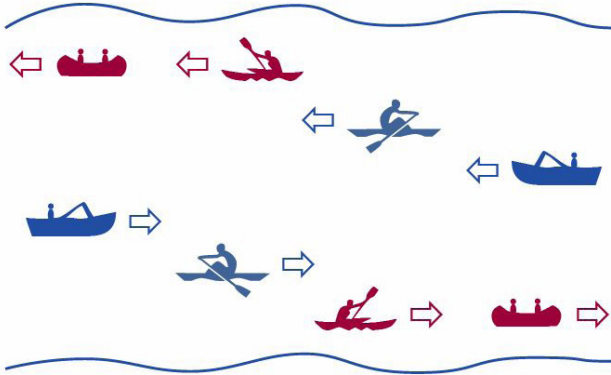


Charles River Safety Information

Boats

- Always keep a lookout for other boats.
- Look behind you for faster boats.
- Paddlers should stay closer to the right hand shore and avoid the center of the river.
- Boats follow this traffic pattern:



Sailboats

- Boats under sail have the right of way.
- Sailboats may not see you (many are learning to sail or are racing).
- Sailboats can move quickly and it's hard to predict their course.

Rowing Shells

- Shells are fast!
- Shells don't stop or turn quickly.
- Shells can't see other boats well because they face backwards.
- Yell "HEADS UP ROWER" to safely let a rower know where you are.

Powerboats

- Powerboats are fast!
- Powerboats use the center of the river, but may approach the shore.
- Avoid the center of the river except to cross.
- Stay away from moored or docked boats. They can move suddenly.
- Powerboats can't see paddlers well if they are close to their boat, stay 20 meters away.

Duck Boats and Tour Boats

- These boats can be fast and can be difficult to steer, so you should stay out of their way and let them pass by.
- If they quack at you, quack back!

**Make sure you can see others,
and that others can see you!**

Crossing the River

- Choose a crossing area that has a clear view in both directions.
- Wait until both directions are clear.
- Cross straight to the other side.
- Do not cross near bridges.

Limited Shoreline Access

- In many places, walls make it impossible to get onto the shore from the river.
- Waves bounce off these walls and get bigger.
- Review our map to avoid these areas.

**Life Jackets Float – You Don't!
You must wear your Life Jacket at all times.**

Charles River Safety Information

Waves

- Don't paddle right along shore — the waves there are bigger.
- Stay low in the boat. Sit or kneel.
- Turn into the waves.
- Keep paddling!

Wind

- Try paddling into the wind first — it may be harder than it looks!
- On windy days, the river can be rough. Winds can get stronger in the afternoon.
- Return to the rental center before it gets too rough!

About to Collide?

- Put your paddle in the water to stop.
- Change your direction, generally to the right, to avoid the other boat.
- Use your whistle and voice to attract attention of the other boater.

Lightning and Thunder

- Check the weather before you paddle.
- Go to shore and secure your boat.
- Find shelter.
- Wait for conditions to improve (we won't charge for waiting).
- Call us if you will be delayed, if possible.

If You Capsize

- Stay with your boat.
- Your lifejacket will keep you afloat — but only if you are wearing it.
- Swim the boat to shore. Call for assistance if needed.

The River is Wide!

- Paddlers who capsize in the middle of the river may be unable to swim to shore.
- Stay close to shore and avoid areas where you cannot access the shore.

**Make sure you can see others,
and that others can see you!**

Bridges

- Don't stop or linger near bridges.
- When passing under bridges, paddle in a single line until past the bridge.
- Paddle under the arch closest to the right hand shore. Never enter the center arch.

Narrow Channels

- When passing through a narrow channel, stay in a single line and as far right as possible.
- Don't stop or linger in the channel.

Charles River Dam & Locks

- The New Charles River Dam & Locks are located east of the Zakim Bridge and separates the river from Boston Harbor.
- Unless you have made a Harbor Rental reservation you may not take rented boats through the locks and into Boston Harbor.
- Stay at least 100 meters from the dam and locks. Strong currents from the Dam operations can occur without notice in this area.