

# Charles River Traffic Patterns

Community Rowing ■ **Upstream**

NEWTON YACHT CLUB CHANNEL  
**Upstream:** Keep right of all buoys (Watertown)—very shallow  
**Downstream:** Stay between the buoys and keep clear of the boat ramp

**North Beacon Street Bridge**

**SANDBAR** ⚠️  
**Downstream:** Cross into upstream traffic to avoid, but not excessively.

**Arsenal Bridge**

Northeastern Boathouse

Head of the Charles (HOCR) Finish Line

BB&N Cambridge Boat Club

**Eliot Bridge**

Harvard Newell Boathouse

**Anderson Bridge**

HOCR 2 mi.

Harvard Weld Boathouse

1200m Finish

**Powerhouse Stretch:** No stopping

1200m Start (Downstream)

HOCR 1 mi.

**Weeks Footbridge**

**Downstream:** Stay well to the outside of the turn, along the Boston shore.

Riverside Boathouse

**River Street Bridge**

**Western Avenue Bridge**

**BU Bridge**

Magazine Beach  
 BU Boathouse  
 HOCR start

**Downstream returning to MIT:** Continue along the Boston shore until just past the Storrow Drive footbridge or the Hyatt Hotel before crossing over into the MIT lane.  
**Caution:** Stay clear of upstream crews on the 2K race course.

**Launching from MIT:** Stay along shore, watch out for upstream crews on the 2K race course and downstream crews returning to MIT.

2K Finish

MIT Lane

1500m

MIT Pierce Boathouse

**Harvard Bridge**

MIT Sailing Pavillion

1000m

500m

**Downstream:** Aim on the gold dome (Beacon Hill), then at the Boston corner of the Longfellow Bridge.

Union Lane

2K Start (Upstream)

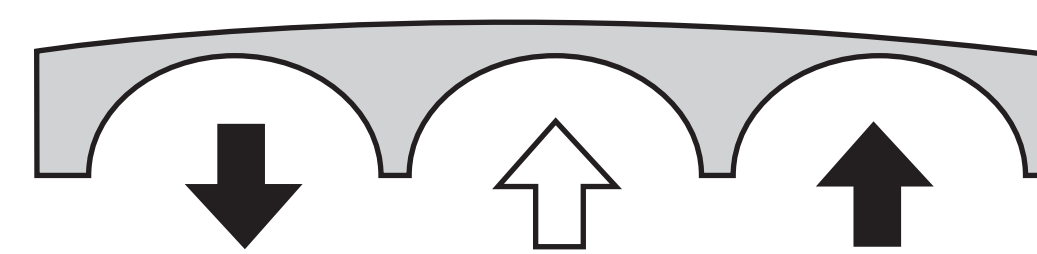
Union Boathouse

**Longfellow Bridge**

**Bridge Traffic**  
 (View looking upstream)

- ↑ Normal Traffic
- ↑ Use only if necessary
- ⚠️ Caution; see notes
- ⊘ Do not use

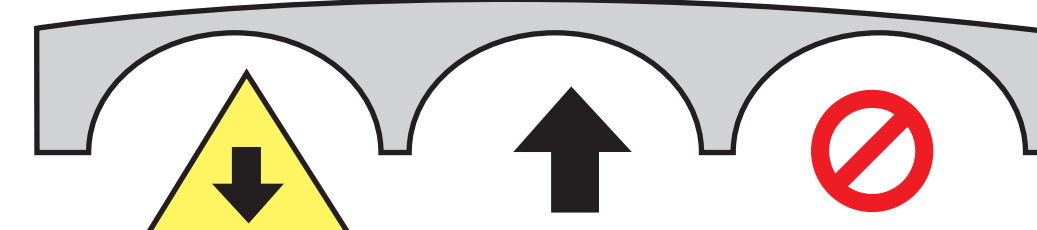
**North Beacon**



**Arsenal**



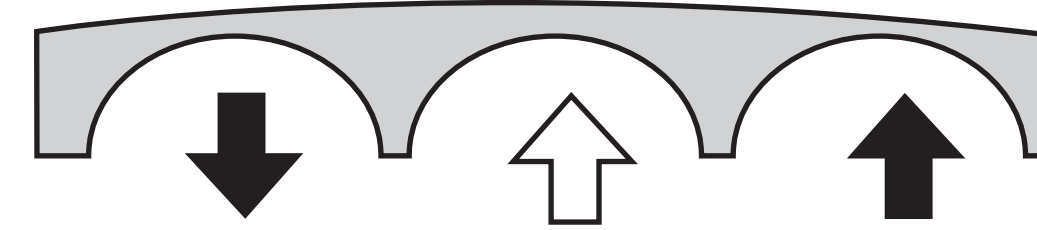
**Eliot**



**Downstream:** Stay along shore (~12 feet) through the turn.

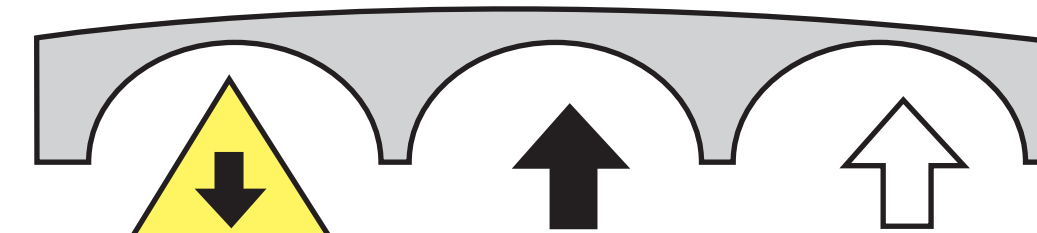
**Upstream:** Keep right. Watch for boats crossing to/from CBC.

**Anderson**



**Upstream:** If needed, use center arch to avoid Weld Boathouse traffic

**Weeks Footbridge**



**Downstream:** Start your turn BEFORE you enter the bridge

**Western Avenue**

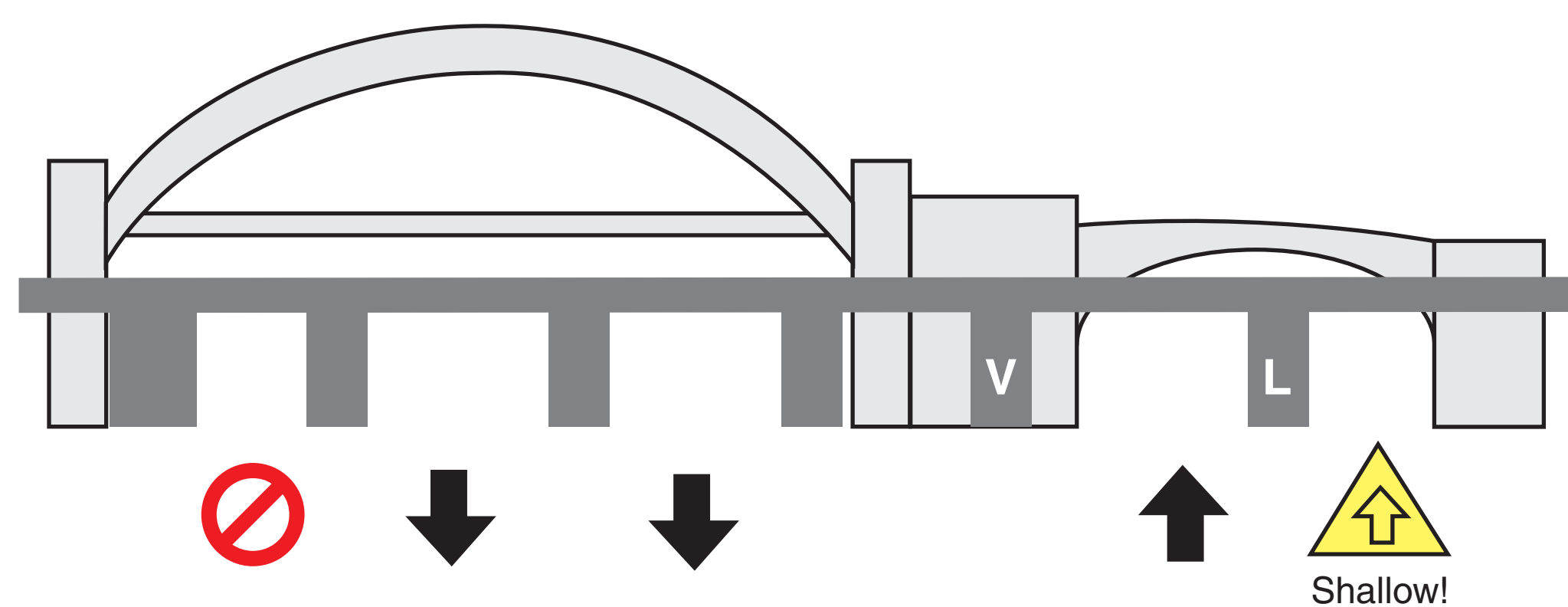


**River Street**

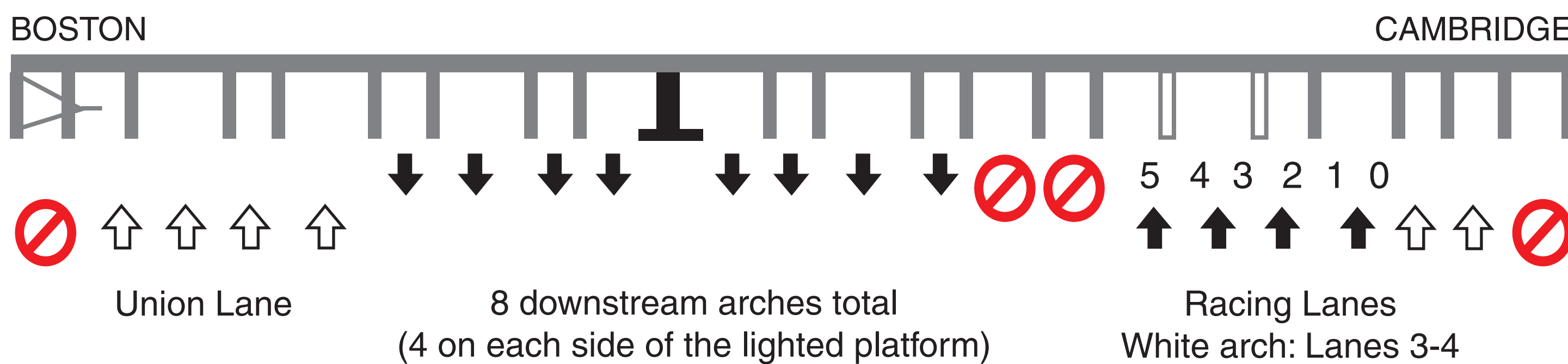


**Powerhouse Stretch:** Use center arch only if with coach; **NOTE:** Center arch is upstream ONLY between 5am-1pm from Labor Day through Thanksgiving

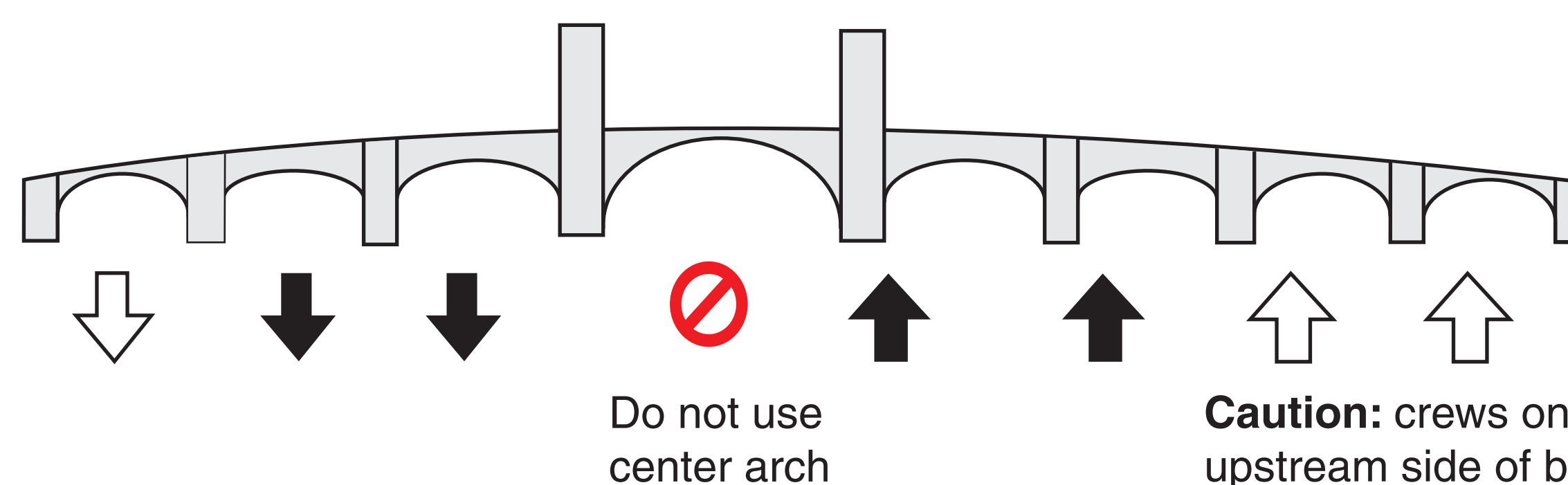
**BU Bridge**



**Harvard (Mass Ave.)**



**Longfellow**



## General River Rules

- Keep to the right side (1/3) of the river—especially on turns
- Overtake on the left (port)
- Turn quickly, only where visible
- Move to shore to stop or drill

For full details, see the **Charles River Traffic Patterns and Safety Rules**

