



CHARLES RIVER ALLIANCE OF BOATERS

**Here is a quick quiz for the rowing crowd.
Answers are below.**

1. What direction is the center arch at Anderson restricted to for rowing shells?

- A. That depends on which arches are blocked by construction. Wait, construction is over? There are no arches blocked? Um.....
- B. Upstream. Always always always upstream only.
- C. I'm not sure, so I use the right hand arches at all times.

2. In what direction is the center arch at Longfellow used?

- A. It has been under construction for so long and there are so many barges moving around, I don't go near Longfellow.
- B. It is bi-directional.
- C. It isn't used at all by rowing shells. Ever. Because the way the bridge is situated, it puts you into oncoming traffic no matter how you use it. So instead we use any of the other arches. And there are lots.

3. What arches on the Mass Ave (Harvard) Bridge are *NOT* used by rowers, to separate downstream traffic from upstream traffic.

- A. The ones on either side of that big lighted platform because that is the middle of the river.
- B. 2nd and 3rd arches towards the center, from the painted 'racing' arch.
- C. I have no idea, I just stay all the way to the right.

4. You are sculling and a boat is coming up on you swiftly and will certainly pass you. What do you do?

- A. Wait to see which way the faster boat wants to go and then move out of their way. The overtaking boat has right of way.

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B. Hold whatever course I am on and let them go around me. If I'm being nice, I might shout 'look ahead', but they can go around me. It is the passing boats job to pass safely.

C. I move to shore. If they are heading toward me while I am close to shore, I shout 'look ahead,' or 'I'm on your shore side' because boats should pass to the middle of the river.

5. I'm sculling with a friend doing side-by-side work and boats are trying to pass us. I should:

A. See which way the other boats want to go and then move out of their way, because I didn't get this right in the last question either.

B. We'll move toward shore but we're going to stay side by side and push the other boats into the middle and possibly over the center line because I like to have my own lane and won't row in my buddy's puddles.

C. Row single file or at least overlap as best we can. Because we are very likely not exactly the same speed and can work together to not to make folks go way out and around, and possibly into on-coming traffic.

6. Your sculling coach has lined up 15 singles at the 2k start for a 2k piece. You should:

A. Remind your coach that the race course is only 6 lanes wide and there is no way you're going to stay on the right side of the river with that many racing at once, and suggest he change to 3 flights.

B. Remind your other scullers that you are all not the same speed so you should start in really tight quarters and slower boats need to row behind faster boats, so you all fit in 6 lanes.

C. Tell your Captain or someone on the board that the coach needs a refresher on the traffic pattern.

D. Shake your head at your coach and the other scullers if you are the only one figuring out that this is a really bad idea. And then talk to them all after practice so everyone is on the same page.

Quiz Answers

1. B, but we'll take C.

2. C.

3. B is the correct answer. A is wrong because the lighted platform is not at all in the middle, and rowers use the 4 arches to the left and 4 arches to the right of that lighted platform to head downstream. C is wrong because the basin is one place where staying to the right can really get you into trouble. Stay out of that Union lane by angling your boat out at the 2k finish marker and point no closer to shore than the 4th arch to the right of the lighted platform.

4. C is the right answer. A is only right on a closed course, official racing situation. Even if you are doing a semi-organized head piece or a Head of the Kevin, slower boats should move to shore. There can be other boats on the river and the rules don't change just because you are doing a piece. Does this mean you can never give a faster boat the inside of a corner? Of course not. But you need to

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make sure it doesn't put you in the middle of other fast boats now trying to maneuver around you. Make sure that you communicate and tell someone that "I'll go wide" or "take the inside". And by the way, B is never the right attitude. Slower boats have the better view and can move out of the way (unless they are already on shore).

5. The sarcastic tone alone should have told you that C is the right answer.

6. All of the above. It takes a village for this river to be safe so please, speak up for safer actions.

Thanks for playing along with the quiz. What is your prize? Peace of mind and enhanced safety for all of us. This quiz was inspired by recent incidents hopefully not involving you.