

I oppose the Personal Flotation Device requirement for youth rowers. The current programs in Youth rowing in Oregon have substantial safety protocols for their youth athletes. They have required swim tests, Safety devices onboard the coach's launches, including PFDs, additional floatation equipment attached to small boats, coach training, and strict protocols for the younger athletes. The PFD would severely inhibit the technique of rowing, which would affect the success of the athlete in rowing and Oregon's success in competition Regionally and Nationally. My daughter, who won the U17 quad at the 2022 Youth National Championship last year at the age of 16 and got third at Nationals in 2021 at age 15, would not have succeeded while wearing PFD. Let's keep our youth rowers competitive and safe, but not with a PFD requirement.