

Owen Sound Rowing Club



COLD WATER and WEATHER RULES

‘Cold water rules’ are in effect at the OSRC, when water temperature is **12° C** (54° F) or less.

In the case of ‘cold water rules’ being in effect:

- All crews must be accompanied by a coach boat and remain within 50 m (165’) of land
- No rowing past (north of) the Hibou/Squaw Point of land
- All rowers must wear a waist PFD.
- All rowers must have a throw bag (including personal light and whistle) in the boat

NO EXCEPTIONS FOR CLUB BOATS

The cold water rules are for **YOUR** safety and are in place to protect **YOU** and ensure that you have a chance of survival in cold water should your boat capsize.

While other clubs may be rowing earlier, our local conditions in Owen Sound make it hazardous to row due to cold temperatures. We will use South Georgian Bay buoy #45137 to indicate water temperature or by using a thermometer off the end of the north boat launch dock at a depth of 1m (3 feet). REFER TO <https://weather.gc.ca>

[Great Lakes - Lake Huron: Current Conditions](https://weather.gc.ca)

Note: while this rule is not in effect for private boat owners, they are also encouraged to follow these temperature guidelines and to notify someone of their plans to row in these conditions

OTHER WEATHER RULES

Heavy Rain, Thunder and Lightning: Heavy rainfall can significantly reduce visibility, and water can quickly accumulate in the shell. Therefore do not venture out in heavy rain. There is no rowing permitted during thunderstorms and/or lightning. If you hear thunder while you are on water, immediately return to the launching area, or to the closest safe landing site.

Fog: If fog is present, assessment should be made as to the visibility and ability to see the shoreline prior to heading out. If fog comes in when you are on the water, note your nearest landmark and immediately head to the shoreline closest to you. Be very aware of your surroundings and look out for other boats. Check your navigation path frequently.

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