



Safety Alert - Questions for new members

When a new member arrives at your club, it is helpful to talk to them and find out what they would like to do and to understand how the club can help them and keep them safe.

It is tempting to ask them about their health, but this needs care and discretion. We have no right to ask people what medical conditions they have, this is a matter of medical confidentiality. If they did tell us about their conditions, then we would probably not understand.

We can ask people what they can do, what they may need help to do and about the ways we can help them. This would include anything we can do to help keep themselves and others safe.

It may help to have an "In Case of Emergency" (ICE) file that contains important information on each member who may need support. This will contain contact information for parents and carers or next of kin and information that would help if the member needed emergency medical support. This could relate to medication, allergies, etc. Ensure that there is controlled access to these files but that they are available to the people who may need them, when they are needed. It is very much on a "need to know" basis. Each person's information must be destroyed if they leave the club.

If people tell you that they may need help if they have a seizure then have a look at the Medical Panel guidance [Rowing and Epilepsy - British Rowing](#). If they tell you that they have a chronic condition or disease then have a look at Section 8.6.2 of [RowSafe](#).

Do not forget to ask if they can swim or float. There is further guidance in section 3.6 of [RowSafe](#). There is more advice in Section 6.1 of [RowSafe](#), where it says that: -

Club Officers are expected to:

- *Record personal information about the new rower including contact details, floating and swimming ability, emergency contact and parental or guardian consent for juniors.*
- *Provide advice on any health or injury issues that may affect their safety, particularly when rowing, or refer them to their medical professional as appropriate.*

Any form for new members to complete should outline how data will be stored, for how long, and who will be able to access it.



Have the information that you need and respect confidentiality.

Stephen Worley
Honorary Rowing Safety Adviser
safety@britishrowing.org

June 2025

[This Safety Alert is a safety guidance document. Please read our safety message and disclaimer.](#)