

Groton Community Boating Club 2025
Rules and Regulations

The following are regulations and information for the use of the Groton Community Boating Club.

Pre-requisite: Non-swimmers are prohibited from joining the Groton Community Boating Club.

Regulations:

1. Club boats are identified with Park & Recreation logo. Paddle Boards are stored inside boat house. All others are privately owned and should not be used or moved.
2. Kayaks, paddleboards and paddles are not to be removed from the Spicer Park for any purpose other than kayaking directly in the adjacent waters. Transporting kayaks to other locations is strictly prohibited.
3. Kayaks are to be used in daytime only (sunrise to sunset).
4. Tell someone where you are going, what boat you are taking and when you plan on returning; this is called filing a "float plan." The information in a "float plan" will help first responders find and rescue you faster should an accident occur.
5. Each rower is responsible for reporting damages incurred during usage or safety hazards to the Boating Club Coordinator. If a boat is damaged, please take out of service and put up near office.
5. By requirement of the US Coast Guard, PFD's and a whistle must be carried on vessels. CT Law Requires PFD be worn while on the water between October 31 – May 31. All children 12 and under must wear a PFD at all times. Vessels include kayaks and paddleboards.
6. Upon opening the combination lock, please rotate the numbers. Once you have either removed or returned all your equipment from or to the boathouse, you must close the doors, shut the hasp on the lock and rotate the numbers on the lock before you leave the dock to row or have returned your equipment to the boathouse.
7. Use of the buddy system is recommended when paddling.
8. Kayaks are not to be used when small craft advisories are in effect, in low visibility or when thunderstorms are forecasted. It is the members' responsibility to check weather forecasts before heading out.
9. Family membership includes only those individuals residing in your household. Use of the Groton Community Boating Club facility and equipment is limited only to those individuals who are registered as members with the Club. Membership prohibits bringing guests to use the facility or equipment.
10. No one is to kayak under the influence of alcohol, drugs or medications that could impair your ability to paddle safely.



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Recommendations & Info:

<https://portal.ct.gov/deep/boating/safety/manually-propelled-vessel-safety>

Review & know CT boating regulations: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Boating/Connecticut-Boaters-Guide>

Paddle close to the shoreline – it will be easier for you to get to safety if you should flip over. If you need to cross, choose the shortest route to minimize your exposure in the channel, make sure there are no approaching boats, and cross quickly.

Do not linger in the middle of the harbor/channel

Paddle with a partner – this is particularly important if you are venturing out towards Fort McHenry and other less populated areas.

Pack a safety kit. It should contain a whistle, mirror, flashlight, sunscreen, water and a power bar or granola bar. Purchase a dry bag for your cell phone.

Dress in consideration of the weather and water temperature and NOT the air temperature.

A key will be available in the boathouse for the back door access to the bathrooms. It hangs either immediately to the left on the shelves or to the left of the log book. The key MUST be returned to the boathouse after locking the bathroom. The boathouse MUST be locked after each use.

Boating Coordinator: Ben Morse, 860-625-1226, bmorse@groton-ct.gov

