personal life-saving appliances set out in column 2.

	Column 1	Column 2
Item	Length	Additional personal Life-Saving Appliances
1	Not more than 6m	A buoyant heaving line of not less than 15m in length

205. A pleasure craft of a length set out in column 1 of the table to this section shall carry on board the visual signals set out in column 2.

	Column 1	Column 2
Item	Length	Visual Signals
1	Not more than 6m	(a) A watertight flashlight; or (b) Three pyrotechnic distress signals, not more than one of which is a smoke signal

Part 2 Safety Equipment for Pleasure Craft

Sub-Part 5 Exceptions for Human Powered Pleasure Craft

Rowing Shells

222. (1) A rowing shell that is competing in a provincially, nationally, or internationally sanctioned regatta or competition or engaged in training at the venue at which the regatta or competition is taking place, is not required to carry on board the safety equipment required by this Part.
- (2) A rowing shell that is engaged in activities governed by safety guidelines and procedures established by the governing body is not required to carry on board the safety equipment required by this Part if it is attended by a safety craft that is carrying on board a personal flotation device or lifejacket of appropriate size:
- (a) for each person on board the rowing shell, if the safety craft is attending only one rowing shell; or
 - (b) for each person on board the rowing shell with the most persons on board, if the safety craft is attending more than one rowing shell.
- (3) However, if the rowing shell is not attended by a safety craft, it is required to carry on board only the following safety equipment:
- (a) a personal flotation device or lifejacket of an appropriate size for each person on board;
 - (b) a sound-signaling device; and
 - (c) a watertight flashlight, if the canoe or kayak [rowing shell] is operated after sunset or before sunrise or in periods of restricted visibility.

RCA Explanatory Notes

Regarding Transport Canada’s exceptions for PFD’s:

- A crew training without a safety craft has to carry on board a PFD for each rower and coxswain;
- If the PFD’s being carried on board are an inflatable type, they do not have to be worn as rowing is exempt from the requirement that inflatable PFD’s be worn;
- If, however, members are less than 16 years of age, the PFD’s being carried must be inherently buoyant i.e., not an inflatable type.

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