



RULES OF THE RIVER

Navigation on The Broads

1. All river users should stay on the right-hand side of the river (rowers/scullers - remember you face backwards so you should be closer to the bank on your left-hand side!)
2. The only exceptions to this rule involve sailing boats under sail. These are regarded as having right of way and may “tack” (or weave) across the river, sometimes quite dramatically, depending on whether they are sailing with the wind or against it.
 - 2.1. **Norwich Frostbites Sailing Club**
 - 2.1.1. The Frostbites stage dinghy races on the stretch of water in front of their club next to Broadland Paddlesport, normally on Sunday mornings from October to April. To reduce the risk of collisions the following guidelines apply.
 - 2.1.2. If possible, avoid this section of the river on Sunday mornings between 10.40 am and 13.30 pm. There are normally two races with start times of 10.55 am and 12.20 pm and the above period covers the actual races plus launching, pre-start and post-race manoeuvring.
 - 2.1.3. On some days an extra race is run, in which case, the period to avoid extends to 14.30 pm. The three-race days are marked on the Frostbite programme attached to the Notice Board.
 - 2.1.4. More specifically: DO NOT attempt to row through the Frostbites’ boats when they are about to start a race. This is indicated by an orange flashing light on the front of their clubhouse. Keep well in and wait until they move off. Details of the full Frostbites race start sequence and courses appear in Appendix1 to these Rules.
 - 2.1.5. Whenever possible the Frostbites will deploy launches at the upstream and downstream race marker buoys. These may advise you not to proceed, please heed their advice.
 - 2.1.6. If rowing through during a race, paddle light, keep to your normal side and be prepared to shout a timely warning if it appears a dinghy on a potential collision course has not spotted you, eg you are obscured by the sails.
 - 2.1.7. Be particularly careful when crossing the path of dinghies and of boats moored in front of or being launched from the sailing club when returning upstream. Make sure there is time and space to get passed safely.
 - 2.1.8. **Ultimately it is the responsibility of individual rowers decide when to proceed through this section.**
 - 2.2 Otherwise you should comply with any instructions from a sailing boat, normally passing behind any boat which is “tacking” back and forth ahead of you. If in doubt, keep well in, make sure they know you are there and let them pass.
3. When overtaking any boat, keep the boat you are overtaking to the right-hand side (rowers/scullers - remember you face backwards so the boat should be on your left side). Always be prepared to give way to the boat as you overtake, in case they have not seen you.
4. In all circumstances when overtaking or manoeuvring round boats of any type, you must be particularly alert for other boats coming the other way or moored in your path. Conversely, do not stop on corners or other locations where you may present a hazard.
5. At bridges, give way to boats travelling with the tide as they have less manoeuvrability. *This is essential when meeting larger boats such as Broads Authority barges, ferries or the ‘river buses’.*
6. Particularly in strong tides, always try to approach the landing against the tide; this will give you greater control and make it easier to stop.

7. You must look ahead, i.e. over your shoulder to both sides, and check your position on the river regularly. If you encounter another sculler or rower or any boat on a potential collision course shout a warning loudly and in plenty of time, eg. 'AHEAD SCULLER'.

8. Do not attempt timed or racing pressure pieces in situations where your vision is impaired, e.g. by low sun, mist or when there are lots of other boats on the same stretch of water. See Appendix 3 for further rules.

APPENDIX 1

Norwich Frostbite Sailing Club Race Start Sequence.

Ten minutes before the start a horn is sounded telling boats to prepare to be on the water ready for the start. A flag is also raised.

Five minutes before the start a second signal is sounded and an orange flashing warning light above the balcony is switched on and all boats competing must be on the water and cast off from the bank. Again, a flag is raised. At two minutes all boats racing must keep below the start line. NB The direction of the start will be normally dictated by the wind.

After the start the light is turned off and the flags lowered after the start of the race.

In the event of a large turnout of boats racing a start may be split with a second start five minutes after the first.

The Course will be dictated by the wind and tide and may run from several hundred metres up the Cut to the end of the old Regatta course. It will be indicated by large orange marker buoys, which the dinghies must pass on a specific side dependent on the individual race.

APPENDIX 2

Bramerton Reach Water Ski Area – Timings

Current permissible times for water skiing are :-

21st March to 30th September - between 4 pm and sunset on Wednesdays, Fridays, Sundays and Public Holidays.

1st October to 20th March – between 1 pm and sunset on Sundays and Public Holidays.

The water ski area (Broads Authority Yare Zone I) stretches from near the old landing stage 800 m downstream of the sewage outfall to the frontage of the Water's Edge restaurant at Bramerton.

This stretch of river should be approached with caution and normally be avoided by single or double sculls and pairs at active ski times.

APPENDIX 3

Some "UnWritten" local River Rules for the River Yare

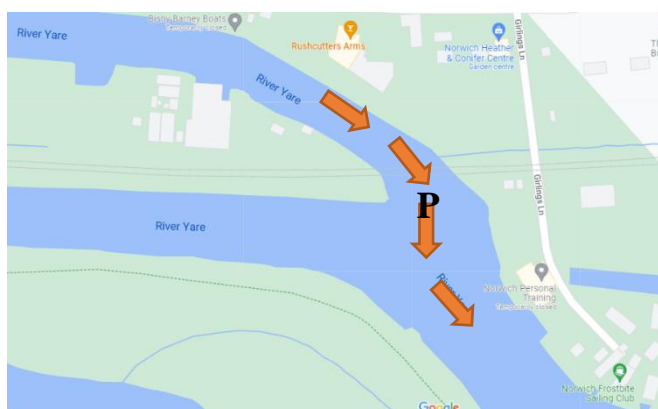
There are many written river rules (see above) and some unwritten ones which we have tried to bring together. Many of these are in our other documents, but are spread out, or are worth repeating:

- Early mornings, particularly at weekends, are often quite busy with other river users, especially in the summer. Other rowing clubs, kayaks, UEA rowers and people training for races. So take extra care if you want to do any pressure pieces. Try to avoid "The Cut" for these pieces on weekend mornings.
- In the summer, Norwich Rowing Club have junior sessions on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, so please be conscious of these activities. They are often novice steerers so might not always be in the right place on the river.

- UEA run early morning sessions on many weekdays and Norwich School and Norwich High School for Girls usually run afternoon sessions during the week.
- Rowers and kayakers are the only people allowed to break the speed limits shown on the river. If you encounter a cruiser going too fast shout at them and, if possible, note their boat number and report this to the Boards Authority. The only motorised exception to this is the safety launch which is allowed to break the speed limits in emergencies. Catching up a crew being coached is not a valid reason to exceed the limits
- Launch drivers must ensure they do not exceed the maximum permissible wash height of 300mm (12 in). This is particularly important when passing moored/occupied houseboats and the like, eg upstream of the Postwick Viaduct.
- Ideally, never row when there is not sufficient light to be seen and to see by on the river. If you do end up rowing at dawn or at dusk then lights on your boat are essential. These must be a steady white to bow and flashing white to stern (NOT on the sculler, but fixed to the boat). Please read the Club Safety Policy
- A high viz coloured top is not compulsory for rowers on our river, but is **STRONGLY ADVISED**, especially if you are steering the boat. This can give any other boat a small amount of extra time to see you and this might avoid an accident.
- Do not cross the river diagonally. Always cross where you have a clear view in both directions.
- See below for special instructions when going through the railway bridges at both ends of the stretch of river outside the Club

When you are leaving the Club for an outing, **at the Yarmouth end** of our stretch where you go under the railway bridge, please follow the circulation arrows shown

- Pause at the “P” shown below and look both ways down the river to check for on-coming traffic from either direction
- Then go straight across the river and **DO NOT** row parallel to the Broadland PaddleSport side and cut the corner.



When you are leaving the Club for an outing, **at the Norwich end** of our stretch where you go under the railway bridge, please follow the circulation arrows shown.

- Pause at the “P” shown below and look both ways down the river to check for on coming traffic from either direction, but particularly in the Yarmouth direction.
- Then turn towards Norwich and paddle for 50m if there is anyone else coming towards you. Then pause and turn carefully before setting off in the Yarmouth direction.
- If when you reach the “Pause” point, you can see that the river is clear, you can turn immediately towards Yarmouth.

