

Club Purpose

The Greater Dayton Rowing Association was formed to further the sport of rowing as an athletic and recreational activity to all interested persons in the Dayton community. The Association promotes the sport's numerous health and physical development benefits while encouraging the tenets and spirit of sportsmanship.

Club Organization

The GDRA is able to operate thanks to the volunteer efforts of its members. All the members pitch in on the many programs and projects that make rowing possible, ranging from dock building to boat maintenance to picking up litter. If you see something that needs doing, then you may be the best person to do it!

We are led by a volunteer Board of Trustees, who are elected by the membership at the annual meeting. The Trustees then appoint Officers and Committee Chairmen to handle specific responsibilities.

In order to make rowing in Dayton possible and to keep our fees low, we ask all of our members to contribute a minimum of 10 hours of official volunteer time every year. Renewing members who put in their volunteer time the previous year are eligible for a substantial discount on their membership fees.

Membership

Adult Members

Age 25 and over. Adult membership covers the use of club boats and oars for both local training and for away regattas. Adult members have voting privileges and a volunteer requirement.

Young Adult Members

Age 18-24 after graduating from high school. Young Adult membership is exactly the same as Adult membership, with voting privileges and a volunteer requirement, but is offered at a reduced fee.

Supporting Members

For inactive rowers or non-rowers who want to support the club and stay in touch. No volunteer requirement. You can still come down and row three times a year, before you are considered "active" again. If you become active, then pay the difference to switch to the appropriate Adult membership.

Junior Members

Age 14-18 high school students, including the summer after graduation. Juniors are non-voting, associate members of GDRA. Juniors must be supervised by a coach or other qualified adult member when using club facilities or equipment.

Special Membership

Special memberships can be set up by the Trustees on a case-by-case basis. These are rare and intended to cover unique circumstances, such as a non-rowing member who puts in large amounts of volunteer time to support the club.

Boat Storage

All privately owned boats in the GDRA bays pay storage fees. The boat owner must fill out and sign a Boat Storage Agreement. The Boathouse Manager assigns storage space.

Reduced Fees for Late Season

Memberships and storage fees run from Jan 1 – Dec 31. Reduced membership fees for new members are based on when they first start using club equipment and facilities. Reduced boat storage fees are based upon when the boat first appeared at the boathouse.

- After August 1, pay 75 % of the annual fees.

Learn-To-Row Program

On the water coaching for persons with or without prior rowing experience. Fee covers coaching and equipment during the coached sessions only. GDRA membership is not required.

Everyone Must Sign Waiver

Anyone using our equipment, whether a member of GDRA or not, must sign a USRowing Waiver Form prior to their first row of the year.

Boat Sign Out

All club and private boats must be signed out using the GDRA Sign Out Log. Junior coaches should sign out the boats for their crews. Learn-To-Row students should sign out their boats themselves.

Rowing Performance Shells

Captain's Test for Scullers

The club's Adult Rowing Program shells are designated as either "Recreational" or "Performance". The Performance shells are the more delicate and expensive boats. You must pass the Captain's Test prior to going out in a Performance shell. **For Performance doubles and quads, everyone in the boat must have passed the Captain's Test, unless an older shell has been specifically exempted and it is so posted in the boathouse.**

New scullers are required to row 100 miles (161 km) in a single before taking the Captain's Test. The emphasis here is on demonstrating that you can handle these fragile boats without risk of damage. You will also be quizzed on safety procedures.

Reserving Club Boats

Reserving Boats to Use in Dayton

Club boats can be reserved via the Reservation Book in the boathouse. When you reserve equipment, you are expected to show up and row it (weather permitting). We have a finite number of boats, and typically only a few hours of free time a day to use them.

- **If you are more than 15 minutes late, then you lose your reservation.**
- If you repeatedly fail to show up for boats that you have reserved, then you may lose your right to reserve boats.

Requesting Club Boats for Use at a Regatta

To request a club boat for use at a regatta, sign up on the Regatta Scheduling Sheet in the boathouse. Also block out the time the boat will be away in the Reservation Book. Please sign up as early as possible, so that we have time to resolve schedule conflicts when they arise. Do not hesitate to sign up just because there is already a request in for the boat. We will try to work something out.

Rerig Boat after Regatta

When you row a boat at an out of town regatta, you should rerig that boat immediately upon its return to the boathouse.

Regatta Scheduling Conflicts

The GDRA wants to encourage club members to race. There will be occasional scheduling conflicts. This is inevitable at any active, growing rowing club. If a scheduling conflict cannot be worked out between the rowers, then it will be resolved by the GDRA Trustees. Schedule conflicts will **not** be resolved solely by "first dibs". Typical factors that may be considered when resolving scheduling conflicts, include, by way of example and not limitation:

1. Does the entire crew consist of paid GDRA members?
2. How long have they been preparing for this event?
3. What other regattas have they raced at this year?
4. What other regattas can they race at this year?
5. What is the level of competition at the event?
6. What contributions have the rowers made to the club over the past year? (volunteer hours, coaching, etc).

The goal is to get as many people racing as possible, to be fair in resolving conflicts and to promote the long-term growth of the GDRA. There may be times when these goals conflict with one another, but we will strive to balance them as much as possible. The Trustees have ultimate authority to confirm or deny access to equipment.

Guest Rowing

Intro Guests

Adult Members may extend limited introductory rowing privileges to a non-member up to three times. Only entry level recreational equipment may be used, specifically the Aldens, Zephyrs and Julian. The guest's name must be printed in the GDRA Sign Out Log, along with the name of the Adult GDRA member who is present. The entry should be marked as "GUEST". The guest must sign a USRowing Waiver Form prior to their first row.

Intro Guest privileges are intended to allow our members to informally introduce new people to rowing. After the third row, guests are asked to join the club or enroll in a Learn-To-Row class before continuing to use our equipment and facilities. **Experienced rowers and members of other rowing clubs do not qualify as Intro Guests.**

Private Guests

Non-members who row a member's privately owned boat are called "Private Guests". Adult members may host a Private Guest up to three times a year. The guest's name must be clearly printed in the GDRA Sign Out Log, along with the name of the Adult GDRA member hosting them. The entry should be clearly marked as "Private Guest" in the comment column. The guest must sign a USRowing Waiver Form prior to their first row. Private Guests should not be given the combination to the boathouse without prior approval by the Trustees or Boathouse Manager.

Private Guest privileges are intended to allow private boat owners to lend their boat out on an occasional basis, such as when a friend visits from out of town. They are not to be used as an ongoing method of avoiding membership dues. Anyone who is regularly rowing out of the GDRA bays is expected to join the club.

Special Guests

The Trustees may extend temporary rowing privileges to non-members on a special case basis. This is primarily envisioned for experienced rowers visiting from out of town. If the guest will be making heavy use of GDRA equipment, then compensation may be required in the same manner that it is required of composite crew rowers. Special guests must sign in the GDRA Sign Out Log and they must sign a USRowing Waiver Form prior to their first row.

Composite Crews

GDRA highly values the racing success of our competitive members. Combined with a desire to provide an environment conducive for all of our members to excel, GDRA regulates the use of club-owned equipment to ensure its longevity and availability. This is particularly relevant in the case of composite-crew rowing (i.e. non-members rowing in GDRA owned boats).

Rowing With Members of Other Clubs

GDRA prefers that your daily training/racing partner(s) join our club, particularly where no comparable equipment is being offered for your use by their club. If no formalized equipment sharing arrangement exists with the other club, your composite crewmate(s) are required to pay GDRA \$50 (rental fee) per week per non-member up to the maximum of \$225 per non-member.

GDRA is not interested in forcing anyone to join our club. However, we are interested in ensuring the longevity and availability of our equipment for use by our paid members. We expect compensation for use of our equipment, whether it be dues or rental income.

Training or racing in GDRA equipment by non-members must be coordinated with the GDRA Trustees. It is the responsibility of the GDRA member(s) involved to sort out the details with the Trustees. The Trustees have the responsibility of determining which equipment you may or may not use when training and competing.

Note: A crew composed 100% of paid GDRA members will always take precedence over any composite crew. Despite rental fees paid, composite crew usage is therefore considered "non-proprietary" for both training and racing.

Competing under the Name GDRA

Whenever possible, a GDRA member should compete under the name "Greater Dayton Rowing Association" or "GDRA".

When competing in boats that are owned by GDRA, members are required to compete under GDRA's name. When competing in boats that are not owned by GDRA, members are encouraged, but not required, to race under GDRA's name.

A composite crew entry should embody the name of each club being represented. Crewmembers from other clubs are encouraged to include the name of their respective clubs, thereby showing the multi-club composition of the crew. In some cases, it may be more practical and necessary to enter regattas under a generic name such as "Rowers of Dayton".

Privately Owned Boats

Privately owned boats are found on racks marked with the owner's name or slung from the ceiling. Private oars should be clearly marked with the owners name or initials. Owners of private shells must fill out and sign a Boat Storage Agreement. Owners are responsible for their own insurance on their boats. GDRA insurance does not apply.

As demand for rack space increases, GDRA may rightfully reassign boat storage. Rack space is rented, not sold.

If you want a boat storage spot, please contact the Boathouse Manager. If there is a waiting list for boat storage, then the GDRA Trustees may assign priorities other than first come-first served.

Equipment Damage and Repairs

No matter how careful we are, accidents involving expensive equipment occur occasionally, particularly if you are an active rower who logs several hundred miles a year.

All damage to, or loss of, club owned rowing equipment must be noted in the GDRA Sign Out Log and must be reported within 24 hours of the incident to the Boathouse Manager, Club Coach or any Trustee. If the usability of the equipment has been compromised, then a note should be placed on the damaged equipment.

GDRA carries insurance to cover damage to GDRA owned rowing equipment, but there is a deductible that must be met. Loss of fins, broken footstretches & shoes, broken oarlocks, broken steering systems, and small chips will usually be handled as a club expense via the equipment repair budget. Unfortunately, large holes, cracks, scratches, broken rigging, oars, etc. are first and foremost the responsibility of the member who caused them. Depending on circumstances (negligence), you may or may not be responsible for the deductible that applies. The degree of that responsibility will be determined by the Trustees.

Keep in mind that rowing at GDRA is a privilege, and not a right. The penalty for not reporting damage to equipment could be expulsion. GDRA is your club. The equipment is your equipment. Treat it as such by reporting all damage immediately after it occurs.

All damage caused to privately owned equipment should be reported immediately to the owner. Please accept responsibility for damage you may have caused.

Boathouse Lockers

Lockers are available for either long-term or day-use. Long-term assignments are made by the Boathouse Manager. Assigned lockers must have the occupants' names affixed to them. Unassigned lockers may be used by any member to secure belongings during their row (day-use). Simply bring your own lock and remove it afterward.

Equipment Care & Handling

Rowing Equipment

You should become familiar with the proper care and handling of all equipment. Please follow these guidelines:

1. If you row it, then you should wash it. Saturdays are designated boat washing day for club boats. If you use a club boat on Saturday, then wash it down with soap and water afterward. On other days, you should at least wipe down the boat following your row.
2. Extreme care and caution should be maintained when removing shells and returning them to their racks. Your shell must **never** touch another shell. It is especially easy for your oarlocks to damage the hull beneath yours.
3. Shells must be lifted and not slid across the rack on which they sit. Sliding will weaken and eventually crack the shell's gunwales.
4. At dock's edge, shells must be rolled carefully toward the water and then placed lightly on the water without brushing or touching the edge of the dock. Be aware of the fin's position and its angle to the dock - keep it clear.
5. Position the shell toward the rear of the rack; this is a safer location and also makes it easier to reach other shells on the same rack.

GDRA Personal Safety Guidelines

1. Dangerously high water occurs several times every year on our river. The river may look deceptively calm, but the fast current can sweep you over the dam. A color coded height stick at the dock indicates the height of the water. There is no rowing in GDRA owned boats when the river is in the "red zone". There is no novice rowing in GDRA owned boats when in the "yellow zone".
2. For safety, all novice members should abide by the "Rule of Four Oars". This means that four oars must be present before your workout can commence. That is, two singles or two pairs must go out together and maintain sight of each other during the row. Or row in a double, quad, four or eight. Experienced rowers are encouraged to adhere to the Rule of Four Oars in colder weather.
3. Cold water is a danger in the winter and early spring. Use caution when the water temperature is below 50F. As a rough guide, stick your hand in the water for a full minute. Then think about your whole body being in the water for the several minutes it might take to reach shore.
4. During days of high water, high wind and/or cold, rowers should use common sense and scrap their row if conditions are questionable. **WHEN IN DOUBT, ALWAYS FAVOR SAFETY OVER A RISKY WORKOUT.**
5. Do not row in an electrical storm. If caught on the water when a storm arises, immediately head for shore. Take the boat ashore, and wait for the storm to pass.
6. A sculler who flips should stay with his/her shell and swim it to shore, using the boat and oars for flotation. When the water temperature is below 50 degrees, it is especially important to get to shore safely and quickly.
7. All rowers must be good swimmers, able to swim 100 yards while using their shell for flotation. Rowers must be in good physical condition, with no known physical or mental impediment to safe participation in the sport.

Island Park Rowing Rules

All GDRA members and program participants are expected to know and abide by the Island Park Rowing Rules.