

MIT Boathouse

Recreational Sculling Policies

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Use of the Richard J. Resch Boathouse is permitted only during boathouse open hours when a boathouse staff member is present.
- Rec scullers should use guest changing room just inside the door of their respective locker rooms. These are for day use only; anything left stored overnight will be removed.
- Use of all indoor training equipment in the facility (ergs, bikes, weights, etc.) is restricted to current MIT varsity rowers only.
- Use of recreational sculling equipment is restricted to those approved to scull according to all rules in this document.
- Sculling is allowed only when the weather permits.
 - Sculling is NOT allowed within 30 minutes of audible thunder or visible lightning.
 - Sculling is not allowed if there are whitecaps in the basin.
 - Sculling is also not allowed if air temperature, wind, and/or precipitation present a reasonable risk of hypothermia. Current weather conditions can be found at <https://sailing.mit.edu/weather/>. The water temperature must be a minimum of 45°, and combined air and water temperature must add up to at least 100°.
 - Use common sense and check the weather conditions in advance and/or inquire with a member of the boathouse staff for the possibility of inclement weather. Rec scullers must follow the directions of boathouse staff if advised not to scull.
 - For practical purposes, rec scullers should plan to contain their sculling to daylight hours unless otherwise granted permission.
- All scullers must sign out and back in via the sculling log each time they scull.
- Any accident which occurs on the river or dock must be reported. Reporting forms are located at the desk by the sculling sign-out log. Please notify us by email as well.
- Any damage to equipment must be reported on a Damage Report form and inserted into the clip adjacent to the sculling sign-out log.
- Damaged shells must be placed in slings in one of the boat bays to allow the boatmen to make the appropriate repairs.
- Recreational scullers must avoid interfering with varsity practices in any way. The docks are very busy with varsity crews launching and landing from approximately 6:25-6:45 and 8:10-8:30 AM in the fall and spring.
- Failure to comply with boathouse rules or the instructions of boathouse staff will result in temporary or permanent suspension of privileges to use the facility.

SCULLING SEASON

Rec sculling runs from April 1-September 30, Monday-Friday during boathouse hours.

Boathouse hours generally run from 6:00 AM-7:30 PM during the academic year (April-May, September) and from 6:30 AM-2:30 PM during the summer (June-August) – exact dates TBD. For current boathouse hours, please email summerrowing@mit.edu.

Note: singles will be in use by the MIT Crew youth summer camp from 9:00 AM-4:00 PM during the weeks of June 29, July 6, July 13, and July 27. All rec scullers must be back on the dock no later than 9 AM during these weeks.

Due to heavy powerboat traffic, there will be no sculling whatsoever around Memorial Day, Independence Day, or Labor Day. **No exceptions.**

Rec scullers are encouraged to [sign up for emails from CRAB](#) (Charles River Alliance of Boaters) for notices about river activity, or to check the [calendar](#) on the CRAB website.

In the event of ice on the river or water temperatures below 45°, the sculling season will begin later than April 1 or end prior to September 30, at the discretion of the Boathouse Director.

BEGINNER SCULLING (Training Singles)

All beginner scullers must satisfy the following basic criteria:

1. Anyone interested in sculling must first pass the Small Boat Swim Test. This test is offered at the Zesiger Center pool and must be renewed every two years.
2. For current undergraduate and graduate students, a valid student ID is required. All others must have a current membership with the Zesiger fitness center.
3. Scullers must complete the written sculling test. After carefully reviewing the Charles River traffic documents and maps, scullers will be tested on their knowledge of the rules and regulations regarding traffic patterns and safe river usage.
4. Scullers must pass the boat handling test. This test is a practical exercise where scullers demonstrate that they possess certain skills, including putting the shell in and taking the shell out of the water properly, launching and landing the shell, and turning the shell around.
5. Scullers must meet with a member of the boathouse staff to review the written test, pass the practical test, and go over these policies and boathouse protocol.
6. Scullers must visit the Zesiger customer service desk to register for the Rec Sculling Pass and pay the \$200 fee. Registration is valid for the current rec sculling season, and may be renewed subsequent years by paying the fee for that year and verifying current membership with the Zesiger fitness center.

Once these requirements have been satisfied and verified with a member of the boathouse staff, beginner scullers are permitted to use the **Zephyr training singles only**.

ADVANCED SCULLING (Racing Singles)

Advanced scullers must demonstrate a higher level of proficiency:

1. Scullers must meet all criteria for beginner sculling.
2. Scullers must be able to carry a single in and out of the boathouse without assistance.
3. A member of the boathouse staff must witness the sculler deliberately flip a single and climb back in without assistance within 5 minutes. The flip test must be renewed every two years.

Advanced scullers are eligible to use the **Peinert, WinTech, and FluidDesign racing singles**.