



The New Haven Rowing Club Initiation Fee

The origins of New Haven Rowing Club's (NHRC) one-time initiation fee lie in the bold decision NHRC members took in the early 1990s to buy land and build a beautiful boathouse on the banks of the Housatonic River in Oxford. Evicted from their home at Yale's boathouse, where they had rowed for the first two decades of NHRC's history, the membership at the time committed to creating a permanent home where subsequent generations of rowers could enjoy this beautiful stretch of river.

A decision this important was surely not going to be easy, and that's just how it turned out. The members donated money to purchase the land and building materials. More importantly, they abandoned rowing for the next two years and dedicated evenings, weekends and holidays to the hard work of building a two-bay boathouse from the ground up. Later when NHRC purchased the adjacent properties the members again donated the funds and provided personal loans to the club so that we would not have to take a bank loan.

Our stunning boathouse is the living legacy of these years of generosity and sacrifice; a beautiful facility that hundreds of NHRC members and guests have marveled at and enjoyed in the decades since it opened in 1994.

The one-time NHRC initiation fee provides symbolic "ownership" of our boathouse to those members who were not here to do the hard work necessary to create our physical club. The fee honors the sweat equity and financial equity that the NHRC pioneers gladly and voluntarily invested in the land and building that make our club so special, and indeed the envy of many other clubs with lesser facilities.

The size and payment terms of the initiation fee are determined by the NHRC Board of Directors. The fee is currently set at \$1,000 (or \$1,200 if paid over three years), and is a one-time fee levied in the **second** year of membership for new members age 40 or over, or in the year after a current member celebrates their 40th birthday.

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