Chautauqua Lake Rowing Association, Inc.
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Cold Water Rules Revision: 04-2021

The CLRA "Cold Water Rule" is in effect **November 1st to May 1st annually**, and at such times when the combined air and water temperature is below 90 degrees Fahrenheit (example: water 50 degrees and air is 40 degrees). See exception under item #2. below: "No singles, doubles, or pairs". Violation of the Cold Water Rules may result in loss of rowing privileges.

1. No shells will be permitted on the water when the combined air and water temperatures do not exceed 70 degrees Fahrenheit.
2. No singles, doubles, or pairs are permitted on the water during this period. During the month of April, these boats may be permitted on the water only under the following conditions: A.. Combined air and water temperature must be 90 degrees or above; B. Wind speed must be at or below 10mph; C. Boat must be accompanied by coach boat / safety launch per the requirements under applicable bullets below including #8.
3. Shell configuration: 8's & 4's, are permitted on the water only if accompanied by a CLRA safety launch operated by CLRA member. The CLRA member must be familiar with and have operated club safety launches. Additionally, either coxswain or stroke seat must be experienced and familiar with CLRA rowable waters.
4. Operator and all occupants of motorized watercraft (safety launch) **MUST WEAR** a securely fastened United States Coach Guard approved wearable personal flotation device in compliance with New York State Navigation Law (Section 40, Subdivision 1, paragraph e).
5. Applicable section of NYS Navigation Law: "*No owner or operator of a pleasure vessel less than twenty-one feet, including row boats, canoes, and kayaks shall permit its operation, between November 1st and May 1st, unless each person on board such vessel is wearing a securely fastened United States Coast Guard approved wearable personnel flotation device of an appropriate size when such vessel is underway.*"
6. Safety launch(es) accompanying crews must be equipped with all required safety supplies, including but not limited to: enough wearable personal flotation devices for all rowers and coxswains under supervision, throw rope, paddle, and cell phone. Additionally, there should be an operator and an observer (2 people) in the launch when accompanying rowers.
7. Rowers and occupants of **recreational shells are required to wear** a securely fastened United States Coast Guard approved wearable personal flotation device.
8. Permitted Exception: Recreational shells under escort of a safety launch with competent operator are not required to wear personal flotation device as long as the rower is within 100 yards of the safety launch. Wearable personal flotation device for each rower / occupant may be carried in the shell and easily accessible.
9. Rowers and coxswains of competitive rowing shells are encouraged to wear a securely fastened United States Coast Guard approved wearable personal flotation device. However, Cold Water Rules dictates that safety launch(es) must accompany the shells. As long as the shell remains within 100 yards of the safety launch it is a Permitted Exception that shell occupants are not required to carry personal flotation devices.
10. Rowing between dusk and sunrise is not permitted unless accompanied by a safety launch. Safety lights must be affixed to the rowing shell(s).
11. Use common sense.

Good Advice:

- Notify someone who will be staying onshore before you launch your shell(s) and again when you have returned to shore. Float plan: what type of shell you are using, how far you plan to row, estimated water time, who to get a hold of in an emergency, etc. (It is recommended that the person you notify have knowledge of the river and who to contact in the event of an emergency).
- Carry a cell phone in a waterproof container (a Ziploc bag can work).
- Wear clothing that will keep you warm and dry while rowing but will not weigh you down should you end up in the water.
- Review cold water safety and emergency information before going on the water.
- Be aware of weather conditions, rate of flow on the river, etc.