

## The Role of the Boat Captain

On bigger tours where there are several crews taking part, it may be a good idea to appoint a Captain for each boat. They should be familiar with British Rowing's [RowSafe](#) guidance, particularly the section on Touring Rowing.

The boat captain should stay with their designated boat throughout the tour. The rest of the crew may be moved around.

### Responsibilities

The captain's primary responsibility is the safety of the crew.

Boat Captains are required to:

- ensure that their boat is in a safe condition at all times,
- If required, ensure that biosecurity measures have been taken
- determine the crew order,
- manage crew welfare during rowing by ensuring provision of water, suitable rest periods and checking for injuries,
- ensure whoever is coxing navigates the boat in accordance with the agreed instructions and with due regard to hazards and conditions,
- communicate with the tour organiser and/or safety adviser in the event of emergencies afloat,
- attend briefings daily or as circumstances dictate to receive guidance from the tour safety adviser on the itinerary, route, hazards and other safety matters.



## Before going afloat

Ensure that:

- You have read all safety instructions and information:
  - The Tour Risk Assessment/Safety Plan,
  - British Rowing safety guidance for touring.
- Your boat and blades are sound with no damage or loose fittings
- You have all required other equipment, particularly a boat hook and paddle, at least two bailers or a hand operated bilge pump, suitable bow and stern lines and mooring spike and material to cushion the keel of the boat if positioned on hard ground.
- You have buoyancy aids for all crew members. Coxes must wear a buoyancy aid at all times.
- You have at least one fully charged mobile phone with waterproof container with number(s) registered with tour management.
- Your crew have no injuries or illnesses and are capable of rowing the stated distances.
- Your crew have suitable clothing for the forecast weather conditions, in particular that anyone who is due to cox has sufficient warm and weather-proof clothing in case of rain or cold weather.
- You have the navigation maps for the day together with any other documentation issued by the organisers.

