

BASIC PRINCIPLES OF TIDEWAY NAVIGATION CENTRAL

To accompany "Rowing on the Tideway – A Code of Practice for Rowing on the Tidal Thames" (Edition 3/r1 2017)

All steers, coxes and coaches must be fully conversant with the Rowing Code and be authorised by their clubs before navigating on the Tideway. The steers is Master of the Vessel and is legally responsible for the navigation, safety and behaviour of their crew. Always carry out a thorough Risk Assessment before going afloat – see the Rowing Code for further details.

Col Regs / starboard side rule applies

When rowing in either direction, and regardless of the stream direction, rowing boats should stay as close to the **Starboard** or right-hand bank as is safe.

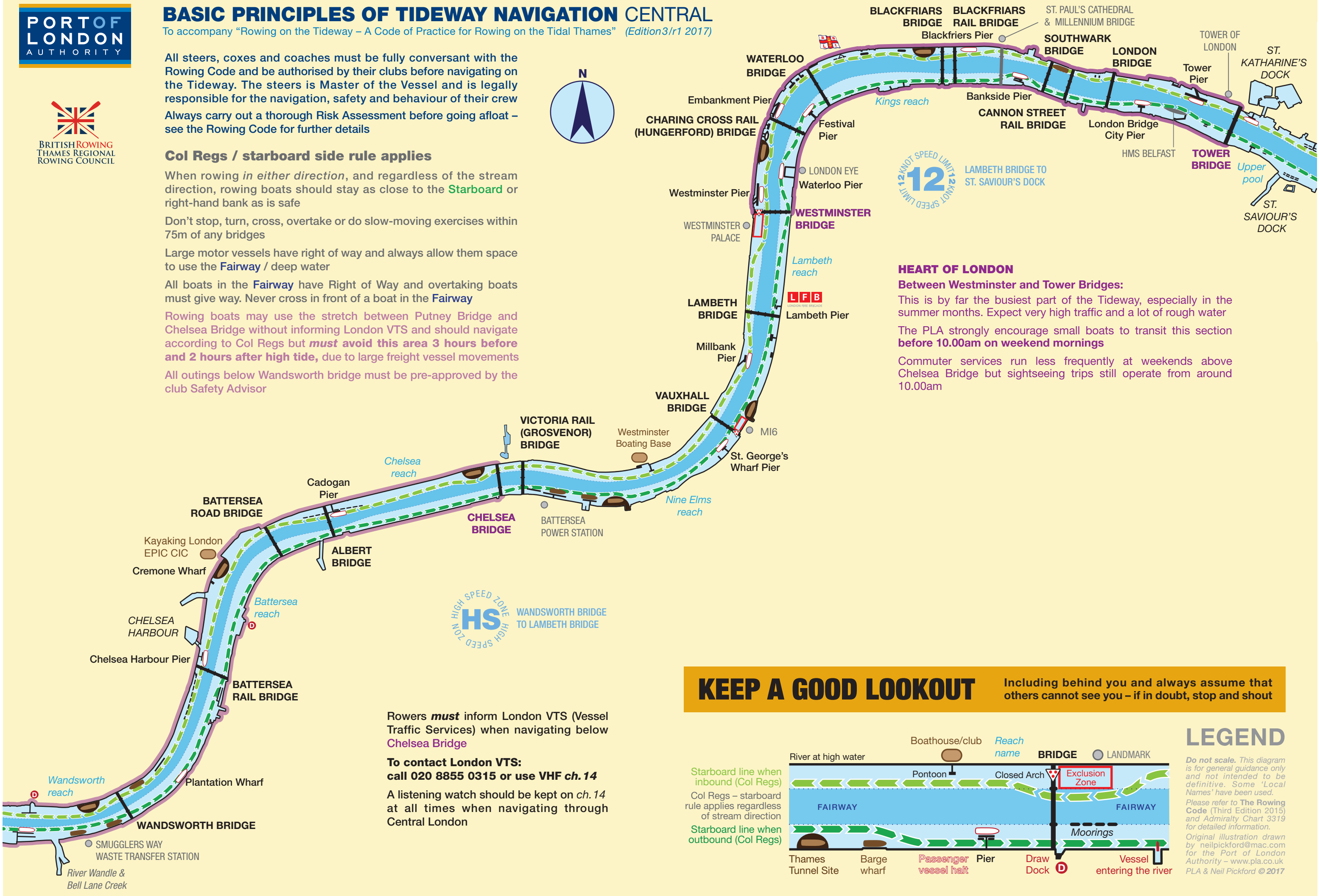
Don't stop, turn, cross, overtake or do slow-moving exercises within 75m of any bridges.

Large motor vessels have right of way and always allow them space to use the **Fairway** / deep water.

All boats in the **Fairway** have Right of Way and overtaking boats must give way. Never cross in front of a boat in the **Fairway**.

Rowing boats may use the stretch between Putney Bridge and Chelsea Bridge without informing London VTS and should navigate according to Col Regs but **must avoid this area 3 hours before and 2 hours after high tide**, due to large freight vessel movements.

All outings below Wandsworth bridge must be pre-approved by the club Safety Advisor.



12
SPEED LIMIT
KNOTS

HS
HIGH SPEED ZONE
WANDSWORTH BRIDGE TO LAMBETH BRIDGE

HEART OF LONDON

Between Westminster and Tower Bridges:

This is by far the busiest part of the Tideway, especially in the summer months. Expect very high traffic and a lot of rough water.

The PLA strongly encourage small boats to transit this section **before 10.00am on weekend mornings**.

Commuter services run less frequently at weekends above Chelsea Bridge but sightseeing trips still operate from around 10.00am.

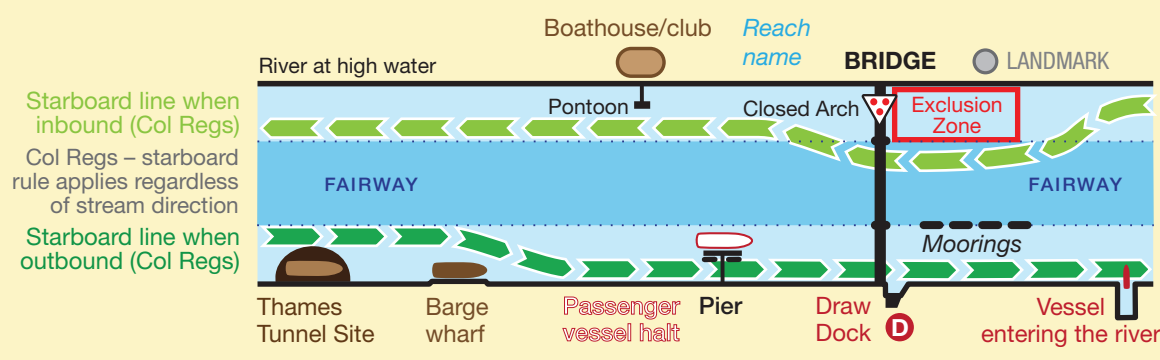
Rowers **must** inform London VTS (Vessel Traffic Services) when navigating below **Chelsea Bridge**.

To contact London VTS: call 020 8855 0315 or use VHF ch. 14

A listening watch should be kept on **ch. 14** at all times when navigating through Central London.

KEEP A GOOD LOOKOUT

Including behind you and always assume that others cannot see you – if in doubt, stop and shout



LEGEND

Do not scale. This diagram is for general guidance only and not intended to be definitive. Some 'Local Names' have been used. Please refer to The Rowing Code (Third Edition 2015) and Admiralty Chart 3319 for detailed information. Original illustration drawn by neilpickford@mac.com for the Port of London Authority – www.pla.co.uk PLA & Neil Pickford © 2017