

Rules and tips concerning the usage of the student council's Stocherkahn

Version 2025

Foreword

Dear friends of the Stocherkahn,

We are glad and proud to make the student council's Stocherkahn (which in the following will be called Fachschaftskahn) available to you. Already, our "Donnerkeil" is the fourth Fachschaftskahn of geologists and geoscientists. However, to maintain this situation of an easy-accessible Fachschaftskahn, both for you, (former) members of the institute, as well as the members of the student council, we are dependent on your support. Not only do we need your support in the form of a lending fee, but also, we need you to handle the Fachschaftskahn and its gear with great care and to be considerate of the residents living close to the Neckar. Unfortunately, in the past, and to our disappointment, the care for the Fachschaftskahn and its gear was neglected by lenders. Therefore, we decided to close the remaining knowledge gaps concerning the lending of the Fachschaftskahn and to be less forgiving of rule violations in the future. Therefore, we ask you to read this brochure carefully at least once, so that in the future the lending of the Fachschaftskahn is a pleasure both to you and us.

We wish you great fun and illumination,

Yours sincerely,

Keepers of the Fachschaftskahn & Students council

Note of the translator: The following section contains binding rules from the city administration. While I kept it as close as possible to the original text, I cannot guarantee that this is a 100% sufficient translation of the rules. Please refer to the original document.

Rules from the city administration

§ 6 Conditions for berthing

(1) A punt (Stocherkahn) needs to be constructed and equipped in a way so that the security of its passengers is not impaired. The prescribed metrics and number of passengers need to be satisfied. Flooded (water level of more than 15cm) or damaged punts are to be dried within 3 days or to be removed from their berth respectively.

(2) The punt needs to be identified with an identification number in Arabic digits (at least 10 x10 cm), which must be located on both sides of the bow. The identification number must be clearly legible and recognizable from the shore.

(3) At their berth, punts must be secured with a steel cable or a chain, which must be coated with noise-canceling material. The cable/chain needs to be as long so that the bow is at a distance between 2 and 3 meters of its tether.

(4) After 10 pm, the night rest of the residents must not be disturbed. This is especially the case for loud singing, shouting, or bawling. This is also the case for nightly berthing, which must be completed by 11 pm. This includes the dismantling of seats and backrests, as well as the removal of all passengers from the punt.

(6) Garbage that is produced through or during the usage of a punt must be collected and removed properly.

(7) The punt must spend its night at its designated berthing spot.

§ 6a Misdemeanor

Irregular, in the sense of § 142 Abs. 1 Ziff. 1 of the 'Gemeindeordnung für Baden-Württemberg' is, who intentionally and negligently

2. opposing to § 6 Abs. 2, does not identify the punt with its designated identification number in Arabic digits (at least 10x10 cm) on both sides of the bow.

3. opposing to § 6 Abs. 3, does not secure the punt at its berth with a steel cable or a chain that is coated with noise-canceling material.

4. opposing to § 6 Abs. 4, Satz 1, causes noise, especially through the dismantling of seats and backrests, which is not adequate to the situation.

5. opposing § 6 Abs. 5, after 11 pm, berths the punt, dismantles its seats, and does not leave the punt.

6. opposing § 6 Abs. 6, does not collect and remove the garbage that is produced through or during the usage of a punt.

Misdemeanors are punished, according to § 142 Abs. 2 of the 'Gemeindeordnung für Baden-Württemberg' and § 17 Abs. 1 and 2 of the 'Gesetzes über Ordnungswidrigkeiten', with a fine of **at least 5€** and **at most 1000 €**. In the case of negligent contravention, the fine is at most 500€.

Rules from the student council

General

1. The Fachschaftskahn is lent only to members of the Institute of geosciences (that includes former students and former employees) in exchange for a set fee and a **deposit of 20€** for the key of the Fachschaftskahn. This deposit can be retained in the case of damages or pollution. The fee for the Fachschaftskahn is **15€ for students** and **25€ for members of the Institute and former students/employees**.
2. The deposit is refunded, as soon as the key is returned, as long as there is no reason for the retention of the deposit. The key has to be returned during the next opening hour of the student council, **latest one week after the punt cruise**. After that time, the deposit is retained.
3. The lending fee can be refunded if the lending person cancels their reservation at least 3 days prior to the cruise. This is not the case if the cruise is canceled due to weather. This includes strong and sustained rain, strong winds, and floods.
4. The length of the rope and the steel rope **must be at least 2 meters from ring to ring**. The Fachschaftskahn must be towed properly, as described below. If the Fachschaftskahn floats away it will be recovered. This recovery will be paid by the last person to lend the Fachschaftskahn.
5. The punting pole needs to be watered before usage. This ensures that the pole gets flexible and elastic. Wet poles are not brittle and do not break as easily!
6. The Fachschaftskahn and its gear need to be taken care of. Inappropriate pollution (e.g., garbage, coal, cigarette stumps, empty bottles, etc.) are the responsibility of the lender and will be treated as such. **A new pole for punting costs 50€**, and so does the 'Eisenschuh'
7. If you do not find the Fachschaftskahn in perfect condition or if you damage it during your lending time, **immediately contact the keepers of the Fachschaftskahn or the student council!** Damages or other problems are always the responsibility of the last lender. This is also the case for complaints about the condition of the Fachschaftskahn.
8. **The usage of the Fachschaftskahn is at your own risk.** Damages to other punts or other damages that occur during the usage of the Fachschaftskahn are always the responsibility of the lending person.
9. The Fachschaftskahn must be returned on time at the end of the reservation slot. This includes securing it, as well as dismantling the seats and backrests. This is especially important for the last reservation slot (until 11 pm). Please respect the residents during berth and **do not cause unnecessary noise!** Fees from the city of Tübingen are paid by the lending person.

10. If the Fachschaftskahn is flooded, you need to scoop it empty before you start your cruise. If you pollute the Fachschaftskahn, e.g. through a BBQ, you need to clean it after your cruise. Utensils for scooping and cleaning are found next to the anchor and the lantern below the 'Stocherstand' (This is the place where the punting person stands). It is sealed with a combination lock (Code: 412).

11. As soon as dusk arrives you need to illuminate the Fachschaftskahn. There is a lantern below the 'Stocherstand' (see 9) for this purpose. If the lantern is lost, the last lending person is held accountable. **A new lantern costs 50€.** Before each cruise, make sure that the lantern is still there.

12. The Fachschaftskahn and its gear **must** be secured against theft, misuse, and damage. Please refer to the rules concerning *dismantling and securing the Fachschaftskahn*.

13. To simplify the installation of seats and backrests for the following group, dismantle and stack the seats in order from front to back. That means that plank number 8 at first (meaning at the bottom) and at last number 1.

Contraventions

1. If the key is not returned within a week, the deposit is retained

2. If the Fachschaftskahn is not secured as prescribed and depending on the severity and frequency of the violation, either the deposit is retained, an additional fee is raised, or the responsible person is excluded from lending the Fachschaftskahn ever again.

3. If through contraventions, the Fachschaftskahn, its gear, other punts, or the dock are damaged, the entire responsibility for the (financial) consequences lies with the lending person. This is also the case if other passengers than the lending person caused these damages.

4. If fees are raised by the city of Tübingen as the result of a misdemeanor, the lending person is held responsible for them.

Dismantling and Securing the Fachschaftskahn

The following points are the ones that are violated the most and thus cause the most problems. Therefore these points are dear to us and are elaborated upon in length:

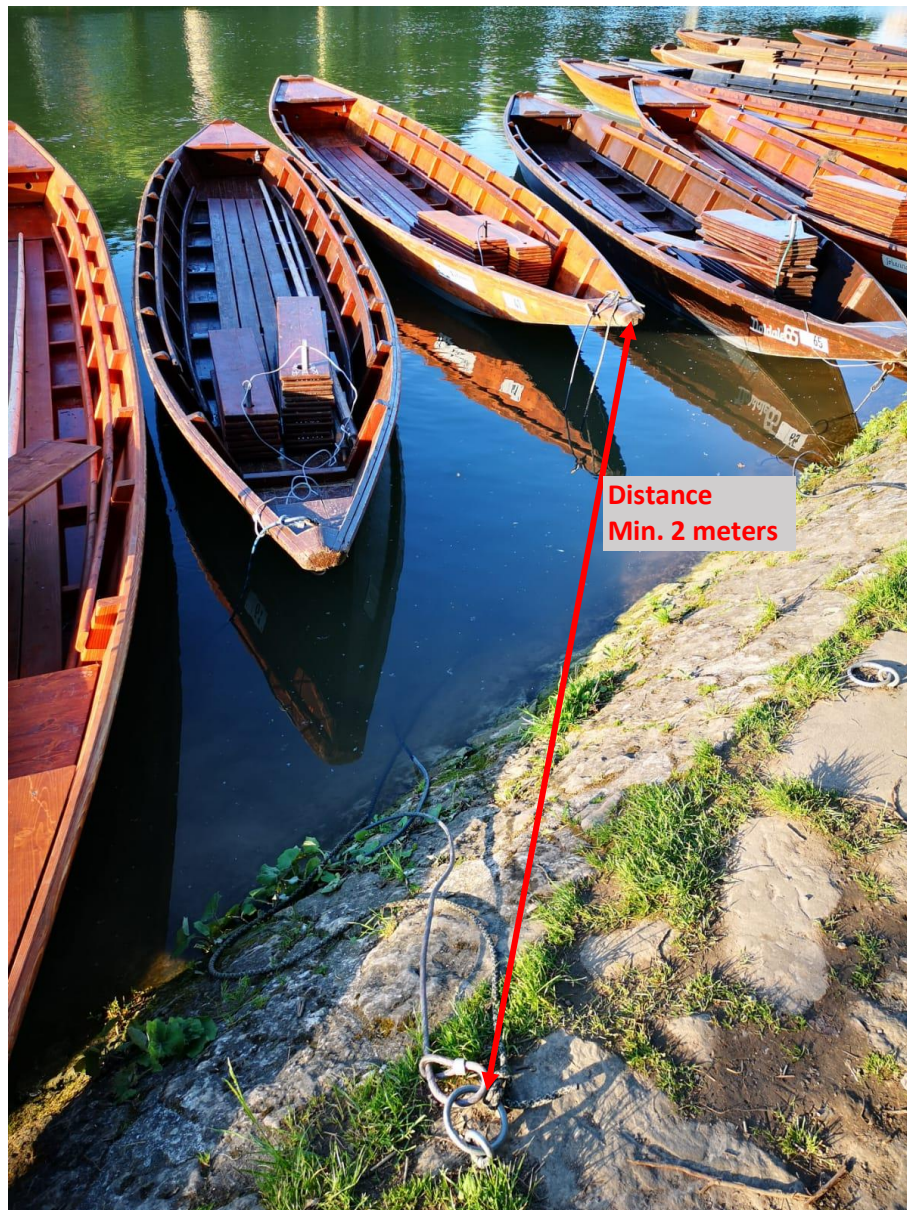
I) The steel ring at the dock

The steel cable and the rope are fastened securely to the steel ring of the dock. The steel cable **must never** be loosened from the ring, as it remains on land during a cruise. However, it needs to be secured with a lock against theft.



II) Distance between Dock and Fachschaftskahn

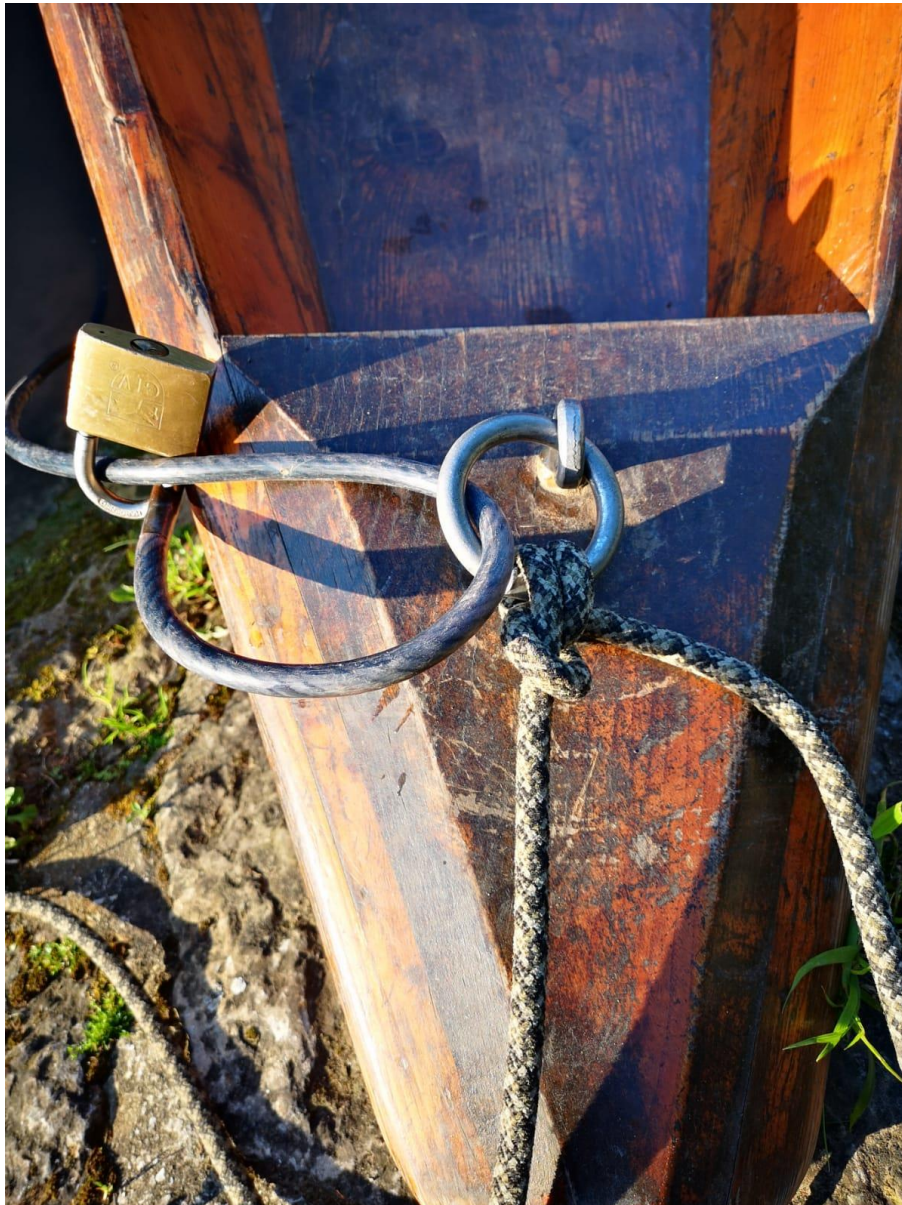
The steel cable and the rope are fastened in a way, so that the **distance between the ring at the dock and the bow of the Fachschaftskahn is as great as possible – at least 2 meters**. This secures the Fachschaftskahn from floods, as it can float freely and is not dragged below the water surface!



III) Fastening the Rope to the Ring at the Bow

The rope is fastened to the ring at the bow **with a secure knot**. This knot must never be loosened. The rope is taken on board during a cruise. This allows berthing during the cruise and prevents its theft on land. So, only the knot on land is loosened.

The thick steel cable is threaded through the ring and its end is fastened to the cable with the large lock. **Do not fasten** the lock to the ring! In the case of a flood, the lock could not withstand the dragging forces and thus the Fachschaftskahn would float away. The Fachschaftskahn **must be, under all circumstances, fastened** at the ring on the bow. Otherwise, it might be stolen or float away. (Don't laugh: There are people who need to be reminded of that)



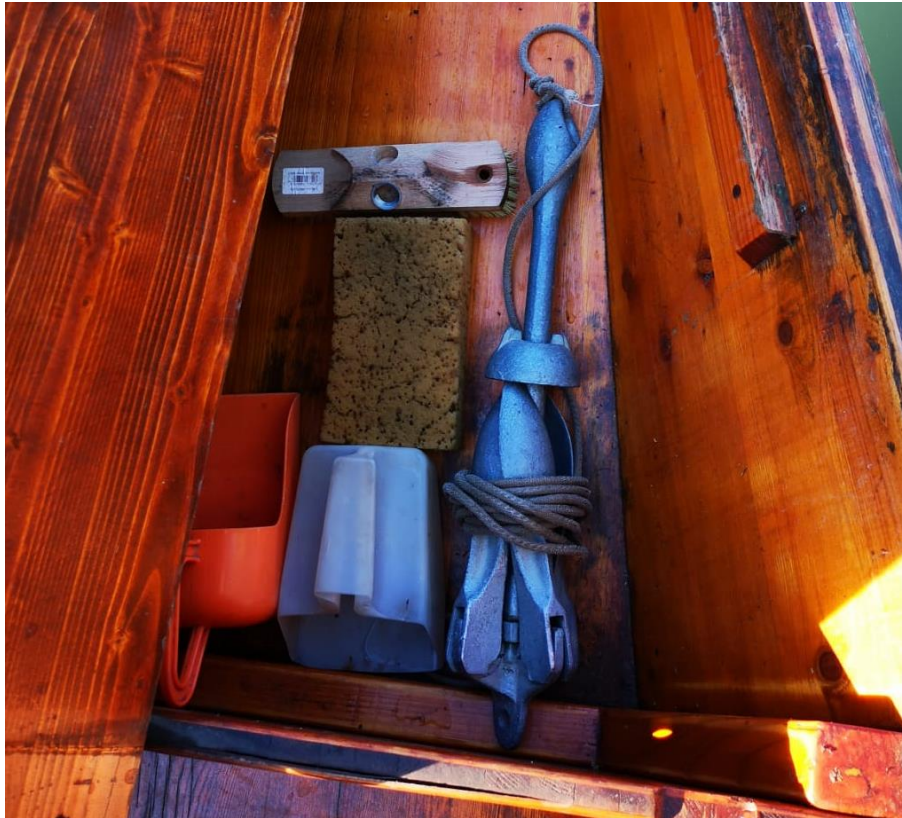
IV) Securing Planks and Pole

The punting pole lies flat on the bottom of the Fachschaftskahn! The steel cable secures both stacks of planks and both punting poles at the sidebar. **Connecting planks and poles to the cable alone will not secure them from theft!** The lock must be closed and locked. If the poles are not flat on the ground, they will bend while they dry. This makes the poles more brittle and punting is just way more fun with a straight pole!



V) Securing of loose Parts

All loose parts (anchor, flashlight, scooping, and cleaning utensils) are to be put in the locker under the 'Stocherstand'! The locker has to be clean and orderly. The code for the combination lock is 412.



If you did everything right, it should look almost like this:



If you can find the mistake in the picture, you have passed 😊

Knot-science

In the past, we have encountered wild knots several times. These knots either came short in terms of fulfilling their purpose (securing the Fachschaftskahn against floating away) or could not be loosened without a great effort. Therefore, we explain and demonstrate a suitable knot:

Roringstek

The Roringstek is a knot for fastening a rope to a ring.

Application

The Roringstek's main purpose is the continuous connection of a rope to a ring. One advantage of the Roringstek is that it fastens itself to the ring and it does not scrub. The Roringstek is not of the strongest Steke and is easily loosened.

Tie

With the end of the rope, you need to thread one and a half round turns through the ring. The loose end is driven around the hard end and threaded (from the side where the hard end is) through both round turns. Afterward you tighten the knot by pulling on it. In order for the rope to be long enough, but also that the Fachschaftskahn under no circumstances is able to free itself, the loose end of the rope should be between 10 and 20 cm in length.



One and a half
round turns



done



from the other side on a pole

*The rope must **never** be loosened from the ring on the dock of the Fachschaftskahn. You will take it on your cruise, so that you can berth on the way and that the rope is not lying around, not secured at the dock. However, the steel cable remains on the dock, as it is secured with a lock to the ring at the dock. This also saves you the nasty threading when you return to the dock.*

We hope that this summary may reduce the number of problems with the lending of the Fachschaftskahn in the future. If there are any remaining questions, please address us or our competent members of the student council. We are happy to help.

We wish you a pleasant time on the Fachschaftskahn!

Greetliest,

Keepers of the Fachschaftskahn

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Address of the dock:

Bismarckstraße 25

72072 Tübingen

Identification number of the punt: 41