



BOAT HANDLERS

Boat handlers are a members of the support team and are essential to the success of the crew/soloist.

The boat handler/s main role is to support the boat leaving and returning to the beach and to give verbal and visual steering assistance to the crew.

Unlike traditional rowing, these volunteers will be in the shallows of the water, assisting the crew to hold the boat, or holding the boat in place for a soloist. May assist a Boat Handler (provided by the crew)

- Move boats to and from water before and after racing.
- Provide steering assistance.
- Assist crews exiting boats.
- Check boats for damage before and after each race.
- Check boats for water ingress.

Boat Handlers (extract from the rules)

- i) There shall be up to two boat handlers per boat. In adverse or rough water conditions the President of the Jury may allow or may require the number of boat handlers per boat to be increased.
- ii) The boat handlers shall, in principle, **be provided by the teams** and are recognised as official support crew.
- iii) **The role of the boat handler is to support the departure and arrival of the crew from and to the beach by handling the boat to reduce the risk of damage or injury.**
- iv) The boat handlers for each crew should wear matched uniforms or a bib that comply with the Rules in respect of Identifications and are clearly distinguishable from the crew.
- v) **The boat handlers will support the crews in holding the boat for the crew members to board and depart and may assist the crew in any other way**, including rudder fixing, etc.. The boat handlers must not board the boat or move into any position where the typical water surface is above their shoulders when standing on the sea bed.
- vi) **The boat handlers may assist the crew by giving verbal and visual steering assistance** to the crews. However, it is prohibited to use any electric, electronic or other technical device to give verbal or audio instructions; and no technical or artificial visual aids may be used other than the uniform clothing worn by the boat handlers.
- vii) **When the boat returns to the beach the boat handlers may “catch” the boat to slow its progress when it reaches the beach** and a crew member disembarks to run to the finish line.
- viii) After the crew member disembarks to run, **the boat handlers are responsible for the swift removal of the boat from the water.** Boat handlers shall not run with the crew member to the finish line.
- ix) The boat handlers shall comply with any instructions of the race officials and shall at all times be subject to the Rules of Racing.
- x) Boat Handlers must ensure that they, and the equipment they are handling, do not impede other competitors.