

CANOE DOCK SAFETY

- Safety is going to be a major focus this season within the FLCC. For those of you who have been paddling in seasons past, expect some changes when it comes to loading and unloading the boats.

We have the new Canoe Dock which is great, but the fingers are narrower and have less capacity so we want keep the number of paddlers on the fingers to a minimum. Thanks for your help.

Organise

After warm up, please line up your team so everyone knows their seat before heading down to the dock. The entire team may line up on the larger dock at the bottom of the ramp then a few paddlers at a time go onto the finger to load the boat when instructed to do so, by the steersperson.

Untie the Boat

The boat must be untied and unlocked before anyone gets in the boat. One person should hold the bow line, and another the stern line, with the line being passed around one side of the deck cleat. The lines should hold the boats snug against the dock and may be loosened or tightened to bring the bow or stern closer to the dock to help paddlers load at the ends of the boat.

Load the Boat

Boats should be loaded one person at a time, and paddlers should quickly take their seat.

Leaving the Dock

Please give the steersperson your full attention when leaving the dock. The steersperson is always in control of the boat so be prepared to do as he asks. Please refrain from doing something you think should be done. The steersperson is responsible for the crew and equipment and may have something in mind that you are not aware of. So please listen to the steersperson and do as requested. The coach will be given control of the boat once it is away from the dock.

Returning to Dock

On returning to the dock, the command of the boat will be given back to the steersperson to bring in the boat in a controlled manner. Please listen and do as requested. When at the dock, please remain seated and hold your paddle. The dock is narrower and tippier so 20+ paddles can be a safety issue.

Unloading the Boat

The steersperson will ask the first paddlers to get out and hold the bow and stern lines around the cleats – but not tied. Please remain seated until called to get out of the boat. If you are not holding the boat or helping someone out of the boat, please move promptly to the large dock, to clear the finger.

Security

Clear all gear or garbage from the boats. Instructions have been given to the captains and steerspersons to tie and lock the boats. Before leaving the dock, please bail all boats, ensuring all boats are locked and tied properly.