**BASIC PRINCIPLES OF TIDEWAY NAVIGATION**

A chart to accompany The Tideway Code: A Code of Practice for rowing and paddling on the Tidal Thames

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**Lower Tideway Code Area (special navigation rules for rowers)**

**Lower Tideway Code Area (Col Regs navigation for paddlers)**

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**Col Regs**

Regardless of the tidal stream:
- **Outbound** or **inbound** stay as close to the Starboard (right-hand/bow side) bank as is safe and out of the Fairway where possible.
- Go inside/under piers where water levels allow and it is safe to do so.

All small boats must inform London VTS before navigating above Cherry Garden Pier and when they are afloat after dark anywhere below Wandsworth Bridge.

**SUP is not permitted below Tower Bridge**

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**The Tideway Code**
on the tidal Thames
be fully

All rowers and paddlers navigating on the tidal Thames must be fully conversant with The Tideway Code. Also see:
- [www.boatonthethames.co.uk](http://www.boatonthethames.co.uk)
- [PLA Tidal Thames – smartphone app](http://www.pla.co.uk/
- [Recreational Users’ Guide - leaflet](http://www.pla.co.uk/)
- [tidelimitsofplastics @plaa.co.uk](http://www.pla.co.uk/)

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**INCIDENTS**

- **EMERGENCIES**
  - Always carry a mobile phone (in a buoyant water-proof case) for emergency use.
  - If life-threatening, immediately call 999 or 112 and ask for the Coastguard who will send the appropriate assistance.
  - Be prepared to give your name, location and the nature of the emergency.

- **INCIENT**
  - For non-emergencies and near misses call London VTS on 0203 260 7711 or use the smart phone app >

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**FURTHER INFORMATION**

- All rowers and paddlers navigating on the tidal Thames must be fully conversant with The Tideway Code. Also see:
  - [www.boatonthethames.co.uk](http://www.boatonthethames.co.uk)
  - [PLA Tidal Thames – smartphone app](http://www.pla.co.uk/)
  - [Recreational Users’ Guide - leaflet](http://www.pla.co.uk/)
  - [tidelimitsofplastics @plaa.co.uk](http://www.pla.co.uk/)

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**Col Regs (Starboard)**

Regardless of the tidal stream:
- **Outbound** or **inbound** stay as close to the Starboard (right-hand/bow side) bank as is safe and out of the Fairway where possible.
- Go inside/under piers where water levels allow and it is safe to do so.

All small boats must inform London VTS before navigating below the Lower Tideway Code Area and when they are afloat after dark anywhere below Wandsworth Bridge.

**THAMES BARRIER CONTROL ZONE**

Between Blackwall Point (O2 Arena) and Margaretness (further downriver), all vessels are subject to controlled navigation and must contact London VTS.

Much more consideration is necessary if navigating below the Thames Barrier. There are far fewer egress points and the water conditions can become very challenging for small, fine and open boats.

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**Keep a Good Lookout**

by sight and by sound, in front and behind.

Large motor vessels have Right of Way over small boats which should always allow them space in the Fairway/deep water channel.

All boats in the Fairway have Right of Way and overtaking boats must give way or wait until it is clear.

Never cross in front of a boat in the Fairway, even in a Crossing Zone.

Do not stop, turn, cross, overtake or do slow-moving exercises within 75m of any bridges.

Do not spread out across the channel.