



2019-2020

Parent & Athlete Handbook As/of August 14 2019

Vero Beach Rowing is thrilled to welcome you to the 2019-2020 Junior Rowing program! We are looking forward to a great season of rowing and racking while our boathouse gets completed. Please be sure to read this document thoroughly and click the check box on the Regatta Central link.

Steps to complete Junior Rowing registration:

1. Thoroughly read this document as we have made some changes for 2019-2020
2. Sign in to Regatta Central and complete the registration information [here](#).
3. A first payment installment plan can be completed [here](#).
4. A scholarship application and description can be found [here](#). Send completed applications to scholarship@verobeachrowing.org by the due date.
5. If you need to pay by cash or check, contact Coach Colgan.
6. You will be asked to read and complete our liability waiver, swim attestation, and handbook agreement when you register.
7. Sign up on the TEAM SNAP communication application. If you haven't gotten an invite, please contact Coach Colgan at dor@verobeachrowing.org.
8. Provide the coaches with your most recent and up to date physical information on or before the first day of the season. (We will over a one-week grace period as we know doctors' offices have been busy these last few weeks)

Athlete Code of Conduct

Rowers have a tradition of excellence on and off the water. We expect all our athletes to uphold this tradition, not only here at the boathouse, but also in school and at home. We know this is a rigorous sport and that the training and competition can be mentally and physically taxing. We also know the rewards and positive by-products of this hard work and training. You must trust that upon completing a season like this, you will be a better, stronger, happier person than the day you began. Anything worth doing is worth doing well.

We, the coaches, are here to help you learn the best ways to maximize your training, competitive success, studies, and peer to peer interactions. We, the coaches, are willing to do whatever it takes to help you succeed. If you, the athlete, ever need clarification about technical feedback, workouts, or selections, please feel free to ask us for some extra time.

To best support you in this endeavor, we need all athletes to hold themselves to certain standards of decency, excellence, and commitment. Below, you will find our Code of Conduct. Any violations of the Code of Conduct shall be dealt with in the following order of warning and review. **First**, a verbal warning from coach to athlete. **Second**, a written warning from coach to athlete, and a conversation with a parent(s). **Third**, an official write up and conversation with both the athlete and a parent(s) followed by a suspension from training and competition for at least one competitive season (fall, spring, or summer) without refund.

This policy may be subject to change dependent upon the infraction. The Code of Conduct includes the following:

- I. **Bullying**
“Bullying” includes, but is not limited to, the following behavior:
 - a. Cliquish behavior (non-inclusive team behavior or speech).
 - b. Rude comments or actions from one teammate to another.
 - c. Rumor-milling, gossiping, or negative comments about teammates, coaches, parents, volunteers, workouts, or results.

- II. **NO DRUGS, TOBACCO/VAPING, OR ALCOHOL**
 - a. At home, team functions/regattas, or any other venues. As well as it being illegal, it is also tremendously detrimental to your training and growth. This means zero tolerance and will be dealt with without review.

- III. **“Hands Off”**
 - a. In accordance with Indian River Public Schools, we expect that all athletes refrain from inappropriate physical contact of any kind. This includes the following behavior or contact: public displays of affection, massaging, fighting, and any other contact deemed inappropriate by the coaching staff.

- IV. **Social media**
 - a. Social media is frequently used by all of our athletes, parents, and members. It is a forward facing, very public representation of our club, our teammates, and the larger VBR family. All official club social media accounts will be run from within the employment structure of the organization unless indicated otherwise by the Director of Rowing.
 - b. For personal social media accounts:
 - i. Athletes may not “block” one another or use social media to bully or exclude. Teammates are teammates no matter what.
 - ii. Athletes may not otherwise use their social media to put VBR in a negative light.

- V. **Practice Uniform**

- a. Members of the Vero Beach Rowing team will always wear at least a tank top and spandex shorts. No shirtless rowing for the guys, no “sports bra only” rowing for the girls.
- b. Varsity Boys and Varsity Girls are required to wear spandex shorts whenever they are in the boat. Tennis/basketball shorts are not allowed on the water or the erg. Novice rowers can discuss this with their coaches.
- c. **All athletes must wear ATHLETIC SHOES at all times.** Stocking feet (socks) are not permitted while carrying equipment to or from the dock. Laundry baskets will be provided to safely store shoes while we row.

VI. **Parking/Pick Up**

- a. To those of you who drive your own vehicle, there is no returning to vehicles after you have arrived at practice.
- b. Rowers are to park under the bridge, not in front of the site.
- c. All parents should plan on picking up their athletes closer to the baseball field than directly in front of the gate on the street as we have received complaints about blocking the street.

VII. **Communication**

- a. All Coach/Athlete communication will occur through the “Team Snap” application via email and/or text alerts.
- b. If you or your teammates are running late, send an “Alert” to your coach through Team Snap.
- c. In the event of an emergency, or if you or a teammate are in any kind of danger, phone calls are permitted.
- d. **Call your coach directly if you need to cancel your attendance after 12:00 noon on the day of practice.**
- e. All meetings outside of normal practice time will include at least two coaches.

VIII. **Regattas**

- a. Only family members and fellow VBR oarsmen/oarswoman are allowed under our tent at regattas. Members of other teams, significant others, or visiting friends can meet you in public areas around the regatta.
- b. While under the tent, be respectful of your teammates who want to rest.

IX. **Workout Completion**

- a. Failure to complete a workout because of an injury must be flowed by a doctor’s visit and clearance before you are allowed to return to normal practice.
- b. Failure to complete a land/erg workout will prevent you from being boated until that workout is completed.

Parent Code of Conduct

We have an incredible group of parents on this team who support and encourage their kids to be the very best they can be. We also have a strong core of coaches who are prepared to handle the day-to-day operations and the necessary training required to provide your children with the safest

and most rewarding experience on and off the water. Our partnership, then, is imperative for their success.

It is vital that we trust each other's ability to help these athletes become their best selves. This year's training may be an adjustment for some of them. They will have tough days now and again. They may even have a tough week or two during championships or selections. It is our collective responsibility to support them, listen to their concerns, but also to remind them that **not every rower gets every seat or every medal every day**, no matter their seniority. The primary responsibility of each athlete is to support their teammates, so we ask that you help support that mindset first and foremost.

I. Communication

- a. Initial concerns should be brought up with your athlete's direct coach.*
- b. Concerns regarding the conduct or safety of your athlete's direct coach should be brought up with the Director of Rowing.
- c. The Board of Directors agrees that any and all matters should first be discussed with the Director of Rowing. They will direct you to communicate with the Director before any other escalation is allowed.
- d. All parent/coach communication should occur either via email, or through the "Team Snap" application unless it pertains directly to official club matters including but not limited to chaperoning, fundraising, event planning, recruitment questions, etc.
- e. **In the event of an emergency, ALWAYS feel free to contact your athlete's coach via personal phone.**

*Direct Coach denotes the specific coach for your rowing category: Novice Girls, Novice Boys, Varsity Girls, Varsity Boys, and Middle School.

II. Positivity

As role models, it is important that we all must model positive behavior for our athletes and children. As a result, please adhere to the following guidelines at practice and/or regattas.

- a. Rumor-milling, gossiping, or negative comments about teammates, coaches, other parents, volunteers, workouts, or results will not be tolerated.
- b. In the event that we need to address these concerns, coach will ask any involved parties to sit down to discuss their concerns.

III. Parents at Practice/Regattas

Please think of our practices and regattas like any other athletic practice or competition. Please let the kids practice, play, and learn how to develop communication skills and healthy peer-peer relationships. This is their time to be an athlete.

- a. No parents will be allowed within the yard during practice time.
- b. No parents are permitted within the "athlete section" at regattas.
- c. Parents may not negatively affect athlete performance by sequestering, prioritizing, or isolating their athlete during a practice or competition.

IV. Parent Volunteer Requirements

We cannot be successful without the amazing continued support of our wonderful parent volunteers. To spread the work out more evenly, we have the following mandatory requirement:

- a. Like the Indian River County School District, all parents are expected to volunteer. **Every athlete’s parent group must volunteer at least 20 hours for the whole year (Fall and Spring combined).** If you are unable to make this commitment, please contact the Director of Rowing to determine the best course of action. Failure to complete these volunteer hours may result in a suspension of rowing for your athlete.
- b. Volunteer Opportunities include but are not limited to:
 - i. Regatta prep/planning
 - ii. Hospitality support (MOST IMPORTANT)
 - iii. Administrative support/planning
 - iv. Chaperoning
 - v. Fundraising planning/execution
 - vi. Event planning/execution
- c. Chaperoning Details – We need vetting Chaperones for our away regattas for when the team is not actively competing or practicing. Vetting includes a Background Check and completing the free on-line USRowing Safesport training. Interested parties please contact the Director of Rowing.

V. Review and Warning

If we encounter problems with conduct from a parent or group of parents, we will request a meeting between all coaches and parents involved. If the situation persists, the parent and athlete may be suspended from training or completion.

Practice Schedule

The 2019/2020 practice schedule will be as follows:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Varsity	4:00 – 6:30 PM @ Boatyard *	3:30 – 5:30 PM (VSF)**	4:00 – 6:30 PM @ Boatyard	3:30 – 5:30 PM (VSF)**	4:00 – 6:30 PM @ Boatyard	8:00 – 10:30 AM @ Boatyard
Novice	4:00 – 6:00 PM @ Boatyard	3:30 – 5:30 PM (VSF)**	OFF	4:00 – 6:00 PM @ Boatyard	4:00 – 6:00 PM @ Boatyard	8:00 – 10:00 AM @ Boatyard
Middle School	OFF	OFF	4:00 – 6:00 PM @ Boatyard	OFF	4:00 – 6:00 PM @ Boatyard	OFF

*Normal water practice weather permitting

****Vero Strength + Fitness (760 8th Ct #1-4, Vero Beach, FL 32962)**

NOTE: Spring strength training will be in the new Boathouse and will be on Mondays and Thursdays.

In the event of a weather delay or cancellation you will be notified via Team Snap Alerts.

Attendance Policy

Rowing is a big commitment of time, energy, and money. It is imperative that all rowers and parents take this commitment seriously. Absences (defined as non-emergency and no prior coach notification) are never acceptable. Absences are, however, inevitable and sometimes necessary. It is important to understand that rowing is a sport in which boats require certain numbers to be able to train. If the coach cannot adequately prepare for the absenteeism, it may affect other athletes and their ability to train effectively.

NOTE: High School Spring Break two-a-day workout attendance is mandatory for all athletes to increase their fitness and finalize crew selections for the championship regattas. Do not plan Spring Break family vacations!

Athlete Transportation Policy

- Athletes are not permitted to drive themselves to any activity that takes place outside of Indian River County.
- Parents are responsible for arranging travel to and from events for their own athlete.
- Coaches are not allowed to drive athletes to any event or practice.
- Athletes are expected to remain with the team throughout the entire regatta or event unless special arrangements have been made in writing prior to the event or regatta.

Sickness and Injuries

- In the event of sickness, athletes should remain away from practice until symptoms subside.
- Please report all injuries to a coach immediately so that we may try to get you the appropriate treatment as quickly as possible. If an athlete is unable to complete workouts as assigned due to pain or injury, they will NOT be permitted to return to practice until they have permission to return from a doctor. We want to be very careful about not furthering any pain or discomfort.

Fundraising

Fundraising is a necessary part of keeping our program running. All team members will be required to participate in team fundraisers in order to be eligible to compete. This year's fundraisers will include the following:

1. The New and Improved Erg-a-Thon: 4-person teams rowing a marathon (42,195 meters) (Tentatively, November 16th on our new Balcony)
2. Spaghetti Dinner (TBD)
3. Chipotle fundraiser (Date TBD)
4. Car Washes (TBD)

5. Boat Washes (TBD)

Regatta Dates (subject to change)

Fall

September 28, 2019	Battle of the Bridges (full team)	Sarasota, FL
October 12, 2019	East Coast Classic (full team)	Fellsmere, FL
October 26, 2019	Halloween Regatta (full team)	Tampa, FL
November 23, 2019	Stetson Fall Rendezvous (full team)	Deland, FL
December 21, 2019	VBR Ham & Egg Team Scrimmage (full team)	

Spring

Spring Season – TBD but WILL include the following races for Varsity Athletes:

February 21, 2020	Sarasota Invitational Regatta	Sarasota, FL
March 28, 2020	FSRA East District Championship	Fellsmere, FL
April 4 - 5, 2020	FSRA Sculling States	Sarasota, FL
April 25 – 26, 2010	FSRA Sweep States	Sarasota, FL
TBD	US Rowing Southeast Regional Championships	TBD
June 11 – 12, 2020	Youth Nationals	Sarasota, FL

Important Dates

No practice generally when school is out of session (some exceptions will apply)

August 24, 2019	VBR Parent Meeting
September 2, 2019	Labor Day; No School/No Practice
November 11, 2019	Veterans Day; No School/No Practice
November 25 – 29, 2019	Thanksgiving Week; No School/ Practices Monday & Tuesday
December 23, 2019	Winter Break; No School 12/23/2019 – 1/7/2020
January 20, 2020	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; No School/No Practice
February 17, 2020	Presidents' Day; No School/No Practice
March 9 – 13, 2020	St. Ed's Spring Break
March 23 – 27, 2020	Indian River County Schools & Mater's Academy Spring Break Spring TRAINING Week, ATTENDANCE REQUIRED

*** We will be adding dates to Team Snap as they become more solid on the calendar.**