

## **Buoys and Safety**

**1) Turning Buoys.** There are 2 buoys at each end of the Lagoon which mark the start and end of a 1500 meter piece, after which you must turn. Keeping each buoy on your right as you pass them will help prevent collisions. Both paddlers and rowers should come and go from the north end in single file as there is not enough room for more than 2 boats to pass each other safely. Paddlers (who are facing forward) may want or need to cut the corners to give a rower some extra room.

Members who cannot yet maneuver well in the North end are welcome to turn before BORP, in the wider area, using extra caution to do so. Although there is no rule that says boats have to go the entire length of the lagoon, other users expect that you will. So, if you turn "early", you should make sure that you do not cut in front of another member who is not expecting you to be there. Everyone making a turn should always look first to make certain the path is clear.

**2) Stopping.** If you need to stop on the course for a discussion, stretcher or footplate adjustment, coaching, etc. you should pull over to the shore side of the traffic pattern. In general, slower members should move shoreward to give the faster members room to pass. Whenever possible, please call out, to let others know you are there.

Attached is a map to help identify areas that are best suited for slow or stationary technique work or coaching. These areas are highlighted in yellow. They include the Southeast and Southwest "pockets", the cove between the South buoys and the viewing platform, the bay between the flagpole and island, and the area just West of the waterski buoys. The top Northeast corner should not be used for coaching as this is often congested, as well as being a sensitive area for birds. You are, of course, welcome to pause there for a water break or to catch your breath.

Please be especially mindful when using the top South traffic lane, which leads to and from the dock. Extra caution is required to avoid collisions. These buoys have recently been moved further Northwards to allow more room for boats to pass.

**3) Passing (for Paddlers).** Paddlers will usually move to the middle of the Lagoon when passing. When passing a rower, paddlers should try to maintain at least 10 feet between their boat and the rower's oars. Call out (and say hello) as you get close.

**4) Shallows.** Everyone needs to be aware of where the shallows and rocks are lurking. This is especially important when using the water on the West of the waterski buoys, as well as the far Northeast pocket, by the turning buoys. The shallow areas are highlighted in red on the map.

**5) Other Lagoon Users.** Please remember that we share the lagoon with several other organizations, who have their own guidelines. As always: Be Aware, Be Courteous, Be Safe.