



Personal Flotation Device (PFD) Requirements for Program Participants

What is new about ERC PFD requirements for 2021?

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

The most recent version of this policy can be found at edmontonrowing.ca.

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?

No. For the duration of your program the ERC will lend you a PFD.

If you choose to become a member upon completing your program, those 16+ years of age and/or who weigh heavier than 36 kilograms (80 pounds) 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.

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.