

# LITE BOAT

LIGHT. STABLE. EASY.



## USER MANUAL

*ROWING BOAT*





**Welcome to the Liteboat family!**

You have just purchased a Liteboat rowing boat, manufactured in our workshop in Pontcharra (French Alps) and entirely handcrafted by our operators.

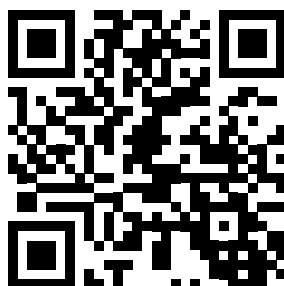
**Thank you for your trust!**

This guide will give you some advice on how to use, maintain, and store your boat so that you can enjoy it to the fullest and use it in the best possible conditions and in complete safety.

A lot of advice is also available on our website and on the Liteboat YouTube channel.

Remember to keep this manual in a safe place and, if you sell the boat, don't forget to give it to the new owner. You can access a digital version via the QR code below.

**Enjoy reading and happy rowing!**



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## A. SAFETY TIPS

You must use the services of an experienced professional for maintenance, assembly, or replacement of accessories, or to make modifications or repairs. Modifications that may affect the safety characteristics of the boat must be assessed, carried out, and documented by competent and authorized persons. The manufacturer cannot be held liable for modifications that it has not approved. Check with your LITEBOAT distributor.

The boat owner must ensure that all users read the manual carefully and comply with the safety instructions contained therein. Comply with local regulations. Also comply with the information on the manufacturer's plate.

If you are not an experienced rower, you must first familiarize yourself with your boat in calm conditions with an instructor, club, or coach from your country's rowing federation. We recommend that you consult your doctor before starting to row.

Never go rowing if you have consumed drugs or alcohol, or if you are feeling weak or ill.

Finally, under no circumstances should you row on a LITEBOAT if you cannot swim.

### 1. Before launching

Before launching your boat, it is essential to check the weather forecast and ensure that conditions are suitable for the recommended use of your rowing boat.

Do not go out in foggy or misty weather, or during a storm.

Before setting off, tell your friends and family about your trip: departure time, route, expected return time, etc.

Always carry a means of communication with you: your cell phone in a waterproof case.

Never go out at night, as this is prohibited.

Avoid navigating in corridors, channels intended for maritime traffic, or maneuvering or docking areas in ports.

### 2. During your row

It is strongly recommended that you carry safety equipment and flotation aids (e.g., life jackets).

In some countries, these items may be mandatory (local requirement). Please refer to the regulations in force in the country of use.

When rowing, turn around regularly to avoid colliding with obstacles. If there are many boats on the water, be extra vigilant as your boat is very low in the water and may not be easily visible. Wear brightly colored clothing to be more visible.

If the boat capsizes: the righting technique consists of counterbalancing the hull to help it return to its normal position. Then use one side of the sail to leverage and facilitate the righting.

Climb back on board via the rear panel of the boat so that you can lie flat on your stomach. As soon as possible, grab the paddles and get into a safe position: paddles flat, arms and legs outstretched.

### 3. After your row

As soon as you have finished rowing, open the hatches and the vent at the rear of the boat for optimal ventilation. When you are not sailing, this vent must remain open at all times. However, make sure you screw the plug back on before setting sail.

Clean (with a mild detergent and appropriate soaps), rinse, and dry your boat and equipment after each outing. This is essential for all sea trips, as salt water can damage the boat and equipment through corrosion.

Sun, weather, and UV rays can damage your boat, causing its colors to fade and it to warp in high temperatures. We recommend storing your boat indoors in a dry place. If this is not possible, store it outdoors under a securely fastened tarpaulin raised off the ground to protect it from moisture. A water-repellent, UV-resistant protective cover is not recommended for protecting your boat from rain.

To protect your boat, you will need to clean the gelcoat once a year, followed by the application of wax. These products are sold in specialist stores (shipyards). These products will impregnate the materials and protect them from UV rays.

Your boat should not be left outside over winter as frost can cause damage. We recommend storing your boat in a dry place between 10°C and 30°C.

## B. TERMS OF USE

According to European recreational boating legislation, LITEBOATS are certified in Division 240 (human-powered boats). They do not fall into the category of "CE" marked vessels.

LITEBOATS (except the LiteRiver) are certified in navigation category D:

- Navigation in protected waters, designed for trips in protected coastal waters, small bays, small lakes, rivers, and canals, where the wind can reach force 4 (maximum) and waves can reach a significant height of up to 30 cm, with occasional waves, caused for example by passing boats, of a maximum height of 50 cm (excluding LiteRace ranges).
- Maximum navigation authorized within 2 nautical miles of shelter depending on sea conditions and subject to possession of the mandatory safety equipment.
- Any navigation beyond 2 nautical miles from shelter is prohibited.

LITEBOATS can be registered. Check with your country's Maritime Affairs department. For any registration with Maritime Affairs, we can provide you with a Declaration of Conformity for your boat (upon request).

|                     | LiteSport 4.6  | LiteSport 5.0   | LiteRiver      | LiteRace 1X     | LiteRace 2X     | LiteDuo         | XRow           |
|---------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| <b>Nb of people</b> | 1              | 1               | 1              | 1               | 2               | 2               | 2              |
| <b>Max. load</b>    | 75kg<br>165lbs | 130kg<br>286lbs | 75kg<br>165lbs | 130kg<br>286lbs | 250kg<br>551lbs | 200kg<br>440lbs | 220kg<br>485kg |

## C. BOAT SPECIFICATIONS

### 1. Manufacturer's plate

Each LITEBOAT has its own manufacturer's plate, which is permanently affixed and separate from the HIN (Hull Identification Number) plate, indicating:

- The name of the manufacturer
- The design category of the boat
- The type of boat
- The maximum load recommended by the manufacturer (in kg and lbs)
- The number of people recommended by the manufacturer

Example of a manufacturer's plate (LiteSport 5.0):



### 2. General information

|                           | LiteSport 4.6 | LiteSport 5.0 | LiteRiver     | LiteRace 1X   | LiteRace 2X    | LiteDuo       | XRow           |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| <b>Length</b>             | 4,62m         | 5m            | 5,60m         | 6m            | 7,5m           | 6,5m          | 5m             |
| <b>Height at gunwhale</b> | 31cm          | 31cm          | 27cm          | 32cm          | 35cm           | 36cm          | 45cm           |
| <b>Max. height</b>        | 35cm          | 36cm          | 33cm          | 42cm          | 46cm           | 40cm          | 47cm           |
| <b>Max. width</b>         | 0,75m         | 0,75m         | 0,6m          | 0,76m         | 1m             | 0,8m          | 1,06m          |
| <b>Total weight</b>       | 25kg<br>55lbs | 27kg<br>60lbs | 23kg<br>50lbs | 35kg<br>77lbs | 60kg<br>132lbs | 43kg<br>95lbs | 55kg<br>121lbs |

**Architect :** Sam Manuard Yacht Design

**Boat builder :** Liteboat SAS

### 3. Stability and freeboard

LITEBOATS are very stable rowing boats due to their chine hulls with very wide sterns.

Nevertheless, rowing boats remain inherently unstable, long, low in the water, and light. Capsizing is therefore possible, especially when sailing parallel to the waves.

## D. BOAT SETUP

### I. Components/fittings supplied with your rowing boat (standard equipment)



Hatch caps



Sliding seat(s)



Composite fin



Drain plug



Oarlocks



Oarlocks shims



Complete oarlocks axles

#### ***Standard equipment attached to the boat:***

- Adjustable footboard(s) with Velcro foot straps or shoes (depending on model)
- Seat rails
- Rear drain plug
- Textile bow strap (not installed on the LiteRiver)
- Female supports for the rigger (Quick-Release system)
- Rear net (not installed on the LiteRiver)

#### ***Standard components to be installed on the boat (supplied in the bag delivered with the boat):***

- Replacement drain plug
- Fin to be fitted to the boat in the fin box
- Oarlocks
- Oarlock pins
- Oarlock shims
- Rigger(s) with Quick Release system and pins
- Water bottle (supplied exclusively for the LiteSport range)
- Foam or carbon seats (depending on model)



## II. Tools required for setting up/adjusting your boat

- (1) 5mm Allen key
- (2) Phillips screwdriver
- (3) 18mm socket wrench
- (4) 12-13 mm flat wrench
- (5) 10mm flat wrench



- (6) Flat screwdriver
- (7) Measuring tape
- (8) Flat pliers
- (9) Rubber hammer

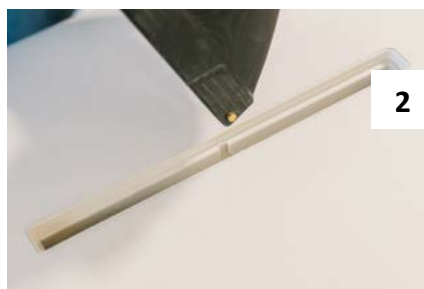
## III. Assembly of components/fittings

### 1. The fin

Liteboat offers fins with US box fittings (removable fins) for all boats. The square and fin fixing screw are already attached to the fin box.

To install your fin:

- Place the square towards the rear of the box and remove the screw. (1)
- Insert the pin through the center of the box (2), push the centerboard toward the front of the box, then fold the centerboard into the box. (3)
- Slide the square pin under the centerboard (4), insert the screw through the hole in the centerboard provided for this purpose, and tighten. (5)



## 2. Hatch and drain plug

Before launching your boat, make sure that the hatch cap (1) and the drain plug (2) are properly installed and closed.

We recommend applying silicone grease to the screw thread of your hatch. This will ensure a better seal.

NB: once you have finished your trip, it is essential to allow your boat to air: open the hatch and the drain plug to ensure good ventilation of your boat.



## 3. Sliding seat

Whether you have a foam or a carbon seat, we recommend inserting the seat after first removing the rail end caps (plastic stoppers). Unscrew the screws on the end caps (1), then remove them from the rail using a small square piece of wood if necessary (2).

Insert the rowing seat with the notch facing the front of the boat (3), reposition the rail end caps (4) and screw them in place.

You can leave the seat permanently on the rails. However, when transporting your boat, we recommend securing your seat to the footboard with a bungee cord.



## 4. Rigger (Quick release system)

The Quick Release system makes it very easy and quick to mount the rigger on the boat.

The aim is to insert the male part (attached to the boom) into the female part (attached to the boat).

NB: the through screw (1) on the female Quick Release is loose. It does not need to be tightened. LEAVE IT LOOSE!

The rigger is adjusted and checked in our workshop by our operators. You do not need to make any further adjustments.

### ***Proceed with assembly :***

Hold the rigger vertically (1), with the male quick release groove facing downwards.

Insert the groove into the female quick release screw (2) and fold down the rigger, ensuring that the pins remain inside the boat.

Insert the pin to secure and lock the system. The pin must be placed in the correct position (3) and not in the incorrect position (4).



## 5. Axles and oarlocks

Note: Ask someone else to help you take the measurements.

It will be easier to assemble the axles and oarlocks with the rigger fitted to the boat. List of items (in order) to include when installing the axles and oarlocks:



### ***Proceed with the assembly of the axles:***

- Unscrew the nuts from the top and bottom of the axle.
- Remove all washers and clips.
- Position each axle (port and starboard sides) in the oblong hole in the rail. (1)
- Hand-tighten the bottom nut only. (2)



### ***a. Adjusting axles***

- Using a tape measure, measure the distance between each axle. We recommend a standard center-to-center distance of 160 cm.
- The axles must be perfectly symmetrical. To ensure this, measure the rail opposite the axle (1) (2) (3).
- Check that the distance between the rail and the axle is the same on both sides and double-check that the center distance is still 160 cm.
- Once you have checked this, tighten the bolt at the bottom of your axle (4) with a wrench and install the cap (5).





1



2



3



4



5

## 6. Mounting and adjusting the oarlocks

For rowing, the starboard hand (your left hand) should be above the port hand (your right hand) when the hands cross. To begin with, the height of the oarlocks is adjusted using the black washers. Insert three washers on the port side (right hand) and six washers on the starboard side (left hand). There should be a height difference of 3 washers between the oarlocks. If necessary, you can adjust the height of the oarlocks while maintaining this difference. A colored plastic clip will allow you to fine-tune this height adjustment.

### a. Bag of spacers

We provide you with a bag of oar shims. These shims allow you to adjust the angle of attack of your paddle and, by definition, correct the degree of inclination of the blade. This adjustment is quite complex and requires a little experience and practice. We recommend that you start by using the symmetrical shims (known as 4/4).

- Insert a shim into the lower and upper parts of the oar.
- Position the oar and complete the assembly with the remaining black washers and colored clip.
- Tighten the upper nut using the 13 mm wrench and replace the plastic protective cap.



### ***b. Adjusting the tightness of the clamp***

Using a 10 mm wrench, you can adjust the tightness of the bar on your oarlock. The bar closes the oarlock and prevents the oar from coming out.

It may be necessary to adjust the tightness (increase or decrease it). You should feel a slight resistance from the oarlock on the sleeve of your oar when you rotate the sleeve in the oarlock, without having to force the blade to turn.



## **7. Footboard**

### ***a. The foot size adjustment tab***

Lift and pull the tab either upwards for smaller sizes or downwards for larger sizes. The Velcro should hold you in place at the widest part of your foot. If your boat is equipped with shoes, you will need to adjust the colored tab (yellow or blue depending on the model) to adjust the size of the shoe.

### ***Adjusting the footboard position***

This adjustment allows you to set the correct position of the rower in relation to the oars. As a general rule, a shorter person will move the footboard closer to the seat (towards the front of the boat). A taller person will move it further away (towards the back of the boat).

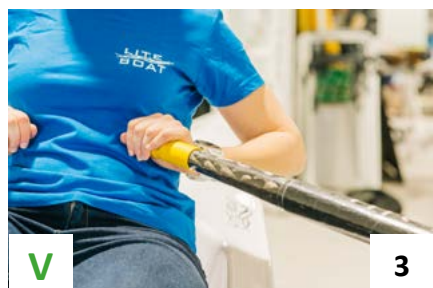
#### ***Procedure:***

Loosen the three nuts on the footboard at the toothed tracks, allowing you to move the footboard.

Position yourself with your legs straight and your chest slightly back, pulling the oars toward your chest while keeping them trimmed (1).

The oar handles should be at rib level, towards your side, and you should be able to fit a hand's width between your chest and the ends of the handles.

Positions (2) & (3) are correct, (4) & (5) are incorrect.



## ***b. Adjusting the tilt of the footboard***

It is important to adjust your footrest properly to increase comfort and efficiency when rowing.

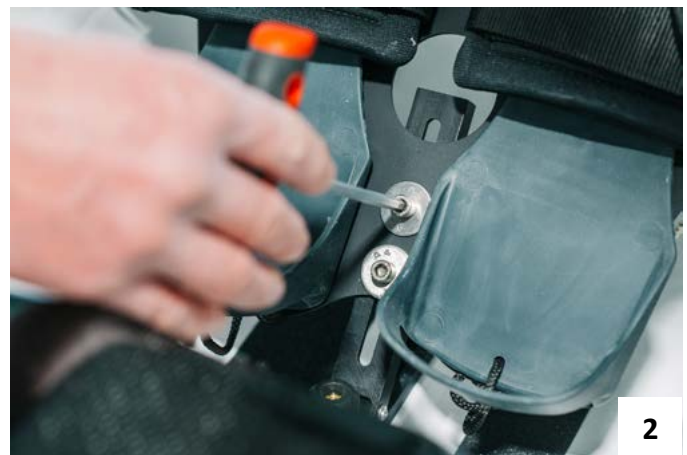
### ***Adjustment guide:***

Position yourself at the front, legs bent, oars out of the water (1). Your shins should be vertical. If your knees extend beyond the vertical line, consider raising your footboard slightly to reduce the risk of injury due to excessive tension between your ankle and knee.

However, if you find it difficult to keep your shins vertical, try lowering your footboard slightly to increase flexion. This adjustment will make rowing more comfortable and efficient.

The standard angle of the footboard is between 40 and 45 degrees. For greater comfort and better boat propulsion, you can change this angle of inclination by proceeding as follows:

- Unscrew the three nuts on the footboard.
- Unscrew the two screws on the footboard, allowing you to tilt the footboard as desired (2).



## **8. Adjusting the rails**

With your legs stretched out, the seat should not touch the rail ends. With your legs bent, the seat should not touch the rail ends. If in either case the slide (seat) touches the rail ends, you can adjust the rails by moving them either forward or backward.

### ***Procedure :***

Open the hatch to access the three wing nuts on the seat rails located under the deck, then unscrew them.

You can then slide the rails to move them forward or backward.

Finally, tighten the wing nuts on the rails and close the hatch.





## 9. Adjusting the oars

### a. Principle of oars crossing

Crossing the oars refers to the overlap of the oars when they are placed in a horizontal position (perpendicular to the boat).

As a reminder, the starboard hand (your left hand) should be above the port hand (your right hand) when the hands cross. (1)



The measurement corresponding to the overlap of the two handles can be between 16 and 22 cm. (2)

### b. Inner lever

The lever is the distance between the end of the handle and the face of the collar in contact with the oarlock. This inner lever length also determines the orientation of the arms in relation to the oar handle.

The inner lever is adjusted by moving the oar collar. The smaller the inner lever, the greater the force exerted and the more difficult the effort.

The measurement from the end of the handle to the collar (the part in contact with the oarlock) can be between 83 cm and 89 cm.

### c. Assembly and adjustment of the oars

Unscrew the screws from the collars (do not remove them completely).

Open the collars and place them on the oar sleeve.

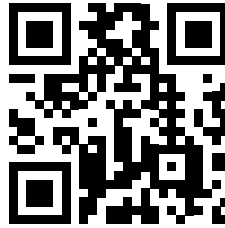
Note: the collars can be placed in either direction.

You have probably purchased your Liteboat paddles (Brača Sport - gray sleeves | Liteboat - blue sleeves). We recommend a "standard" setting of 88.5 cm, corresponding to the marking '9' (gray sleeves) or "10.5" (blue sleeve) indicated on the sleeve. Once the clamp is in place on the sleeve, tighten the clamp.



## E. MAINTENANCE, TRANSPORTATION, STORAGE

All of these tips are available in video format on our website in the FAQ section.



### I. Maintenance

Ideally, you should rinse the boat after each outing. If you row at sea or in murky water, you can wash the boat with an eco-friendly foaming product. All parts must be rinsed, sand removed from the rails, and all metal parts dried.

Remember to open the hatch(es) and the drain plug to ventilate the interior of the boat and prevent residual moisture. Some parts of your boat are subject to wear and tear and will need to be replaced periodically, such as the seat wheels and aluminum rails (these replacements are easy to do; contact your dealer).

You can use a special product to revive the gelcoat and restore shine to your hull once a year. Use a special boat polish, which you can find in nautical stores.

If there are small chips in the gelcoat, you can purchase a basic polyester gelcoat, apply it to the area, and then, after drying, sand it with increasingly fine-grit sandpaper, finishing with a polish.

### II. Transport on the roof of a car

All you need are two foam-covered roof bars!

Place the boat upside down (on the flat sides, avoiding the riggers fittings) and use two buckle straps to secure it (do not use ratchet straps, which tighten too much). Be careful not to let the buckle touch the boat (if necessary, add a piece of foam between the buckle and the boat). Secure with a knot. After a few miles, tighten the straps if necessary.

Always check the country's road regulations to ensure you are complying with the rules (front and rear overhang of the load, signaling device).

### III. Outdoor storage

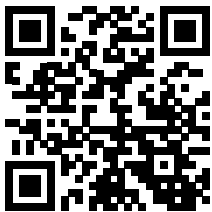
It is possible to store your boat outdoors during the summer months, provided that the drain and hatch are left open to ensure ventilation inside the boat (there is always residual moisture). The boat must be stored upside down on two supports (on the flat sides, avoiding the riggers fittings).

Ideally, the boat should be protected from the elements and UV rays (which damage the gelcoat) with a tarpaulin. Of course, this is only necessary for prolonged outdoor storage, not for a few days. If you live in a cold country, it is not advisable to leave the boat outside all year round if there is a risk of frost.

## F. WARRANTY

LITEBOAT boats are guaranteed to the original purchaser for a period of 2 years from the date of purchase and renewable up to a total of 7 years thanks to the extended warranty. The extended warranty can be registered on the Liteboat website within 3 months of purchase. After this period, the 5-year extension will not be taken into account.

The warranty is non-transferable and spare parts are guaranteed for one year. The products are covered by the legal warranty against hidden defects resulting from a defect in material, design, or manufacture affecting the products delivered and rendering them unfit for use, under the conditions and within the time limits provided for in Articles 1641 et seq. of the Civil Code. In the event that the customer brings an action based on the warranty against hidden defects in the item sold under the conditions provided for in Articles 1641 et seq. of the Civil Code, the customer may request either the cancellation of the sale or a reduction in the sale price in accordance with Article 1644 of the Civil Code, provided that they can prove the existence of an undetectable defect in the product existing at the date of delivery.



The warranty does not apply to defects or damage resulting from normal wear and tear, accident, incorrect installation, inadequate maintenance, negligence, misuse (i.e., not in accordance with the instructions for use specified in the user guide), unauthorized modification/repair, or improper handling or storage of the products. You can find the complete warranty policy on the Liteboat website (or via this QR code).

## G. COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

Any claim made under this limited warranty must be made directly to the manufacturer LITEBOAT or its authorized distributor/retailer. The claim must be made by registered mail, stating: the contact details, first and last name(s) of the purchaser; the date and place of purchase; a brief explanation of the problem that led to the claim.

**IMPORTANT:** It is essential that the letter of claim be received at the address on this document no later than the last day of the warranty period. The warranty period will be calculated from the date of purchase by the original customer/end user of the product. Late claims will not be considered.

**Disclaimer:** Except for this express limited warranty and to the maximum extent permitted by law, LITEBOAT SAS makes no other warranty for the product. LITEBOAT expressly excludes any other liability, whether express (in writing or orally) or implied, to the extent permitted by law. In particular, but without limiting the generality of this exclusion, any implied warranty of merchantability, satisfactory quality, fitness for a particular purpose, and/or non-infringement of third-party rights is excluded, whether contractual or tortious.

All implied warranties that may be imposed by law are limited in duration to the duration of the express limited warranty set forth above to the extent permitted by law. To the maximum extent permitted by law, in no event shall LITEBOAT be liable for any damages whatsoever (including direct or indirect damages, loss of profits, loss of savings, or other special, incidental, exemplary, or consequential damages, including for breach of warranty, contract/liability, tort, or otherwise) arising out of or resulting from the use or inability to use the product.

Any liability of LITEBOAT that is not excluded is limited to the purchase price of the product.

***Now you know all the settings and steps:  
all that's left to do is enjoy your boat to the fullest!***





# LITE BOAT

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