



Bristol Canoe Club Boat Policy

Aim: To inform the membership when and how they can use club equipment, and to **encourage its use far and wide**.

Your club has a wide and varied range of craft including white water boats, stand up paddle boards (SUPs), Canadian canoes, polo boats, surf boats, play boats, touring boats, and racing craft. For simplicity, all are simply known as “boats’ and are dealt with identically here.

We also have a wide selection of ancillary kit including paddles, spray decks, helmets, wetsuits, etc., and their use/loan is implied and encouraged freely when a boat is used.

1. All members are welcome to borrow club boats subject that:
 - They are current club members.
 - They are of sufficient competence. As a rule of thumb, if you have to query whether you are competent to use a certain boat in a certain way, you are probably not.
 - The equipment officer (equipment@bristolcanoeclub.org.uk) is notified when any boats are removed for use outside the docks or pool.
2. Use of all boats is **free of charge** on any section of the Avon, including the docks, Saltford and out to Avonmouth.
3. Use of all boats outside these areas attracts a charge of £10 per day, or £50 per week.
4. A fair use policy applies, whereby only the days a boat is being used are chargeable. For example, if a boat is used for 3 days on a week away, only 3 days use needs to be paid for.
5. Boats may only be borrowed for longer than 2 days (or a weekend) with permission of the committee, to ensure enough kit is available for regular club use.
6. No more than 2 boats may be borrowed at any one time without permission of the committee to ensure enough kit is available for regular club use.
7. Boat hire charges will be waived for any member representing the club at a BCU recognised competition.
8. Borrowing boats carries inherent risks. You should take great care where you take boats and the environment in which they’re used. If you are in any doubt do not proceed. You borrow equipment at your own risk, and the club accepts no liability for its misuse.
9. Racing craft, other than slalom boats, should not be used on moving water.
10. Our equipment is not insured for loss or damage. Please ensure all equipment is secure when not in use. Any loss/damage must be paid and made good for by the individual. This must be reported to the committee upon return.
11. Organised club events have priority over the use of club kit at all times.

The club and its equipment belongs to you, the membership. Please do use the kit, enjoy it and look after it.