

Royal Chester Rowing Club

Procedure for Rowing in the Dark

(For the purpose of this procedure 'in the dark' or 'after dark' means during the period between sunset and sunrise.)

1. No boats may row or continue to row after dark without the advance permission of the Captain. This permission will not be given to coxless boats, scullers or beginners except only that the Committee may, at the request of the Captain, give permission for a specific crew of named experienced rowers to take a coxless boat out after dark if they are accompanied by a launch dedicated to that particular coxless boat.
2. The Water Safety Adviser will post the times of sunrise and sunset on a notice board.
3. No J16 or younger Junior may row after dark. J17 or J18 Juniors may only row after dark as members of a crew in which the majority of rowers are Seniors.
4. Only experienced coxes authorised by the Committee may take boats out after dark; no J16 coxes (or younger coxes) may do so.
5. Immediately before boating after dark the lights on the boat must be checked to ensure that they are working correctly.
6. The coach has an underlying responsibility for the safety of the outing and he/she, together with the captain, will take the decision as to whether it is safe to row after dark on any particular occasion. In calm conditions, a safety launch should sweep the intended rowing area to look for and remove any floating objects that may present a hazard.
7. After dark, not more than two boats may be on the water at the same time and each boat must be accompanied by a safety launch crewed by an authorised driver.
8. After dark all boats must display white lights visible through 360 degrees. Rowing boats will have two lights, one on the bow canvas and one on the stern, and launches will have one light on the bow and red lights on the rear
9. All crew members and coxes boating after dark should wear high visibility waistcoats over their rowing kit.
10. The circulation pattern must be strictly adhered to.
11. After dark safety launches must carry a powerful torch in addition to the standard safety equipment and mobile phones pre-programmed (speed dial) with the Club telephone number and the number of any other launch driver.
12. While boats are on the water after dark an experienced person must remain at the boathouse as a contact in case of emergency.