






Safe Rowing Note							
Subject	Poor Visibility or Weather – Boat Lights						
Note number	3	Version	2				
Date	30 September 2024						
<p>Hazard Context</p> <p>Hazards exists when rowing in poor visibility and weather conditions, such as:</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>Poor Visibility</th> <th>Poor Weather / Conditions</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mist or fog • Heavy rain • Hail • Sleet or snow • Dark cloudy weather • Dusk or after dark </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High wind • Choppy water • Large waves on water • Fast stream • Wind against stream </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Poor Visibility	Poor Weather / Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mist or fog • Heavy rain • Hail • Sleet or snow • Dark cloudy weather • Dusk or after dark 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High wind • Choppy water • Large waves on water • Fast stream • Wind against stream
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<p>Safety Rules</p> <p>Always assess and reduce the risk of going on the water in poor conditions before each outing.</p> <p>Do this by following the guidance set out Safe Rowing Note 1 - Pre-Outing Assessment of Risk.</p>							
<p>Safety Rules – Hi Vis All Outings</p> <p>Bow / single scullers must wear a yellow hi-vis top (all outings).</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Be a bright rower</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> </div>							
<p>Safety Rules – Poor Visibility</p> <p>All boats out on the water in poor visibility conditions must use boat lights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A flashing white light must be fixed to the Bow of the boat. • A constant white light must be fixed to the Stern of the boat. <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div> <p>If in doubt, or you do not have boat lights, do not row in poor visibility conditions. If in doubt, ask!</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Rowing Light with 180° visibility</p> </div> </div>							
<p>Crews should look-out for other boats, which may not have lights e.g., Canoeists.</p> <p>Lights should each be visible through at least 180° so 2 boat lights can be seen through 360°.</p> <p>Secure front lights in the bow number slot or onto the bow deck; rear lights on the stern deck.</p> <p>Ideally, use Velcro to secure the light – each club boat is fitted with Velcro.</p> <p>Ideally, also secure each light to the boat using a strap, so the light cannot fall into the water and be lost.</p> <p>Ensure the location of the boat lights allows the night-vision of the cox or steersperson to be preserved.</p> <p>Red port and green starboard auxiliary running lights can be used on appropriate riggers, but only when the boat is fitted with white lights bow and stern.</p> <p><u>Do not</u> fix lights to boat riggers or clothing, as these locations do not allow the lights to be visible sufficiently.</p>							



Safety Rules - Poor Weather

When there is high wind or challenging weather conditions:

- Avoid rowing in gusty high winds or other challenging weather conditions, or
- Use larger more stable boats, and/or
- Mix inexperienced rowers/scullers with more experienced members.

If you have reduced the outing risk by taking measures identified in your risk assessment, then boats going out on the water in poor weather conditions should:

- Wear appropriate clothing – refer to Safe Rowing Note 5 on Clothing and Attire.
- Fit washboard extension, where reasonably possible.
- Stay in sheltered water.
- Use a bailer or sponge to prevent water accumulation in the boat.
- Be accompanied by a coach.