



PUNT AND RIVER CLUB RULES

Punt and River Club Permit

To hire a punt or canoe you must join the Punt and River Club each year by applying for a permit via the HUB <https://hub.wolf.ox.ac.uk/>. Members of College may apply including staff, students, Fellows and alumni of the College. Associate members of Common Room are not able to apply for a permit. You will receive an automated confirmation email once your permit has been approved and this also confirms your membership. You can then book a punt or canoe online via the HUB. To obtain the boathouse key you must present photo ID to the Lodge and sign it out in the book provided. Permission is for you, and you must **not** allow anyone else to use your membership to take out a punt or canoe without you. No refunds for the Punt and River Club permit will be offered.

The punts and punt accessories

There are 7 traditional wooden punts (hand-carved in an assorted array of rare timbers) moored in the harbour.

The punt accessories (1 pole, 1 paddle, 2 back cushions and 2 seat cushions) are stored in the boathouse (C106).

It is **mandatory** when taking out a punt that you take 1 pole and 1 paddle. You can also take and wear a life-jacket and this is especially important for children and non-swimmers.

NO MORE THAN SIX PEOPLE MAY USE A PUNT AT A TIME.

The canoes and canoe accessories

There are two canoes housed in the boathouse; one is a two-seater called Walter Sawyer, and the other is a three-seater called Mabel Purefoy FitzGerald.

Each person in the canoe needs a canoe paddle (found next to the boathouse door with red and yellow blades) and waterproof sleeves for phones and bags for clothing can be found hanging on hooks.

It is **mandatory** that everyone using the canoes must wear a lifejacket. This is irrelevant of swimming ability, and anyone found not wearing a lifejacket will have their permit withdrawn for the season.

The season

The punt and canoe season usually runs between April- October. However, this is weather-dependent and at the discretion of the Admiral of Punts. The Admiral of Punts will also exercise discretion in times of flood, low river or harbour water levels, high winds, poor water quality and goose infestation, at which times the Lodge may be instructed to withhold the punt keys.

Booking

All bookings should be made online and advance booking is advisable. The maximum number of hourly sessions per member per day is **three**. Members are only allowed **one** use of a punt and one use of a canoe per day.

Safety

The College is not responsible for the safety of you or your guests while punting or canoeing. Safety is extremely important and whilst punting and canoeing can be enjoyable activities, they can also be dangerous.

- **YOU MUST WEAR A LIFEJACKET IN A CANOE – NOT OPTIONAL.** Those found not wearing lifejackets in canoes will have their permits revoked and will incur **a £75 fine per person**.
- Do not go in the 'no go zone' when using a punt or canoe (outlined during the permit application process)
- You must not go out alone.
- Only take out a punt & equipment in good repair. Any faulty equipment should be reported immediately to the Lodge or to the Admiral. Canoes are heavy and the correct manual handling techniques must be used.
- You must act responsibly at all times. Those who fall in the water may be able to swim but can still get into serious and unpredictable difficulties.
- Hypothermia kills. Excessive alcohol consumption increases susceptibility to hypothermia.
- Should you be involved in an accident, whether involving a third party or not, please report the incident to the Lodge Porter.

Punting and Canoeing

Collect the punt or canoe key from the Lodge and enter the boathouse to collect the other relevant accessories. The responsibility for the equipment is now yours. Check the equipment before you go out. Any breakages or losses incurred while punting should be reported to the Lodge in writing as soon as possible so that a repair or replacement can be made or an insurance claim effected (as appropriate).

Members may be held responsible up to £500 for loss or damage to a punt, canoe pole and paddles and up to £100 for loss of or damage to other punt or canoe accessories, including keys. Permission to punt may be temporarily or permanently withdrawn if members are proved to have been willfully negligent. Punt Club members are strictly required to punt from the Oxford end, i.e., the sloping end. The boxed end is liable to break since it is not designed for standing on.

Reservations not honoured within 15 minutes of the start of the booked session are void and any member of the Punt Club may take the craft out at their leisure for the remainder of the session; unless it is proven that the previous booking return the punt/canoe late.

Once your time on the river is up, please return the canoe or punt promptly back to the respective harbour mooring locations. Please ensure Canoes / Punts are securely fastened and padlocked to the wooden jetty or metal railings (for canoes) and not the concrete harbour walls. The punt must be bailed of water and the prow must, if dirty, be brushed clean. Replace the lifejackets and all other accessories neatly in the correct places in the boathouse ready for the next user, ensure the boathouse is locked, and return the key to the Lodge.

To reduce the chances of loss or damage, and to avoid disturbing College residents, **all punts must be returned to the harbour no later than 10.00 pm**. Please try to be quiet when bringing back your punt, especially in the evening. You should then return the keys to the Lodge and report to the Lodge immediately if a padlock is broken.

Late returns (**15 minutes or more**) will be reported to the Admiral and a £20 fine may be charged to your battels. Taking a late returned punt/canoe out does not permit a subsequent extension of time on the water; please adhere to your booking time limits without fail.

Members who persistently return late may have their permits withdrawn.

Miscellaneous

- Please help to keep the punts in fine fettle by removing debris, leaves, water, waterfowl and rubbish from the punt at the end of the session, using the brush and/or bailers kept in the boathouse.
- Please stack the punt cushions vertically on the racks so that they may dry out.
- Life jackets, in a range of sizes and styles, are available in the boathouse.
- Please do not take the punts over the rollers at Parsons Pleasure, as this may cause damage to the punts.
- Please keep punts away from nesting birds in the harbour.
- Geese, ducks and swans damage punts and have, in the past, been known to aggress punters. As such, any punt club members caught feeding waterfowl from or near the punts will standardly be required to pay £10 into the punt maintenance fund via battels.
- If you have any questions, please direct them to the Admiral of Punts or the Common Room Administrator.

**THE SCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO WITHDRAW PERMISSION TO
PUNT OR CANOE WHEN IT IS DEEMED NECESSARY**

Admiral of the Punts / Common Room Administrator, Season 2025

To contact the Admirals [e-mail: admiralty@wolfson.ox.ac.uk](mailto:admiralty@wolfson.ox.ac.uk)