

NACC SAFETY MANAGEMENT POLICY

North Avon Canoe Club – Safety Management Plan

Background

British Canoeing (formerly BCU) have directed that all affiliated clubs must properly manage event safety.

An event is any trip or paddling that appears on the Club Website or Calendar. This includes Wednesday nights at the Shallows, Pool Sessions, Expeditions and formerly arranged social paddle trips.

WHAT WE HAVE TO DO [DON'T PANIC - KEEP IT SIMPLE – DO WHAT'S NECESSARY]

1. Maintain effective control of all canoeing activity.
2. Be able to demonstrate that we know who is on the water, and that they get off safely.

HOW WE WILL DO IT

Essentially through good leadership, but two approaches are identified:

- Club Outdoor Paddling, including Wednesday Evenings at The Shallows, Expeditions and Other Events (including whole weekends); and
- Pool Sessions.

These are each described in the attached Annexes.

When does NACC Safety Management not apply?

Whenever anyone chooses to paddle outside the terms of this plan (i.e. chooses not to follow an NACC leader). This is called **Peer Group Paddling** which is strongly **encouraged**, but you have to accept you are **not protected by NACC**. Please be safe and have fun.

ANNEX A TO NACC SAFETY MANAGEMENT PLAN

NACC Outdoor Paddling – Safety Management

Outdoor Paddling is to be safe and enjoyable for all participants. This will be achieved by:

1. Having an **Event Manager** who is in overall charge for each club event.
 2. The Event Manager is to be named on the Club Website before each event.
 3. There will be a **start time published** for the evening on the club website (to gather equipment etc.) together with a **deadline time for group members to be identified to group leaders**.
 4. **Paddling groups are to be formed** by the Event Manager, each with a **single leader** who will control safety of their group including always knowing who is on the water, with appropriate support for the conditions and relative to each individuals' ability. Anyone joining a Group after the deadline time does so entirely at their own risk until a Group Leader has accepted them as Group Members.
 5. Paddling groups can be for **training, expeditions (both normally pre-arranged), or for social paddling (arranged on the day/ night)**.
 6. **ALL PADDLERS (OR PARENTS IN THE CASE OF MINORS) ARE TO ENSURE THAT THEY ARE ACCEPTED BY THE LEADER OF THE GROUP THEY ARE JOINING.**
 7. There will normally be a **closing time** for evening events by which **all groups must return**. All paddlers will be told this time when they join the event.
8. Group Leaders are to report back to the Event Manager to formally close their group before leaving the event location.
9. For most expeditions, there is normally only a Group Leader who is also the Event Manager
10. **Group Leaders have full authority for their group**. Members must comply with their Leader's instructions or will be deemed to have left the group: they will not be allowed to paddle with NACC for the rest of that Calendar year, unless they had the Leader's acceptance that they were leaving.

ANNEX B TO NACC SAFETY MANAGEMENT PLAN

NACC Pool Sessions – Safety Management

Pool sessions are to be safe and enjoyable for all participants. This will be achieved by:

1. Having an Event Manager for each pool session.
2. A list of paddlers for each 30 min session will be maintained at poolside. Wrist bands will be issued for each paddler, colour coded for each session.
3. Club Instructors will be available in the pool and poolside to provide guidance and support. Club Instructors have full authority and are to be obeyed immediately.
4. There are to be no other swimmers in the water whilst boats are present.
5. Speed of paddling is to be moderated by all paddlers to reduce collision hazard in the confined space.
6. There are to be **NO SEAL LAUNCHES** as this may damage the poolside.
7. A lifeguard will be on duty, provided by the venue. Their instructions are to be obeyed immediately.