

LAGAN USERS' COMMITTEE

MEMBERS
BELFAST BOAT CLUB
BELFAST ROWING CLUB
LAGAN SCULLERS' CLUB
LADY VICTORIA BOAT CLUB
METHODIST COLLEGE ROWING CLUB
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST BOAT CLUB
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST LADIES BOAT CLUB
ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION ROWING CLUB
STRANMILLIS MOTOR BOAT CLUB
LAGAN WATERSPORTS LTD

RULES OF THE RIVER - Revised 10/11/08

Attended by – QUBBC, QUBLBC, LVBC, LSC, RBAI, BBC, BRC, MCB

For the purposes of these rules PEAK TIMES

Saturday	0800 – 1230hrs
Sunday	0800 – 1230hrs
Wednesday	1400 – 1700hrs

- 1 **BYELAWS** - Nothing in these rules shall affect obligations on river users under the River Lagan Tidal Navigation & General Bye-laws (2007).
- 2 **CENTRE LINE** - All boats must keep to the right of the centre, when looking in the direction of travel, and keep well clear of the centre line of the river.
- 3 **OVERTAKING** - When overtaking, boats must pass outside, and keep clear of, the slower boat, which should move in to the bank.
- 4 **TURNING** - Boats must not stop or turn near bridges, or where visibility is poor. A boat, which is stopping, must pull in close to the bank to allow following boats to pass, and shout a warning to any approaching boat.
- 5 **PEAK TIMES** - There should be NO training upstream of the Governor's Bridge. (This area is for access to slips and for learners only).
- 6 **TRAINING** - Boats should NOT arrange side by side training at peak times. Boats doing set pieces are expected to act responsibly.
- 7 **BEGINNERS** - Learner boats should remain upstream of the Governor's Bridge until competent to use the river properly.
- 8 **HOURS OF DARKNESS** – ALL BOATS MUST BE CORRECTLY ILLUMINATED AS LAID OUT BELOW. **NO DEVIATION IS PERMITTED**

8.1 BOW - The bow MUST have a bright white light attached to front of the boat (at the bow ball or using an empacher slot). Only "Aurora" type bow lights (similar in nature to that available at Jackson Sport) are permitted.

8.1.2 It is advised the bowman wears a high-viz reflective jacket in conjunction with bow lights as defined at 8.1

8.2. STERN – The stern of the boat MUST have bright RED lights AND / OR a self-illuminated top (similar in nature to that produced by Powerhouse Sport). The self illuminated top must produce a bright red light.

8.3. Lights MUST NOT be attached to riggers. Lights should be securely attached onto the canvas of the boat (or using an empacher slot) and clearly seen.

8.3.2 Crews should wear bright tops to assist other steerers. High Viz reflective tops cannot be worn in lieu of stern and bow lighting as defined in 8.1 and 8.2.

8.3.3 Light Emitting Diode lights are not permitted in lieu of stern and bow lighting as defined in 8.1 and 8.2.

8.4. LAUNCHES – Bye-law regulations apply to powered boats.

Definitions:

Bright- must be clearly seen 250 metres from boat

Reflective- DOES NOT have its own light source

Self illuminated top- MUST be able to produce a red light from its own independent light source.

- 9 **LAUNCHES** - PEAK TIMES – low wake launches only for coaching
OTHER TIMES – coaching launches should be used with care
Launches must be used with extreme care near slipways.
- 10 **PERSONAL SAFETY** - All boats must have bow-balls, and fitted shoes must have heel restraints. Tubs must have adequate boat or personal buoyancy. Coxes must wear personal buoyancy suitable for themselves and their situation.
- 11 **EVENTS** - Where a competitive event has been arranged by a club the correct application procedure to Belfast City Centre Regeneration Directorate should be followed. Details should be given to all clubs and boats not involved must stay clear except for access to slipways.
- 12 **COURSE** - Boats must take the following course except when special rules apply, such as during events or river works:
- | | | |
|---------------------|------------|---|
| GOVERNORS BRIDGE | downstream | Co. Down arch. Give way to boats downstream. |
| | upstream | Co Antrim side of centre arch |
| KINGS BRIDGE | downstream | either Co Down arch |
| | upstream | either Co Antrim arch |
| ORMEAU BRIDGE | downstream | either Co Down arch |
| | upstream | either Co Antrim arch |
| McCONNELL GANTRY | downstream | Co. Down side of gantry |
| | upstream | Co. Antrim side of gantry, or through gantry. |
| ALBERT BRIDGE | downstream | central arch |
| | upstream | Co. Antrim arch |
| RAILWAY BRIDGE | downstream | either Co Down arch |
| | upstream | either Co Antrim arch |
| QUEEN'S BRIDGE | downstream | either Co Down arch |
| | upstream | either Co Antrim arch |
| QUEEN ELIZABETH BR. | downstream | Co Down arch or Down side of centre arch |
| | upstream | Co Antrim arch or Antrim side of centre arch |
- 13 **IARU** - Nothing in these rules shall affect obligations on river users under the IARU Ltd. Water Safety Code.
- 14 **LAGAN ISSUES** - Any member of the Lagan Users' Committee can convene a meeting at any time to discuss a breach of rule or a rule change or any issue relating to the River Lagan.

Updated 10/11/08 Brenda Ewing

USEFUL CONTACTS –

Lagan Weir 90 315304 (Manager John Byrne)

River Manager Peter Gallagher 90 277653

peter.gallagher@dsdni.gov.uk

Water pollution 0800 807060

Anti-social behaviour (stone throwing etc) PSNI 90 650222 X 26506