

LCRK Boat Hire Policy (effective 01.01.2026)



Background

Lane Cove River Kayakers has a fleet of Club Boats made available for the use of LCRK members. This document provides an overview of the running of the fleet. The fleet of ~16 Boats is a combination of new, 2nd hand and donated boats. The replacement value of the fleet is circa \$50,000 new, or say **\$25,000** with prudent 2nd hand purchases. Given a useful life of say 10 years, at least **\$2,500pa** needs to be set aside for fleet renewal plus maintenance allowance of **~\$2,000pa** (\$120 per boat). The fees collected each year from boat hire have to date been well under half of this cost despite good utilisation.

Purpose of Club Fleet

With limited exceptions, Members are expected to either own their own boat, or to be working towards that goal.

Club Boats are provided:-

- To allow new or transitioning Members to 'find their feet' in selecting a boat that suits their needs
- To allow existing Members to broaden their experience
- To provide a short-term fallback for Members without access to their own boats

The club is not in a position to offer long term use of club boats to members who are unable to purchase, store or transport their own boats. Please enquire about a rental boat rack in the shed.

Boat Types

With the club's focus on speed over distance, LCRK boats are necessarily lightweight, somewhat fragile and most with an underslung rudder. They can easily be scratched, chipped, split and otherwise broken if not handled correctly. The boats' need to be handled with care before, during and after paddling (see next page).

Pricing

Overall, our aim is to keep the pricing construct simple. Special cases /requests will be considered by the Committee on merit.

Pricing structure reflects a number of factors:-

- LCRK promotes use of the fleet for activity which contributes to the Club and to the Club spirit
- Usage outside the Wednesday Time Trials poses additional risk for the boats and the Shed contents.
- Offsite hire poses additional risks associated with transit, theft, storage, knowledge of waterway hazards and general wear and tear
- And noting comparable costs for boat hire from commercial providers are significantly higher

Activity	A	Member Price
On-site ¹	LCRK supported activity (eg Time Trial, Group Training)	\$10
	Personal Use ² - Single Use: - Unlimited use (over a 7 day period):	\$20 \$40
Off-site ³	Off-site Kayaking event ² (eg PNSW, HCC) if representing LCRK – for 7 days (or part thereof)	\$20
	(Approved) personal use ² – for 7 days (or part thereof)	\$50

Booking Procedure

- Check the boat bookings sheet (accessed via the Club Fleet tab on the LCRK website) for your boats availability.
- Send an email to committee@lcrk.org.au with requested boat/date/time
- Your booking will be confirmed by return email once reviewed/processed
- Note that your booking request will be considered in light of your observed level of competency (ie requests for a known unstable boat - we may suggest an alternative). This is for your safety and the boat.
- Allow sufficient time for the request to be turned around (the person processing probably has a real job and family). To avoid disappointment, please give at least 48 hours notice.
- Cancellations less than 24hrs prior to hire will still incur the hire fee given your booking made the boat 'unavailable'.
- Pay the nominated fee at the Time Trial registration desk (or if not practical, make other arrangements such as on-line pre-payment)

¹ On-site means LCRK shed is the base and Lane Cove River is the paddling location.

² On-site usage outside LCRK supported activities, and any off-site use, will generally not be approved for newer Members until completion of four Time Trials. A demonstrated understanding of personal safety, boat care and set-up procedure is a prerequisite. Usage of doubles outside time trials is generally limited to two club members.

³ Off-site means boat is removed from LCRK site and the paddling location is invariably 'elsewhere'.

Fair Use Policy

With 130+ Members and ~16 Hire Boats there is the potential for issues. Without being prescriptive the following considerations apply:-

- Boat hire is generally granted on a first in, first served basis.
- 'Regular hirers' (typically without their own boat) may despite booking in advance be asked to switch boats at short notice to provide a more appropriate boat for another Member.
- Where use of a boat is being monopolised, we may ask that you select a different boat.
- Block hires (eg for multiple weeks or longer) will be considered/granted on merit.

Usage & Care

- Please seek help if required when moving the kayak to/from confined spaces (eg the shed).
- Boats are never to be placed on a hard surface - concrete, asphalt, gravel, the pontoon or worn grass. This chips gelcoat and scratches the hull.
- The boat is to be set up (sitting in or otherwise putting weight onto a boat) using cradles. Large cradles are usually located at the back roller door in the LCRK shed. One cradle must be located directly under or near to the rear bulkhead.
- Each boat has a slightly different set-up procedure. A laminated sheet should be available explaining procedure for the specific boat. If in doubt on set up procedure, ask.
- After using boats at the LCRK shed, they are to be washed, dried and returned to the original rack in the original orientation.
- Where a boat is taken offsite – you must have appropriately fitted roof racks, tie downs and are responsible for ensuring your load is compliant.
- Misuse of boats will jeopardise ongoing availability.

Damage and Maintenance

- You are 100% responsible for the boat whilst it is in your care – as if it were your own boat. This means you are required to pay for any damage⁴ and for fair replacement cost if it is stolen, or written off (eg car accident). As would be the case if it was your own boat....
- Damage and maintenance issues should be reported verbally where practical (and in all cases confirmed in writing via email to committee@lcrk.org.au).
- Do not continue to use the boat if this will worsen the issue, or if this poses increased risk to you/ others.
- Maintenance and repairs are generally undertaken or organised externally by assigned persons on the Committee.
 - Minor issues (broken cables, missing nuts etc) may be temporarily attended to (but please report).
 - Major repairs (structural issues, fibreglassing, glueing, screwing etc) should not be attempted.
- Temporary modifications such as seat padding does not require approval, but the modification must be removed prior to returning the boat.

Modifications

- Club boats are not to be permanently or significantly modified without obtaining permission from the committee. Permission should be sought via a brief email detailing:
 - The nature of the proposed modification.
 - The reason for the modification (i.e. enhancement, functionality).
 - Impact the modification would have to the value of the boat.
 - Costs involved.
- Examples of enhancement could be changing a half foot plate to a full foot plate, installation of foot straps, pump etc.
- Modifications such as drilling holes for drink systems, GPS mounts, permanent seat modifications or modifications for one-off races would be considered but would unlikely be approved due to accelerated depreciation, impact to structural integrity, no gain in utility for other club members, no cost/benefit.
- Approved modifications must be done by an external professional, the club boat maintenance person or an approved person who has relevant experience in fabrication.
- Temporary modification such as seat padding does not require approval, but the modification must be removed prior to returning the boat.

Shed Use

- Entry to the shed is via security keypad with a keycode (changed periodically). Do not pass on the code – the Committee will issue the code selectively on a needs basis
- The shed is equipped with security cameras. Be aware entry/use of the shed is recorded – you will be filmed.
- The shed is a water free zone in order to prolong the life of both the shed and racks. All boats (Club or personal) are to be washed in the cradles provided and dried before returning to their original rack and in the original fore/aft orientation.

- The last person to leave the shed (either for a paddle, or to leave the site) is responsible for locking the shed. Even if you are expecting someone to return to the shed imminently, it is your responsibility to lock up.

Trial Boats

A number of suppliers from time to time make Boats available to the Club.

- Trial boats are available 'free' when being used for trial purposes – otherwise LCRK will apply normal boat hire rates. The Committee will decide when use of the boat has ceased to be a 'trial'.
- Trial boats are only available for on-site use unless special arrangements have been made directly with the supplier.
- Usage of the boat is expected to conform with all the requirements outlined above – including responsibility for damage, handling requirements etc.

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⁴ Damage generally refers to issues which were avoidable, caused by carelessness and/or misadventure – including hull scratches, and structural damage. Normal wear and tear maintenance is covered by LCRK.