



Friends of Detroit Rowing

POLICY RO-2016-001 Belle Isle Traffic Patterns (Version 2.0)

Policy Expiration:

This policy has no expiration date, and is in effect until amended.

Overall Policy Purpose:

- Adhere to the Safety Guidelines published by the Safety Committee of USRA.
- Provide for the safety of all DBCC rowers when navigating the paths around Belle Isle.
- Define the paths to be taken, the transition points where paths cross, and the priorities of crews at those transition points.
- Define responsible parties and penalties for violations of this policy.

Responsible Parties:

This policy applies to all crew members, scullers, coaches, launch drivers and coxswains in all DBCC programs, and all visiting rowers. See link to USRA guidance.

<http://www.usrowing.org/safety-guidelines/>

Reporting:

All incidents should be reported immediately to the Rowing Operations Board Member, Safety Committee Chair or Safety Committee member (verbally or via email.) The Safety Committee Member will take the statement about the incident and complete a formal Safety Incident Form. These will be discussed at committee meetings and actions taken. Safety Committee members can be found on the DetroitBoatClubCrew.org website.

Email: FODRSafety@friendsofdetroitrowing.com

Penalties for Violation:

FODR considers traffic pattern adherence to be of the utmost importance for the safety and well-being of its rowing participants. It is especially important when rowing between sun-down and sun-up, and in cold / frigid waters. Penalties for violations of traffic patterns may range from discussions with the offending crews, coxswains, coaches, scullers and/or launch drivers, to dismissal from the rowing programs. In the event of collision or damage resulting from the violation of this policy the offending parties be assessed the monetary damages.

Scope:

This policy applies to:

- the traffic patterns around Belle Isle (typical DBCC practice routes),

- along the Detroit shoreline from the foot of the MacArthur Bridge upstream to Lake St. Clair (typical practice routes for the Detroit Women’s Rowing Association), and
- the “Cut” alongside the Detroit water intake reservoir on Belle Isle (east of the DYC).

NOTE: At this time rowing FODR equipment in the Blue Heron Lagoon, or any land-locked lagoon on Belle Isle is **PROHIBITED**. Private shell owners may row in these waters at their own risk. Costs for repairing or replacing FODR equipment damaged from rowing on these waters will be the responsibility of all rowers, coxswains and coaches involved.

Traffic patterns:

- **Belle Isle Traffic Patterns:** [See attached links and video](#)
- **Detroit Side - MacArthur Bridge to LSC Traffic Patterns**
All rowers heading upstream towards the lake must stay “inside” NO MORE than 50 yards from the shoreline. All rowers heading downstream towards the bridge must stay “outside” – at LEAST 150 yards from the shoreline.
- **The “Cut”** – all rowers are responsible for making sure they know who is in this narrow channel. Rowers should stay to the starboard side as close to the shoreline as possible in both directions.

Revision History

Date	Author	Version No.	Summary of Changes
9/08/2016	Wojdyla	1.0	Initial draft
9/15/2016	Wojdyla	1.0	Approved by Rowing Ops as Final
3/13/2024	Spain	2.0	Updated Reporting – Safety Committee