



**Welcome to the 2018 Fall Season!  
Welcome to our class of 2022 Rowers!**

This memo will help you and your rower understand the structure and requirements of the club as well as opportunities for parents/guardians to get involved and support the team.

Rowing is a club sport at Saint Ignatius College Prep (SICP) and is operated under the organization of Saint Ignatius Chicago Rowing, Inc. (SICR), a nonprofit corporation managed by a volunteer parent board. The parent board works closely with the SICP Athletic Director, Tony Harris (interim), and Assistant Directors Pat McGovern and Erik Eastman. We are also extremely grateful for the support from the school's leadership - including Fr. Caruso, Fr. Laniauskas, Mr. John Chandler and Principal Brianna Latko. The school has been instrumental in the development of our training site, Park 571, owned and operated by the City of Chicago. We are also very thankful for our coaching staff led by Tony Brooks and Bryan Cheung - our coaches include Len Richards, Owen Skelding, Rob Forney and Rich Sims - and we are looking to add a couple more soon. Their dedication to our program is a big reason why we have had tremendous success. This year, Ajay Nagarkatte and John Lopez continue their tenures as Board President and Vice President respectively, further supported by several other parent board members. Outside of coaching virtually all tasks involved in operating SICR are accomplished through the generous efforts of parent volunteers. If you have an interest in being on the Board, please reach out to Ajay or John at [sicrpresident@gmail.com](mailto:sicrpresident@gmail.com).

We will hold a mandatory Annual Fall Parent and Rower kickoff meeting (tentatively Thursday, September 6, 2018) in the McLaughlin Room. We look forward to meeting you and also cover all of the information below. We are eager to have you be a part of the rowing club - there are many volunteer roles to be filled - and we welcome your input and ideas for SICR throughout the year.

Each rower is responsible for paying a club fee and a nominal US ROWING Membership fee in order to participate. Our registration takes place online and can be accessed by going to the Club's website at [www.saintignatiuschicagorowing.org](http://www.saintignatiuschicagorowing.org).

The fee for this season will be \$1,000 for all rowers who register early. Scholarships are available; please contact our treasurer at [SICRTreasurer@yahoo.com](mailto:SICRTreasurer@yahoo.com) for more information. If you have questions about registration, please contact Brad Keith at [sicr.registrar@gmail.com](mailto:sicr.registrar@gmail.com).

**New Rower information meeting:**

We will hold an informational meeting for registered/interested new rowers and their parents at Park 571/Eleanor Boathouse in Bridgeport on Saturday, August 18, 2018 at 8:30 am. Our coaches and some board members will be present to answer any questions.

**Prior to being allowed on the water\* all new rowers need to either have**

- (1) Registered for the fall season or
- (2) Turned into each respective head coach a waiver form and a swim proficiency\*\* form (<http://www.saintignatiuschicagorowing.org/novices>). **No exceptions will be allowed to the aforementioned requirement.**

In season, both the girls and boys teams whether varsity, JV or novice, practice at Park 571/Eleanor Boathouse in Bridgeport.

The novice team uses a bus, generously provided by the school, to take rowers to and from Park 571. Novice parents are asked to pay a fee as we are required by the school to have a chaperone in addition to the driver. Karen Lopez is our novice parent liaison and will be our point person to help our new parents understand these collaborative efforts. It sounds like a daunting task but it runs smoothly and we have been doing it as a Club tradition for 20 years.

For practice gear – the girls and boys typically wear athletic shorts and t-shirts in warm weather and supplement with additional gear for cooler weather. Shoes are not worn in the racing shells so most rowers wear socks (which will get dirty) and slip on slides. We do offer a team bag for purchase, which you will likely want your rower to have to store the mounting pile of gear your rower will obtain over time!

Uniforms for varsity and JV rowers should have been ordered during the registration process. If you have any challenges with that, please look for Cathy Clinton at the mandatory kickoff meeting.

We do several Regattas in the fall and more in the spring. The fall schedule is near complete and will be available at our Annual Fall Meeting. The fall schedule will likely entail 3 or 4 Regattas for new rowers and more for JV/Varsity rowers. The entire team collaborates with each other group to transport, supervise and feed our Rowers and care for our equipment and their families at Regattas. These responsibilities are organized for each regatta through a volunteer signup effort managed via a signup genius link. You will be hearing more about this at our meeting later this month.

If you have questions prior to our Annual Fall Parent and Rower Meeting please feel free to contact either your head coach and/or our parent liaison Karen Lopez at [SICRnoviceinfo@gmail.com](mailto:SICRnoviceinfo@gmail.com).

### **Go WOLFPACK ROWING!**

\* The coaches will determine at what point the new rowers are ready for “on the water practice”. \*\*Please note swim proficiency tests are typically available at your local park district pool and or YMCA for a nominal fee and by appointment.