

# Lake Woodlands Safe Use Agreement

Whereas both RCTW and Parati are members of US Rowing and strive to follow the safety guidelines provided to all member organizations as “best practices”;

Whereas both RCTW and Parati agree that safety on Lake Woodlands is of the utmost importance for all boating traffic on and around Lake Woodlands they agree to the following guidelines in a spirit of mutual respect and cooperation;

## **Communication:**

- Each Club will ensure that its head coach will post the other coaches' cell phone number(s) in their launch to allow for timely, discreet, professional communication on Lake Woodlands.
- Coaches will carry their cell phones on their launch.
- The respective Club's coaches first responsibility is for their Club's junior rowers on Lake Woodlands, however, as safety remains the highest priority for all, coaches are responsible for the safety of all rowers on the lake regardless of affiliation.
- Any safety incident will be reported to each team's head coach to be evaluated for improvements in coordination and guidelines. If the coaches are unable to come to a resolution, the board presidents of each club will arrange a meeting to discuss the situation and seek a resolution.

## **Traffic Pattern**

- Rowers and coxswains are responsible for the steering and path of their boat.
- The traffic pattern is counter clockwise.
- All rowers must make every effort to avoid the center area of the lake to minimize the opportunity for collisions.
- In the event, any team has multiple boats on the water, and there is a need for passing due to faster boats, or training pieces, etc., other boats on the water rowing in the same or opposite direction, should yield the center of the lake and stay as close to the shore-side of the lake as possible to allow for safe passing.
- At the north end of the lake, boats need to travel to the west side of the lake before heading south. At the south side of the lake, boats need to travel to the east side of the lake before heading north. Counterclockwise traffic pattern will be keenly observed when turning and staging.
- Lake Woodlands is shaped in a gentle “S” shape. This requires rowers to take several strokes on port to avoid finding themselves in the middle of the lake at several points.
  - The white “Chi” house traveling south bound on the west side of the lake
  - Lake Woodlands Drive Bridge traveling both north and south bound
  - The beige house on the point near the dragon when traveling north on the east side of the lake.
- Lake Woodlands Bridge has 5 openings. If numbered left to right facing north, openings 1 and 5 are too close to shore for regular use. Opening 2 is for southbound traffic. Opening 4 is for

northbound traffic. Opening 3 should be used for both traffic directions with care and to avoid boats which are launching and docking.

- Launches should observe the same traffic pattern when possible; safety and visibility come first.
  - Area near the dock shall be kept wake free when boats are on or near the dock.
- No boat or launch should rest or loiter in the main traffic pattern in a way that obstructs the flow of other rowing traffic. If you stop in or around the bridge, make certain you are visible to oncoming traffic.
- Slower boats should give way to faster boats by moving to starboard toward the shore.
- If only one team is on the water, common sense and safety prevail; a team may choose to use a larger portion of the lake if it is safe. The coach will be respectful of any individual rowers to notify them of any special pieces.

#### Docks

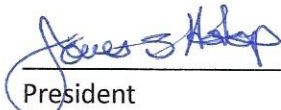
- Boats launching, and boats coming in, share responsibility for ensuring safety around the docks.
- Shells launching will give way to boats already on Lake Woodlands.
- Rowers should approach the dock on the west side of the lake traveling north to south following the traffic pattern.
- Crews should minimize their time on the docks to facilitate the timely launch and/or recovery of shells. Please remember to take everything you need to the dock with your oars so you can launch quickly without leaving boats unattended at the docks.

In summary, RCTW and Parati will make best efforts to use Lake Woodlands safely and to address any issues and incidents as they arise. Safety incidents will be reported in writing to the board of each club in a timely manner and handled appropriately and respectfully.


Respectfully submitted,

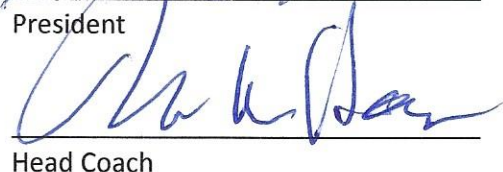
Rowing Club of The Woodlands (RCTW)

Parati Competitive Rowing (Parati)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Head Coach

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Head Coach

11.2.2016  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

11.2.2016  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date