

Willamette Rowing Club

House Rules (2025)

No change in the House Rules shall be in effect until the Secretary posts a copy of such change at the clubhouse or on our website, www.willametterowingclub.org.

A. MEMBERSHIP, DUES, & FEES

1. Willamette Rowing Club (“WRC” or “the Club”) is a competitive masters club that participates in competitions and provides coaching to improve member skills. WRC does not provide a learn-to-row program. The men’s and women’s captains and the head coach will assess a rower’s proficiency before admitting a prospective member to the Club. The head coach will communicate the decision to the Treasurer and the Chair of the Membership Committee.
2. Elections for the Club Board are held annually in January.
3. The Club Secretary will post on FitClub and on the Club’s website the names and contact information of board members, committee chairs, and club staff yearly after the first meeting of the new Board and modify as needed throughout the year.
4. The current minutes of each Board meeting shall be available to all members and are posted on the club website. The board meets at least twice a year. Members are free to attend except when the Board calls a closed session.
5. The annual dues for Regular Membership shall be \$800. Regular members have voting rights.
 1. Regular members who pay full dues may bring in one additional family member at a discounted rate of \$600. Both members will have voting rights.
 2. The annual dues for rowers under age 27 shall be \$400. These members have voting rights.
 3. The Student Membership rate is \$400 per year and applies to full-time students for a maximum of 3 years. Student members have voting rights.
 4. Boat master has Membership dues reduced by 50%.
 5. Captains have Membership dues reduced by 50%.
6. The Trial membership rate is \$100 per month for a minimum of 3 months. Trial memberships are available to new members only. The Summer Collegiate membership rate is \$150 for three months. Trial and Summer Collegiate membership do not confer voting rights.
7. The annual dues for Associate Members shall be \$400. Associate Members practice only occasionally with the club (no more than approximately 24 days per year) and generally row in no more than two regattas a year. Associate Members have no voting rights.

8. No member whose dues or regatta fees are in arrears may race or practice with the Club or vote at meetings.

9. The Club marks regatta fees up by 15%; this revenue supports equipment repairs and purchases.

10. Dues for new members shall be prorated for the remaining portion of the calendar year. Dues are payable within 30 days of invoicing, or arrangements made for a payment plan. All members must complete a membership application and WRC waiver. They will receive a copy of the WRC By-Laws, House Rules, Safety Policy, and Athlete Protection Policy. Each new member will be assigned a buddy by the Chair of the Membership Committee. This buddy will orient the new member to the boathouse and its equipment, answer any questions, and familiarize the new member with the WRC House Rules and Safety Policy

C. NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Club will not discriminate against any person regarding application for membership, election to office within the Club, or any activity under the control of or sponsored by the Club, on account of race, gender, religion, national origin, age, disability, or sexual orientation.

D. USE OF BOATHOUSE AND PROPERTY

1. The use of the Club equipment is the exclusive privilege of members in good standing (i.e., who are not in arrears on their payments) and their guests.

a. Guests must sign a liability waiver before rowing; extra waivers are available near the Treasurer's mailbox on the river-side of the boathouse near the main door.

2. Club equipment shall not be used when receiving private coaching. Specifically: any WRC member being coached while using WRC equipment (e.g., boats, oars, electronics, or launches, among other equipment) shall only be coached by hired WRC coaches.

a. The Board by a majority may in advance approve short-term (less than 4 sessions per calendar year) coaching by WRC members, who volunteer to fill in for a needed day's coaching.

b. The Board by a majority may approve in advance short-term (less than four sessions per calendar year) coaching by visiting out-of-town coaches who may have some specific benefit to offer WRC.

c. In case of a or b above, it is specifically understood that such coaching is on a volunteer, pro tem, unpaid, short-term basis as described above, and this does not constitute "hiring" by WRC.

3. During times scheduled for coached practices, members participating in the coached practice session will have priority use of Club equipment.

4. Member privileges to the boathouse, equipment and dock are without limit, provided that Members give priority to Oregon Rowing Unlimited members and coaches during regularly scheduled ORU junior and master training sessions. Members rowing Club equipment outside regularly scheduled practice times will sign the Club shell out and back in using the Club log book. See item E19 regarding liability for equipment damaged during independent use.

5. The storage of privately owned rowing shells shall be arranged with our lessor, Oaks Park Community Boathouse (OPCB).

6. Members are entitled to the combination lock codes to the boathouse, the port-a-potty, and the gate leading to the dock.

7. Members leaving the boathouse unattended are responsible for turning off all lights and for locking all doors. Rowers will set out slings and lock the boathouse when they are on the water.

8. Children under sixteen (16) years of age may not come to the clubhouse without a parent or guardian.

E. GENERAL

1. Rowers will use only those boats for which they are qualified. No person shall use any boat unless that person is able to swim, with their boat, to safety under the prevailing conditions.

2. Rowers are strongly encouraged to have mobile phones with them during non-coached practice sessions and to row near or with other members whenever practicable.

3. Rowers should adhere to the posted weight limits for each boat.

4. Members may not solicit or facilitate the solicitation of the Club membership by mass mail or email, for any purpose, charitable or otherwise, unless approved in each instance by the Board of Directors.

5. Each member will notify the Secretary and Treasurer of any change in address. Members are encouraged to keep their profile current on FitClub.

6. A non-member is entitled to come to the clubhouse as a rowing guest up to a maximum of ten (10) times in a calendar year.

7. Members are invited to convey their suggestions for improvement of the Club to the Board. All recommendations regarding equipment should be directed to the Equipment / Maintenance Committee chair; all other suggestions should be directed to a member of the Board and will receive the Board's careful consideration.

8. Club equipment purchases exceeding \$1,000 and all boat acquisitions and sales are subject to Board approval. A Boat Acquisition Advisory Committee will be named by the Club President to research and make recommendations to the Board with respect to Club need, quality, and value of potential boat purchases. The Board may use its discretion in polling Club members with respect to equipment priorities and boat selection.

9. Willamette Rowing Club oars are located at the immediate left and right front of the clubhouse when entering the west clubhouse entrance. Oars located in other areas of the clubhouse are privately-owned and not available for use without consent from the owner. The pattern of the Willamette Rowing Club oar design is derived from the ORU oar design, acknowledging the origin of the Club. The Club oar colors, however, are red and white rather than ORU's black and white. The oar is painted red on both sides on the upper 75% of the blade, with the remainder painted white on both sides of the blade.

10. Practices – WRC meets every Saturday and Sunday for coached practices. During late Spring, Summer, and early Fall, additional coached or uncoached practices are added during weekday mornings, normally Tuesday and Thursday. To participate in these sessions, a member must sign up on FitClub by 5 pm the day before. Rowers should arrive at least 10 minutes prior to scheduled start time; those arriving at or after the scheduled start time risk losing their place in a line up. Rowers who show up who have not signed up in FitClub will not be guaranteed a place in the line-up.

11. Members are required to use FitClub (at URL: [FitClub.site](https://www.fitclub.com)) to indicate their availability for practices and races. Members who show up to practice without signing up by 5pm the night before risk not being included in a lineup. The Team Captains manage Fit Club. Please refer any questions to them.

12. As need and ability permit, members provide service to the club by driving the launch, photographing or videoing practice, coaching, and coxing boats when the Club's regular coxswain(s) is/are away or additional coxswains are needed. Launch drivers must hold an Oregon Boater Safety Card or equivalent qualification.

13. The head coxswain offers periodic coxswain training for rowers.

14. To be eligible to race with the team, all members are required once per racing season: a 1000-meter piece prior to sprint season; and a 20-minute piece or a 5000-meter piece prior to head racing season. Additional times may be required throughout the season for establishing racing lineups. The club offers multiple opportunities to erg test together, but you may also erg individually. Erg scores are an accountability measure that helps rowers and coaching staff to understand current levels of fitness, establish goals for personal growth and development, and provide an objective comparison of performance across the team. As a member of a competitive club, you demonstrate commitment to yourself, your coach, and your fellow teammates by submitting erg scores as required.

15. Team members are encouraged to cross train on their own but ergs are available to members on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and other times that Oregon Rowing Unlimited is not using them. All weight equipment – except free weights in the front of the erg room – is available to WRC members.

16. The uniforms may vary in style, but are basically black rowing shorts/trousers with a red jersey. The jersey displays a white 'W' on the middle of the back. Uniforms are normally purchased in the late winter/early spring. If a new member misses the order period, other members normally share uniforms until orders are put in again.

17. When representing WRC at regattas, all Club members should wear uniforms and hats that are identical. Many regattas will disqualify participants for not wearing identical uniforms, so each crew is responsible for communicating uniform plans in advance of racing.

18. For large regattas in which many Club members participate, the Men's and Women's Team Captains and the Head Coach determine boat lineups and assign equipment. To avoid confusion and scheduling conflicts for rowers and equipment, all members wishing to race in particular events should indicate their preferences when participation is first polled for a regatta. Special requests for lineups may be considered, but only if received early and not if detrimental to overall club competitiveness, as assessed by Coaches and Team Captains. For regattas in which the Club coordinates entries, WRC registration on Regatta Central is currently done by a club representative, who communicates the fees to the Treasurer, who bills and collects the fees. Arrangements deviating from this practice must be approved by the Treasurer and communicated promptly to the Head Coach and the Team Captains. Once entries are submitted and regatta fees are paid, if a member is unable to attend a regatta, that member is responsible for paying race fees and, in conjunction with Team Captains, for finding a suitable replacement. Cancellation of team participation in a regatta within 24-hours of the event shall be determined by the race officials, unless there are extenuating circumstances that prevent participation.

19. The Treasurer maintains all Club financial records and accounts, the Club's US Rowing membership, liability and damage insurance on boats, tax filings, receipts, titles and bills of sale

of all Club assets and all other organizational documentation. The Treasurer shall maintain the Club's checking account but will not be responsible for reconciling monthly statements; the Club President or his/her representative will be responsible for all monthly bank statement reconciliations.

20. If Club equipment is damaged, the damage must be reported to the Boat Manager within twenty-four (24) hours.

21. Members will be held responsible for repairs to boats damaged *outside of sanctioned Club events or coached practices*, regardless of the cause of the accident. A coached practice is one in which a WRC-paid coach or Board- or coach-designated Club member is coaching or driving a safety launch during a regularly scheduled practice time. A sanctioned practice or event is one in which the member is doing the prescribed workout or race event with the team. The responsible member shall pay for all costs of repair, including transportation. If Club insurance covers costs associated with the incident, the responsible member is responsible for the insurance deductible and associated costs not covered by Club insurance.

22. The WRC President is the official voice for the Club. Information on the WRC website and social media sites should offer a fair, balanced, and accurate representation of the Club. These sites will be reviewed periodically by the WRC Board.

23. Failure to comply with WRC House Rules will result in a Notice of Rules Violation and, if continued, may result in sanctions including membership suspension or termination, as determined by the Board of Directors. Any member whose behavior is unacceptably disruptive or divisive may, by majority vote of the Club Board members, have their membership revoked. The Club Treasurer will reimburse remaining dues on a prorated basis. It is anticipated that the Board will take such actions rarely if ever, and only after prolonged disruptive behaviors. Due process for such action shall include a letter or email to the member with one week's notice of the sanction/revocation, offering the member a one-time opportunity to make a written response. The Board's decision will be final and permanent. If a member's intentional actions are physically significantly dangerous to members or to equipment, the board may revoke membership without notice.