**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.

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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.

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