



September 2009

SAFETY POLICY

Where the term 'club member' is used in this policy, it refers to both those with memberships, and those on taster sessions.

1. All club members are expected to understand that Canoeing and kayaking are 'Assumed Risk' water contact sports, and club members are expected to accept the risks involved and take responsibility for themselves.
2. It should also be understood that club members have a duty of care to ensure the safety of others, particularly those who are less experienced than they are.
3. Coaches and those trained in safety will operate under BCU guidelines and club members are expected to adhere to the guidance given by the coach/safety person. The focus of the safety officer will be novice paddlers, and those with little experience.
4. Young people (under 18) must be accompanied by a responsible adult, nominated by the parent, at all club sessions either on or in the vicinity of the water. Where a responsible adult is nominated, a consent form must be signed by the parent.
5. It is strongly recommended that paddlers participate in groups (minimum of three, with one or more members having basic safety knowledge). However, if a competent paddler (of 2* standard) chooses to paddle alone in appropriate conditions he/she must accept personal responsibility for the risks involved. The duty safety officer retains the right to restrict paddling.
6. Buoyancy aids/PFDs must be worn on all club events, and members should be able to swim. Paddlers who are non or weak swimmers must inform the duty safety officer/coach.
7. It is the responsibility of club members who use privately-owned boats and equipment to ensure that they meet current safety regulations.
8. When using club equipment, it is the duty of the club member to care for that equipment, use it safely, and return it in a satisfactory condition.
9. Helmets and appropriate paddling kit must be worn as required by the duty safety officer/coach.
10. All club members must read and understand the club Vulnerable Adult and Child Safeguard Policies