



Geelong Rowing Association (Inc)  
Established 1875

## Rowing Traffic Rules – Training Barwon River, Geelong Non-regatta days

### When do these rules apply?

1. These rules apply to the section of the Barwon River between the Queens Park Bridge and the end of the rowing zone as defined by the “Rowing Zone / Power Boat Zone” signs on either side of the river adjacent to Landy Field. (Refer Melways 451 D4 – Queens Park Bridge and 452 B9 – Landy Field)
2. These rules apply for all days other than regatta days, including days prior to regatta days when lane buoys are installed in readiness for regattas. On such days crews are to use the buoyed lanes as follows:
  - Lane 1 (closest to north bank/rowing clubs side) - Slow moving / stopping crews moving upstream.
  - Lane 2: - Continuous rowing moving upstream.
  - Lane 3: - Continuous rowing moving downstream.
  - Lane 4: - Continuous rowing moving downstream.
  - Rowing transit lane: - slow moving/stopping crews moving downstream.

*Note: At the Head of the Schoolgirls Regatta (Friday to Sunday) and preceding State Schools Championships (Thursday), all days from Thursday to Sunday are designated Regatta days. Regatta Rules apply on those days.*
3. Alternate rules apply for regatta days – please refer to ‘**Traffic Rules – Racing**’ on the Rowing Geelong website – [www.rowinggeelong.asn.au](http://www.rowinggeelong.asn.au), and the display of the rules at Barwon River boat sheds and at regattas.

### Rowing boats in training

4. Boats will be launched and landed facing upstream.
5. Boats will travel upstream as close as practicable to the **north** bank. (Rowing sheds side).
6. Boats will travel downstream as close as practicable to the **south** bank.

7. Between the Moorabool St (also known as Barwon Bridge) and the 1500m race start line, no crews/scullers are to travel more than three (3) abreast downstream, and two (2) abreast upstream.
8. Between the 1500m start line and the Shannon Ave bridge, no crews/scullers are to travel more than two (2) abreast downstream and single file upstream.
9. Upstream of the Shannon Ave bridge, crews/scullers must only travel in single file, when rowing both downstream and upstream. Overtaking is permitted where safe to do so.
10. Crews/scullers are not to proceed upstream of the Queens Park Bridge.
11. Downstream of the Moorabool St Bridge, crews/scullers are to be single file when rowing both downstream and upstream.
12. Crews proceeding downstream are to turn as close as practicable to the '**Rowing Zone / Power Boat Zone**' signs on either side of the river adjacent to Landy Field and are to come into the landing facing upstream.
13. Crews rowing upstream are to use the north arch of the Moorabool St bridge only.
14. Crews/scullers working downstream shall have right of way.

*Note: Slow moving or stationary crews/sculler, should remember that coxless boats may not be aware of another crew/sculler in their path and that early, loud and clear verbal warnings to the coxless boat that there another crew/sculler in their path, may avoid a collision.*

15. Slow moving or stationary crews/scullers must keep close to the bank and move out of the path of faster moving crews/scullers.
16. Crews/scullers that are turning shall give way to all other crews/scullers and turn only when it is safe to do so. (In the event of an accident involving a turning crew, the turning crew shall be held responsible in normal circumstances.
17. Crews/scullers are not to row in the ski boat access lane that is defined by the line of yellow and white buoys commencing from the west side of the ski boat ramp and extending east to the '**Rowing Zone / Power Boat Zone**' signs at/near Landy Field.
18. Crews/scullers must not proceed downstream beyond the '**Rowing Zone / Power Boat Zone**' signs at/near Landy Field.
19. All crews must have a bow and stern light between sunset and sunrise as per Rowing Victoria and Marine Safety Victoria guidelines.

*Note: At the time of preparation of these rules the required lighting is as follows:*

**Bow light:** Still white light attached to the boat bow ball.

**Stern light:** Flashing white light attached to the stern area of the boat.

Lights are not to be attached to the head or body of rowers.

20. Crews are not to row at full speed downstream of the Moorabool St Bridge through to Landy Field (ie: past the rowing clubs reserve).

21. At all times, crews are responsible for their own safety and that of those around them, even when doing set pieces of work in the correct lane. (Crews should never assume that other crews will 'do the right thing' and abide by the rules).
22. Crews/scullers are to boat/deboat from any landing as quickly as practicable. Boats are not to be left in the water any longer than is required for crews to boat/de-boat. Crews/scullers should attend to items such as filling of water bottles, sunscreen application, coach's briefing/debriefing etc, with their boat on the rack.
23. No crew or sculler shall train on the Barwon River during a regatta unless specific permission is granted by the Regatta Referee.
24. Crews/scullers must be off the river by midday on Sundays. (Power Boats have use of the River including the 'rowing mile' from midday on Sundays).

## Coaching Boats.

25. Coaching boats are not to be used upstream of the Shannon Ave bridge before 7.00am Monday to Friday and before 9.00am on weekends/public holidays.
26. Clubs and schools may have up to two coaching boats on the water at any one time.
27. Coaching boats must operate such that they create minimal disturbance to other river users. (*Common courtesy must be shown to other river users by the operators/drivers of coaching boats.*)
28. Any coaching boat being used on the Barwon River is deemed to be a safety boat for any crew/sculler using the river, regardless if that crew/sculler is not from the club/school for which the coaching boat is being used. Priority shall be given to a crew/sculler in distress by any coaching boat on the river at the time.
29. No coaching boats are to be used during regattas.
30. Coaching boats are not permitted to 'idle' through a regatta, unless specific permission is granted by the regatta referee.
31. Operators of motorised coaching boats are not permitted to 'ram' boats onto the rowing landing under power.

## Megaphones and amplified in-boat speaker systems.

***It is the serious responsibility of all crews and coaches to be aware of and to abide by the following use times. Megaphone use is the cause of most community complaints relating to rowing on the Barwon River.***

### ***Megaphones***

32. Megaphones are not to be used at any point on the river (upstream and downstream of Shannon Avenue Bridge) before the following times
  - Monday to Friday 7am
  - Saturday, Sunday, Public Holidays 9am

### ***In-boat speaker systems***

33. In-boat speaker systems are not to be used upstream of Shannon Avenue Bridge before the following times

- Monday to Friday 7am
- Saturday, Sunday, Public Holidays 9am

34. The use of in-boat speaker systems downstream of Shannon Avenue Bridge is not restricted.

35. Notes relating to megaphone and in-boat speaker systems

*The above times are rules are based on common sense, and accord with **Section 13 Public Address Systems in EPA Noise Control Guidelines.** (EPA Publication 1254 October 2008)<sup>1</sup>.*

*Common sense must be used as the Barwon River passes through residential areas, particularly upstream of the Shannon Ave Bridge (aka Prince's Bridge).*

*The following are the key elements of Section 13 and the guidelines explanation that best relate to rowing on the Barwon River:*

- Noise is regarded as '*automatically unreasonable*' if certain items are audible inside a neighbouring residence during the prohibited times.
- Megaphones and in-boat speaker systems most closely categorised as public address systems that are '*low-power units needed for control of persons engaged in the activities or events*'.
- Amplifier level settings must be minimised while ensuring that the intended audience/participants are able to hear.
- Noise from PA systems must not be audible inside a residential dwelling during normal sleeping hours.
- The megaphone/system must only be used to control the specific boat/rowing activity. They are not to be used for giving commentaries, advertising or playing music.
- Megaphone speakers should be small, low-power horn units no more than 20 cm across the horn opening and operated by an amplifier of no more than 30 watts.
- A sound level limiting circuit is to be incorporated in the amplifier to control the signal amplitude, regardless of the loudness of the operator's voice.
- Consideration should be given to substitution of sound systems by natural voice where doubt exists over use.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/your-environment/noise/residential-noise/prohibited-times-for-residential-noise>

## **Addendums**

- Alternate rules apply for regatta days – please refer to ‘**Traffic Rules – Racing**’ on the Rowing Geelong website – [www.rowinggeelong.asn.au](http://www.rowinggeelong.asn.au), and the display of the rules at Barwon River boat sheds and at regattas.
- The Barwon River may be closed periodically for non-rowing events such as canoeing or water-skiing; The closure schedule is posted on the Rowing Geelong website – [www.rowinggeelong.asn.au](http://www.rowinggeelong.asn.au)
- The Barwon River Use Schedule is also on notice boards in local club/school boat sheds and on external notice board located in the boat shed area adjacent to the car park between the Jeff Sykes Rowing Centre Rowing and the Corio Bay Rowing Club.

\_\_\_\_\_ **END.** \_\_\_\_\_