

DARWIN COLLEGE PUNT AND KAYAK CLUB

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF HIRE - 16th April 2022 (v2.1.0)

1. Punts and kayaks are hired on a single outing or a membership basis in accordance with the rules of the Darwin College Punt and Kayak Club ('the Club'). The rules of the Club may change from time to time. It is every member's responsibility to keep up to date with the current terms and conditions before going on an outing.
2. Every member of the Club has to be a current or former member of the College. In addition, every member is required to be a competent swimmer.
3. Punt and kayaks and all other types of vessels ('boats') may only be booked on production to the Porters of a valid University card between the official start and end of season as determined by the Admiral of the Punts (usually sometime between 1st March and 30th November). All Boats may be withdrawn from hire at any time without prior notice at the discretion of the Admiral of the Punts.
4. Each club member can book up and take out a maximum of either 2 kayaks or paddle boards or a single canoe, double kayak or punt. Kayaks and canoes can only be booked by full members of the Club. Families with children under the age of 18 can take out additional boats to accommodate all children.
5. Booking slots begin and end on the full or half hour. All boats may only be borrowed for up to three hours on a given day. For trips to Grantchester, each punt must be booked by two Club members, as such trips may take 4 to 5 hours. A trip to Grantchester therefore counts as two separate outings. The two persons making the booking must both submit their ID card at the start of the outing.
6. A booking is void if the boat is not taken within 15 minutes of the booked time. After this time the boat will be available to anyone waiting to take the boat until the end of the unused booking, be it one or three hours. Guests must always be accompanied by a member of the College.
7. All bookings by members with a valid Raven account (in particular students) should be made prior to the outing via the online booking system. The only valid exception is members who do not have access to the Raven system.
8. The person making the booking is responsible for the behavior of his guests. He has to be present at all times during the outing. You cannot make a booking for another person or not take part in a booking you made.
9. Only the Admiral of the Punts may organise outings that take place during hours of darkness. For all other bookings, the latest time vessels can be taken out is one hour before sunset and all vessels must be returned and moored 15 minutes before sunset.
10. All boats must be returned before the end of the booking. When returning a punt, kayak or canoe:
 1. punts must be moored in their allocated place by chaining both ends of the punt to the bank and locking the padlock;
 2. Kayaks, canoes and paddle boards must be returned to the kayak house;

3. all equipment borrowed must be returned immediately to the kayak house;
 4. keys must be returned to the Porters' Lodge promptly after an outing. Loss or failure to return the keys at the end of each session may result in the member being charged for the cost of the replacement; and
 5. any accident or damage is to be reported to the porter on duty and to the Admiral of the Punts at: dcsa_punts@darwin.cam.ac.uk
Failure to do so may result in permanent exclusion from the Club or a financial fine.
11. Fines may be levied at the discretion of the Admiral of the Punts for carelessness or deliberate misuse of boats or their associated equipment which leads to the loss, theft or damage to any boat or associated equipment, up to the full replacement cost. This includes all damage not due to wear and tear during normal use and failure to report damage, however caused.
12. Punters must not act in any way that would place the Club in breach of its duties under the Conservators of the Cam Code of Practice, a copy of which is available to read in the Porter's Lodge. Hirers of punts are to ensure:
1. no more than 6 persons will be carried in a punt;
 2. a punt operating in the hours of darkness must carry a white lantern or electric torch which must be exhibited at all times in such a way as to warn other river users of the punt;
 3. there shall be no playing of loud music or other antisocial behavior that might give reasonable cause for annoyance to any person; and
 4. punts must navigate on the right and through the right hand side of all bridges.
13. Hirers of boats must also abide by the following rules during outings:
1. the Club has complete discretion in refusing a hirer a hiring if it or a porter on duty acting as its agent believes the hirer and/or his or her guests are not safe to participate in the proposed punt, kayak or canoe hire;
 2. punters must read through the 'Basic Punting for Darwinians' guide available on the Punt Club section of the DCSA website before their initial outing;
 3. all punt, kayak, paddle board and canoe hire (including safety equipment) is at the hirer's own risks. The hirer shall therefore bear the risk of loss, theft, damage or destruction of the craft and equipment. The Club will not be responsible in any way for any accident, injury, damage or loss, whether direct or indirect, arising from the hire or use thereof.
 4. the hirer and all others using the boats do so entirely at their own risk. Darwin College and the Punt Club accept no responsibility for the injury, death or loss of or damage to property of any person using the punts, however caused.
 5. the hirer shall bear the cost of any claim brought against the Club as a result of any breach of these terms and conditions by the hirer;
 6. the hirer warrants that both him/herself and all passengers have sufficient training/expertise for the outing;
 7. punts, kayaks and canoes cannot be taken out in times of high flow, strong wind, or other potentially dangerous conditions of navigation. Judgement of such conditions is at the discretion of the porter on duty;

8. the wearing of a life jacket is compulsory when kayaking and canoeing. It is highly recommended for both adults and children when hiring a punt. Life jackets that can be borrowed from the Club are available in the kayak house. It is the responsibility of the hirers to familiarise themselves with the correct use of safety equipment provided;
 9. no hirer is to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs while in charge of a punt, kayak or canoe or paddle board.
 10. The hirer shall obey any instruction regarding the punt or its associated equipment which may be issued by a Porter, the Admiral of the Punts, or any Officer of the River Cam Conservancy during the period of hire.
14. Failure to abide by these terms and conditions:
1. members returning punts more than 15 minutes late will face a suspension, a fine or permanent exclusion from the Club at the discretion of the Admiral of the Punts; the penalty shall be proportionate to the severity of the case, and take into account whether this is a repeated offence
 2. other breaches of these terms and conditions may result in suspension, a fine or permanent exclusion from the Club at the discretion of the Admiral of the Punts; and
 3. a suspension or exclusion from the Club shall in effect ban the affected person from
 - i. taking out or using any of the Punt Club boats
 - ii. using any of the Punt Club facilities
 - iii. taking part in any outing organized or booked by another member of the Punt Club
 - iv. taking part in any event organized by the Punt Club.
 4. a decision to exclude a member permanently may be appealed to the Domestic Bursar.