

SMRC Trailer Towing Policy

Date	26 th August 2024	
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Towing trailers for St Michaels rowing club involves more than just hitching up and hitting the road—it's like navigating a challenging regatta course, but with legal and safety considerations. Let's row through the key points you need to know before embarking on your trailer-towing adventure!

Before the Journey:

1. The Driver:

- If you've taken your driving test after January 1st, 1997, you may need additional licensing to tow a trailer. Specifically:
 - A category 'B + E' test (Car plus Trailer) or 'D1 + E' (Minibus plus Trailer) is required.
 - Holders of a full LGV C+E or PCV D + E license automatically have these entitlements.
- If the maximum authorized mass (the total permissible weight of the trailer and its load) exceeds 750 kg, you likely need the 'B + E' license.
- Seek professional advice before taking the test, and practice reversing and maneuvering with a box-type trailer.

2. The Trailer:

- Ensure your trailer is legally roadworthy:
 - Check for brakes, lights, and tires.
 - Look for a permanently attached plate stating the maximum authorized mass.
 - Consider weighing your loaded trailer at a weighbridge to know the actual weight you're towing (it'll likely exceed 1 ton). Alternatively

use the trailer plan to assess the weight of the trailer based on the UK boat weights and trailer tar weight.

- Plan your route, do not assume map apps etc. will guide you on suitable routes.
- Ensure the load is correctly balanced by making sure there is a downward force on the tow hitch, and that hitch is securely locked to the towing vehicle.
- Raise the jockey wheel, do not over-tighten by standing on the lever.
- Check that all shells are securely strapped, with no strap ends hanging loose.
- Check that any equipment in the base of the trailer is secure and will not protrude from the trailer.
- Do not carry any equipment (riggers, gazebo, bikes etc.) on the tongue of the trailer. No exceptions. Carbon fiber riggers should be carried in the towing vehicle where possible.
- Check all lights are working (lightboard at rear and side marker lights), tyres inflated.
- Fit your personal reg plate on the light board.
- Release trailer brake.
- Start slow and look/listen for any movement of equipment.

3. Insurance and Permission:

- Confirm that your vehicle insurance covers trailer towing.
- Obtain permission from your club's captain to take the trailer.
- Bring along a passenger to assist with navigation and maneuvering.

During the Journey:

- Drive smoothly, keep a safe following distance, and be mindful of the trailer's weight and dimensions. The excessive rear and front overhang are unique to this type of trailer & load, always make allowances and plan ahead. Remember, you're not just towing a boat; you're carrying the dreams of future champions!

After the Journey:

- Safely uncouple and store the trailer. It deserves a cozy spot after its hard work.

Remember, you're not just a driver—you're the guardian of rowing equipment, ensuring it arrives at its destination intact.

For more detailed information, you can refer to resources like the [British Rowing document](#), which covers legal and safety considerations for towing boat trailers.

Is there anything else you'd like to explore, whether it's rowing-related or a different topic altogether?

Re-imbusement of Trip:

We are a volunteer club for the majority of functions. We also acknowledge the fact that there is a cost to towing to regattas and this function needs to be covered by the club. To Ensure the tower does not get out of pocket we will provide fuel for the trip and an allowance for general expenses of 0.30 cents per kilometer. These trips are based on a commonsense approach and if you can minimize the number of trips to and from a regatta or event this should be the approach. Any expenses outside of these standard costs will need to be cleared with the captain (smrccaptain@gmail.com) prior to the event. All receipts will need to be given to the SMRC treasurer (smrctreasurer@gmail.com) for re-imbusement. When using your own vehicle this approach is used. If you are using a rented or club vehicle the cost of the vehicle and fuel are what is covered. At SMRC we have 3 trailers. The first 2 are double axel and require a BE license for towing and get the mileage rates as above. The single axel trailer is for shorter lighter trips and does not incur the mileage rates above.