



Poole Gig Rowing Club cox information



Poole Bridges

Significance of Signals:

- 1 A red signal conveys the prohibition that vessels must not proceed beyond the signal.
- 2 A flashing red signal indicates a serious emergency and conveys the prohibition that vessels must not proceed beyond the signal.
- 3 A green signal indicates that vessels may proceed beyond the signal.
- 4 A red-with-yellow signal indicates that vessels may proceed with caution beyond the signal.

Call Sign “Poole Bridge” – VHF Channel 12

Harbour Byelaws

Byelaws are essential for the safe management of the Harbour and its users. While it is the Harbour Commissioners’ policy to educate, it is unfortunate that prosecution action in the courts is necessary for those who refuse to behave in a responsible manner. These are the important byelaws which affect recreational users:

- 1 All vessels shall conform to the orders and directions of the Harbour Master.
- 2 Every vessel shall be navigated with care and caution and at such speed and in such manner as not to endanger the lives or cause injury or be a nuisance to persons or endanger the safety of or cause damage to other vessels, moorings, buoys, beacons or other property.
- 3 Vessels shall not be navigated at a speed exceeding 10 knots through the water.
- 4 Vessels shall not be navigated at speed exceeding 6 knots in the Little Channel, between the Quays and in Holes Bay.
- 5 No person shall engage in board sailing within the Middle Ship Channel or within the Haven Channel without the Harbour Master’s written consent. Persons intending to cross these channels shall do so by the shortest possible route and so as not cause an obstruction to other vessels navigating in the channel.
- 6 Persons or vessels engaged in fishing with nets, lines, or trawls shall not obstruct with their vessels or gear any channel used by vessels.
- 7 Vessels may not wilfully be permitted to drift in a fairway for the purpose of fishing or any other purpose.
- 8 No person shall engage in water skiing, ascending by towed kite or parachute, or use a jet ski or hovercraft except with the written permission of the Harbour Master.

Chain Ferry Byelaw

Priority between chain ferry and other vessels. All vessels navigating in the Harbour, which are not subject to compulsory pilotage **shall** give way to the chain ferry.

VHF Radio

If you have a marine radio on your vessel, maintain a listening watch on Channel 16 outside the Harbour area, but remember this is a calling and distress frequency. It is not a conversational channel and except in an emergency, you must switch to another channel when contact has been made. In the Swash Channel and inside the Harbour it is advisable to maintain a listening watch on Channel 14 which is the Harbour operations channel. You should not communicate on this channel unless it is necessary for safety reasons, but you will be able to follow and anticipate the movements of other shipping.

All harbour patrol launches, Harbour Control, Sandbanks Chain Ferry and the Dorset Marine Police keep watch on Channel 14.

Training will be given on the techniques for using the radio and the correct wording to be used should it be necessary to call for assistance.



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When any boat is placed on the water and before embarkation, it should be checked to ensure that it is in a safe condition and that its moving parts are in working order

- Check for leaks.
- Check seals and bungs.
- Check seats and stretchers for security.
- Check rudder lines, steering mechanism and rudder to ensure that everything is secure and in good working order.
- Check oars and pins for damage.

To maintain equipment in a sound and usable condition requires those organising rowing to establish procedures whereby damage to equipment is notified to responsible officials without delay and the damage repaired before the equipment is used again. Damaged equipment should be marked or “quarantined” to ensure that it is not used by others unaware of the damage.

Responsibility of the Cox:

All persons steering a boat are responsible for the crew in their charge, only people who have had suitable and sufficient training and who have been approved by the Club’s Committee are to act as coxswains. Coxswains should comply with the following:

1. Every coxswain shall be able to swim and to demonstrate that ability when called upon by the Safety Officer, alternatively they are to wear lifejackets when afloat.
2. All coxswains must wear a life jacket or buoyancy aid of approved design at all times when on the water whilst wearing bulky clothing irrespective of their ability to swim.
3. All coxswains shall be in good health with adequate vision and sound hearing. No-one who is subject to epileptic fits or blackouts shall steer a boat. In cases of doubt, medical advice should be obtained.
4. Dress suitable for the prevailing conditions must be worn. Particular care should be taken to ensure warmth around the head, neck and lower back, wrists and ankles and the clothing should be water and windproof. Water resistant outer gloves are recommended but bulky and heavy clothing and “Wellington” type boots should be avoided.
5. Be aware of the dangers and symptoms of Hypothermia.
6. Voice projection and radio communication equipment when carried in the boat must be securely fixed to the boat, not the coxswain.

Steering a boat in training or in a race is a highly responsible role. The coxswain is responsible for the actions of the boat being steered. Commands have to be given and discipline exerted. The following represents the knowledge that the coxswain must develop:

1. Learn and use simple commands for boat control both on and off the water. Use them correctly, clearly and instinctively. Understand the basic commands and signals of other water users.
2. Understand and carry out all safety procedures and regulations applicable to the water they use, especially those relating to right of way, power boats, sailing craft etc.
3. Understand and observe local navigation rules of the water.
4. On unfamiliar water, become acquainted with local regulations and practices and of the existence, nature and location of particular hazards before going afloat.
5. Be conversant with safety and rescue procedures in the case of an accident.
6. Recognise and respect the rights and needs of other water users.
7. Watch out for swimmers at all times.
8. Watch out for the unexpected floating objects.
9. Ensure that crews are using safe rowing equipment.
10. Be aware of weather and water conditions and arrange the outing to avoid any danger.



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11. Coxswains of young children shall ensure that the whole crew is dressed suitably. Youngsters are unlikely to be able to generate a high level of body warmth during their first outings and need more protection.
12. When crews are rowing away from home water, the coxswain shall ascertain the local code of practice and, at regattas, any special traffic rules to be observed, and ensure crews fully understand them.
13. Every coxswain shall be encouraged to learn life-saving and resuscitation procedures.
14. Coxswains or coaches of beginners and especially of crews of young children have an extra responsibility. Those who are new to the sport are likely to concentrate on their own rowing to the exclusion of all else, and are thus likely not to be aware of approaching danger. Beginners must never be allowed on the water unsupervised.
15. Novice coxswains shall be trained at sea only by senior coxswains and with regards to weather conditions.

All active rowers shall:

Rowing is a physically demanding sport and participants must be in good health, if in doubt they should check with their doctor before starting to row. All new rowers should sign a medical declaration on first joining the Club. Lifejackets are to be worn by non-swimmers and those under 16 years of age.

1. Comply with the Association's Health & Safety Guidelines.
2. Maintain their rowing equipment in good order and check that it is in a safe condition before use.
3. Ensure that beginners to the sport are not allowed to use equipment without adequate and prior instruction and are not allowed to boat unsupervised.
4. Be constantly aware of the rights of others to the free use of the water and extend to them at all times the courtesy they would similarly wish to receive. It is recommended that active members should learn and practice accident drills. Every opportunity should be taken to learn simple first aid, lifesaving and resuscitation techniques.



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