



Westerville Rowing Club Code of Conduct

Westerville Rowing Club (WRC) is committed to providing all individuals (including athletes, coaches, Board members and families/parents/guardians) with a positive and safe environment in which to participate. Participation with WRC is a privilege, not a right, and should be treated as such. Every participating individual of WRC is a representative of the club, their community and their family and, as such, is expected to exhibit appropriate conduct when participating with the club.

This Code of Conduct is complementary to and does not replace the SafeSport rules implemented by US Rowing and the USRA Code of Conduct. Please see those documents for additional guidelines outlining athlete/participant behavior and expectations. These guidelines also govern the operations of the Westerville Rowing Club.

The Westerville Rowing Club Executive Board and Coaching Staff expect all individuals to abide by all applicable codes of conduct and rules including the following.

Expected Behavior

- Individuals will act with honesty, integrity, and concern for the welfare of others; in doing so they will not lie, cheat or steal and will not condone such action on the part of others.
- Individuals will respect both the property of others and the equipment of the rowing club. Destruction or vandalism of the equipment and/or WRC facilities (eg. boatyard and erg room) and property including unauthorized access in unauthorized areas will not be tolerated.
 - Individuals (or their parent/guardian for minor athletes) will be held responsible for any damage intentionally incurred.
- Individuals will behave respectfully towards all members of the broader rowing community, including team individuals, parents, volunteers, regatta officials, coaches, and competitors.
 - This includes exhibiting good sportsmanship, using appropriate language and being respectful at all times.
- Individuals will comply with the directions given by coaches, WRC staff and regatta officials at events.
- Athletes should arrive prepared and in a timely manner for practices, training sessions, and competitions. Absences should be communicated to coaches as soon as possible.

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Controlled Substances and Weapons

- WRC has “zero tolerance” policy regarding substance abuse. The use of alcohol, drugs (including any performance enhancing drugs) or tobacco (including vaping/e-cigarettes) is strictly prohibited.
- Any medication brought onsite or required during practice or racing and that is prescribed by a physician must be in the dispensed container with proper label and dose information. Acknowledgement of use of prescribed medications will be completed each season.
- The possession or use of any weapon or firearm while at any WRC facility or while participating in any WRC activity is strictly prohibited.
- By participating in WRC activities and/or trips, student athletes, their parents/guardians, and/or adult participants agree to allow WRC coaches and/or staff, based upon a reasonable suspicion of a violation of this Code, to search their bags and belongings.

Regatta/Activity (Junior Athletes)

- Junior athletes will not drive themselves to or from any away regatta.
- Athletes of the opposite sex are not allowed into each other’s hotel rooms, except when a Coach or chaperone is present. It is recommended that athletes meet in the common areas of hotels.
- Athletes may not leave the team at any time during a regatta without the express permission of a WRC coach.
- Additional guidelines may be provided as needed for specific regattas via a Travel Policy which will be shared with athletes and families prior to the event.

Social Networking/ Electronic Device Usage

- Individuals who access social networking sites (Snapchat, Facebook, Instagram, Group Me, etc.) will act responsibly and show respect for the rights and feelings of others.
- Individuals should exercise appropriate discretion when using social networks for personal communications with the knowledge that behavior on social networks or between electronic devices may result in disciplinary action regardless of purported intent.
- Gossip, insults, and libelous, demeaning, or derogatory pictures or comments about others, especially teammates, coaches or Westerville Rowing Club are strictly prohibited.
- Threatening or harassing statements or pictures are strictly prohibited.
- Transmission of any sexually explicit or profane communications or photos is strictly prohibited.
- Junior athletes should not email or text a coach directly without including a parent/guardian on the communication.

Disciplinary Action

- Westerville Rowing Club recognizes that making mistakes, acknowledging them and learning from them are critical parts of the educational experience. In conjunction with the WRC Safety Policy, violation of Code of Conduct and/or Safesport rules may result in the following disciplinary actions:
- Minor disciplinary action may include but is not limited to:
 - Verbal warning
 - Extra workout/alternative workout
 - Make-up practice
 - Written/verbal apology
- Major disciplinary action may include but is not limited to:
 - Loss of on-water privileges
 - Loss of race privileges
 - Suspension from the team for a period of time
 - Dismissal from the team for the remainder of the season
 - Expulsion from the team (including potential forfeiture of any fees paid)
- The WRC conduct reporting pathway includes: Head Segment Coaches, Director of Rowing, Member Conduct Chair(s) and Board President.
- Consequences and disciplinary action are the discretion of the coaching staff and/or WRC Conduct Chair (formerly Safety Chair). Parents may address any questions or concerns regarding their athlete's possible disciplinary action directly to the Head Coach, Director of Rowing or the WRC Conduct Chair.

Acknowledgement

As a participant with Westerville Rowing Club, I have read and understand the above Code of Conduct. I agree to abide by the terms of this Code, and understand that failure to adhere to the conditions and rules as outlined in this Code may affect my ability or my athlete's ability to participate in WRC programs and activities and may lead to the disclosure of the incident to USRA or other authorities.

Athlete Printed Name

Parent/Guardian Printed Name

Athlete Signature

Parent Signature

*Note that Student Athletes (Junior and U14 segments, regardless of age) must sign AND have a parent or legal guardian sign. Adult athletes (ex. Masters segment) not enrolled in secondary school or below may sign alone.

*Note that Parent/Guardian signature indicates acceptance of the WRC Code of Conduct for all individuals associated with the athlete.