

Manatee Rowing Code of Conduct

Applies to all athletes, parents, guests, coaches, volunteers, and board members

Our Standard

Manatee Rowing is an adult and youth sport organization. Everyone who participates including athletes, parents, coaches, volunteers, and board members is responsible for keeping this a safe, respectful, and fair environment. This Code sets the baseline. It is not exhaustive. Use good judgment.

Manatee Rowing adopts the USRowing Code of Conduct as the governing standard for all members. Where Manatee Rowing policies are more specific, those apply. Where USRowing's standard is higher, that applies.

All Participants

The following applies to everyone in the Manatee Rowing community at practices, regattas, club events, and in any communication related to Manatee Rowing. Treat every person with respect: athletes, opponents, officials, coaches, parents, and volunteers.

- Do not engage in harassment, bullying, discrimination, or conduct that demeans or excludes anyone.
- Do not use drugs or alcohol at any Manatee Rowing event or in the presence of athletes.
- Do not use abusive, threatening, or obscene language.
- Protect the physical and emotional safety of athletes at all times.
- Report concerns about unsafe behavior or misconduct to the Head Coach or Board President. Do not handle serious concerns informally.
- Comply with all USRowing SafeSport policies and mandatory reporting requirements.

Athletes

- Compete with integrity. Follow the rules of the sport and accept official decisions.
- Respect your coaches and teammates. Disagreements are handled privately, not on the water.
- Take care of club equipment. Damage caused by negligence or misconduct may be the athlete's responsibility.
- Attend practices and events as committed. Notify your coach in advance if you cannot attend.
- Represent Manatee Rowing well at regattas and in the community.

Parents and Guardians

Parent conduct has a direct effect on the experience of every athlete on the team, including your own. Manatee Rowing holds parents to the same standard as athletes and coaches.

- Cheer positively. Do not criticize athletes, coaches, officials, or opposing teams, from the sideline, in the parking lot, or online.
- Do not coach from the sideline. Trust the coaching staff. If you have concerns about coaching decisions, raise them privately with the Head Coach after the event, not during.
- Do not approach officials or opposing coaches to dispute calls or decisions.
- Model the behavior you want your athlete to demonstrate.
- Communicate concerns about your athlete's experience through the appropriate channel: Head Coach for on-water matters, the appropriate Board member for club matters.

Coaches and Staff

- Prioritize athlete safety and well-being above competitive outcomes.



- Maintain appropriate boundaries with athletes at all times, consistent with USRowing SafeSport policies.
- Complete required SafeSport training annually and maintain current certification.
- Keep electronic communication with minor athletes on club-approved channels and program-related, never through personal social media or private messaging apps. Hold in-person conversations with athletes in open or observable settings, such as an office with the door open.
- Do not use or condone abusive coaching techniques, including humiliation, excessive physical demands used as punishment, or emotional manipulation.
- Disclose any conflict of interest to the Board President promptly.

Board Members and Volunteers

- Act in the best interest of the club and its athletes, not personal interest.
- Maintain confidentiality of board discussions, family information, and personnel matters.
- Comply with the Manatee Rowing Conflict of Interest Policy and disclose conflicts promptly.
- Do not use your role at Manatee Rowing to obtain personal benefit.

Consequences

Violations of this Code will be reviewed by the Board President and Head Coach. Depending on severity, consequences may include a warning, removal from an event, suspension, or permanent removal from Manatee Rowing. Serious violations, including any SafeSport violation, will be reported to USRowing and, where required by law, to the appropriate authorities.

Manatee Rowing will not retaliate against anyone who reports a conduct concern in good faith.