



Personal Flotation Device (PFD) Requirements for Members 2021 On-Water Season

What is new about ERC PFD requirements for the 2021 on-water season?

On September 20, 2020, the ERC Board of Directors passed a policy in regard to personal flotation devices. This policy requires all club members to have a PFD in the boat with them at all times.

The most recent version of this policy can be found on our website's [Members Portal](#).

Why is this change important?

Did you know? Transport Canada regulations state that rowing shells are exempt from carrying PFDs, when they are accompanied by a safety boat that is carrying enough for the largest crew on the water.

However, due to the curves in the river affecting sight lines, and the tendency for rowers to spread out over the river during practices, the implementation of this policy increases the safety for all ERC rowers and ensures the club is compliant with Transport Canada regulations at all times.

Do I have to buy my own PFD?

Those 16 years of age and older have the option to either rent or buy a [Mustang Minimalist Inflatable Belt](#) (colour: Azure Blue) from the ERC. You are not required to purchase your PFD through the club, but you are required to have a PFD in the boat with you at all times.

Rentals: \$50.00 for the 2021 on-water season

Purchase through the ERC: \$115.00 (typical retail price is ~\$150.00)

How does this policy affect U16 rowers?

If rowers are less than 16 years of age and/or weigh less than 36 kilograms (80 pounds), they must carry an inherently buoyant PFD (think lifejacket) and *not* an inflatable PFD.

You can bring your own inherently buoyant PFD, but if you do not own one the ERC will provide you one on a per session basis. PFDs will be disinfected in between sessions per COVID-19 protocols.

How do I rent or buy my PFD from the ERC?

Please fill out [THIS](#) Google Form. Once the PFDs arrive you will receive an invoice from the ERC, and the Club Manager will contact you to arrange pick up.

Is this a fundraiser for the ERC?

The club is not profiting from PFD sales and we are only able to offer this discounted price to members due to the quantity purchased from the supplier.

Who should I contact if I have questions about the ERC's PFD requirements?

Should you have any questions, please email Jess Phillips at clubmanager@edmontonrowing.ca.