

**Safety Code of Practice**

Canoeing and Kayaking are "Assumed Risk" - "Water contact sports" that may carry attendant risks. Participants should be aware of and accept these risks, and be responsible for their own action and involvement.

All club coaches and officials are volunteers and give their time freely. They are committed to providing opportunities for individuals to develop their paddling skills and knowledge. This will involve exposure to some risk. Where incidents are foreseeable we will take reasonable steps to mitigate the risk but cannot eliminate risk entirely.

The club takes a positive approach to risk management. We believe that:

a) Risk is inherent in our sport and all decisions should be made on the basis of an assessment of that risk.

b) All members should be encouraged to learn to identify hazards AND assess risk for themselves AND alert the Committee to potential problems.

c) Safety is achieved by all participants behaving responsibly towards themselves and each other

1. Members will take responsibility for their own decisions and actions on and off the water.

2. Members have a duty of care to club members and other paddlers. They should understand the concepts of duty of care and the potential consequences of negligence.

3. The decision of any member not to take part in any activity should be respected.

4. Members will wear safety equipment appropriate to the activity and conditions. They are encouraged to make their own judgement about what is appropriate based on an understanding of the hazards and assessment of the risk involved. Any paddler on the water at the Club Site will wear a helmet and buoyancy aid which are paddlesport specific and of good fit.

5. Members will respect the judgement of more qualified paddlers. For example, if asked to walk a rapid, the paddler in question will do so or be entirely responsible for the consequences.

6. Alcohol and some drugs impair judgement and are incompatible with a paddling environment

 Adopted at Full Committee Meeting 21/02/2017