

## Augusta Junior Rowing 2006 – 2007 Attendance Policy

### Practices

Rowing is a sport like any other requiring regular and consistent practice in order to improve. Each athlete is expected to attend all scheduled practices. Missed practices will be made up.

Excused absences are granted at least three days in advance by the head coach and by contacting the coach through phone, email, handwritten note, or in person. With the exception of family emergencies and certain injuries, excused absences are made up by the athlete.

Unexcused absences take place when an athlete does not provide their coach with at least three days notice. Critical or unexpected emergencies, sudden illnesses, or dangerous driving conditions can prevent a rower from providing notice. However, every effort should be made to notify the coach in advance. If that is not possible, then a short note from a parent must be provided *before the athlete can return to practice*. Unexcused absences may result in suspension from the next regatta, suspension from the team, or being cut from the team. Athletes with unexcused absences and no notes from parents *may be cut from the team at any time*. Unexcused absences are made up by the athlete.

**Exam Dates / Exam Week:** The practice schedule is arranged around major exam testing periods for Richmond, Columbia, and Aiken Counties. Appropriate dates have been selected as off practice days according to published calendars for those school systems.

**Major Tests during the Season:** Each athlete is expected to manage their time effectively. An excused absence may be granted to an athlete who has demonstrated a historical tendency to struggle in one particular subject. However athletes are not expected to miss practice because of last minute cramming.

**Religious holidays which are legal holidays:** Are recognized as days off on the practice calendar.

**Religious holidays which are not legal holidays:** A religious holiday is an occasional (not once a week), predictable (annually reoccurring), and recognized date / special observance for that religion. Although the special circumstances of each athlete are handled privately and on a case by case basis the general rule of thumb is if you were in school that day, you come to practice that day.

**Family emergencies:** The student would miss presumably without notice and the practice(s) would be made up on a case by case basis.

**Dangerous weather / hazardous driving conditions:** These are unusually wet conditions meaning several days of uninterrupted rain or an unusual downpour which impedes traffic. Although athletes and their families should always err on the side of caution, an afternoon rain shower is not an acceptable reason for missing practice. In the event that these conditions occur, the athlete would miss practice presumably without notice, but the practice would be made up.

**Unexpected illnesses:** The student would miss practice presumably without notice, but the practice would be made up. “My stomach hurt at school today so I am not coming to practice” is not acceptable.

**Injury, illness, or surgery requiring at home stay:** The practice(s) would be made up on a case by case basis.

**Injury with mobility (not missing school):** At the coach’s discretion, the athlete’s injury may or may not be an acceptable reason to miss practice. As with other sports, the athlete may be expected to be at practice to support their teammates even while injured.

**Primary /legal holidays:** Are recognized as days off on the practice calendar.

**School holidays / Breaks:** Are recognized as days off on the practice calendar. This does not include teacher work days.

**Routine appointments – medical, etc:** The parents and athlete should use Wednesdays for this purpose wherever possible. Otherwise, the student can miss with a three day notice, but the practice(s) will be made up.

**Academic Reasons - Awards, Trips, SAT dates, detention, etc.:** The student can miss with a three day notice, but the practice(s) will be made up.

**When in doubt, if you were in school that day, come to practice.**

### Regattas

Every effort is made to schedule races far enough in advance to allow each athlete to make plans during the season. Athletes should commit to the entire race schedule. If an athlete cannot attend a regatta then it is their responsibility and the responsibility of their parents to notify the coach in writing at the beginning of the season. Exceptions are critical or unexpected emergencies, and it is understood that sudden illnesses and family emergencies can prevent a rower from providing notice. However, every effort should be made to notify the coach in advance.

**What happens if I decide not to go and don’t tell anyone?** Each athlete on the team is placed in at least one racing lineup with their other teammates at every regatta; however, these entries and payment are submitted weeks before the event. Giving a late notice or no notice that you will not be participating in a regatta shows a lack of respect for your team, costs the program expensive scratch fees, means lost money from the prepaid entries, causes problems with prearranged travel plans for the entire team, and forfeits other team members the opportunity to compete. These expenses are non-refundable and make the cost of rowing more expensive for everyone.