

# Club Code of Conduct

## Document Revision

Rev	Date	Comment	Signature
NA	13.11.2016	First write without controls, not submitted.	J. Dunne
0.0	18.02.2018	Reviewed and re-faced.	S. Horne
0.1	27.04.2018	Inserted clause 3.8, British waterways requirement for paddlers in groups of 3	S. Horne

## **1.0) Introduction**

The purpose of this procedure is to minimize risks, and should be flexible, not constrained by a rigid set of rules. Varying conditions, group and goals may combine with unpredictable circumstances to require alternate procedures at the group leader's discretion. On all water based club activities, all participants must be registered members of Gloucester Canoe Club, or be a registered visitor within their two (2) session trial period. Failure by members to comply with our operating procedure could result in disciplinary action by GCC which may result in exclusion from the club.

This operating procedure is to be reviewed by the committee prior to the start of each new season.

This document should be made available to all Club members, those who paddle with the Club and the parents/guardians of members under 18. The activities undertaken by GCC carry an element of risk, including the risk of injury and death.

Participants must make their own decisions about participation in any activity and are empowered to ask questions if in doubt about the nature or risks inherent in any activity.

The club program is agreed by the club committee and advertised on the club website. The program is deemed to be the club official program and may be subject to change regarding the prevailing weather and water conditions. Suggestions for paddles not listed in the program can be approved by Club Chairman or one of the club coaches otherwise such paddles, if not included in the club program, are deemed at the 'paddlers own risk'

## **2.0) Code of Conduct**

It is the policy of Gloucester Canoe Club that all paddlers, volunteers, coaches and parents show respect and understanding for each other and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the Club. The aim is for all paddlers to improve performance and have fun. Everyone involved in the Club should abide by the Club Rules and Policies.

### **2.1 Paddlers**

- Take care of all property belonging to the club or club members
- Treat other club members with respect at all times — on and off the water — treat other paddlers as you would want to be treated yourself
- Co-operate and listen to your coach or Club Officials

### 2.2 Coaches and Volunteers

- Consider the well-being and safety of paddlers before the development of performance
- Develop an appropriate working relationship with performers, based on mutual trust and respect
- Make sure all activities are appropriate to the age, ability and experience of those taking part
- Display consistently high standards of behaviour and appearance
- Follow BCU and club guidelines and policies
- Hold the appropriate, up-dated qualifications and insurance
- Encourage paddlers to value their performance and not just results
- Never condone the use of prohibitive substances

### 2.3 Parents/Guardians

- Help your child to recognise good performance, not just results
- Never force your child to take part in sport
- Never punish or belittle a child for loosing or making mistakes
- Publicly accept official's judgements
- Support your child's involvement and help them to enjoy the sport
- Use correct and proper language at all times
- Set a good example by applauding good performances of all paddlers

### 2.4 Juniors

- All Junior Members are asked to abide by the following rules at all times:
- Co-operate fully, respecting all requests and decisions made by the coaches, helpers officials and administrators.
- Be on time for training sessions and events or inform your coach if you are going to be late
- Be considerate and respectful to other paddlers and water users - treat other paddlers as you would want to be treated

- Paddlers must wear suitable kit for paddling as agreed with your coach
- Take care of all property belonging to the club or any club member – and be responsible for caring for your own equipment and clothing.
- Not to leave sessions without the permission of the coach or leader Junior members are not allowed to smoke, consume alcohol or drugs of any kind whilst on club premises or representing the club at events

## **THE AIM IS FOR ALL PADDLERS TO IMPROVE THEIR SKILLS AND HAVE FUN**

### **3.0) General Rules**

- 3.1 GCC's base is The Gloucester/Sharpness Canal. Training will be based around sheltered water paddling consequently most experience is for safety on rivers and water up to grade 2. Any paddler who wishes to go on water above this grade must make sure they have adequate experience and training from an approved BCU qualified trainer.
- 3.2 It is the responsibility of the Parent or Guardian of members under 18 to read and sign a Membership form on behalf of the member before any paddling activity can take place.
- 3.3 Members must inform the leaders or coaches of any medical conditions that are relevant on all occasions. This information will be treated as confidential, and only divulged to medical personnel if it is necessary to do so. Members must carry their own medication that may be required for a treating a medical condition and whilst carrying out any club activities.
- 3.4 Be a competent swimmer (50m in light clothing).
- 3.5 A correctly fitted buoyancy aid must be worn at all times unless competing in a Hasler grade race that does not require such an aid.
- 3.6 Due to the wildlife in and around the canal it is recommended that members wash their hands and faces with soap after canal sessions.
- 3.7 No member of GCC is allowed on the water until a qualified club coach is on the water.
- 3.8 Paddling alone is not permitted. The minimum party is three people, as required by the British Waterways board.

- 3.9 All members of GCC are encouraged to be practiced in self-rescue, including escape from an overturned craft.
- 3.10 All participants in Club activities are responsible for their own actions and for making their own assessment of risks. If they are unsure about any issue or have any problems, questions or concerns it is the individual's responsibility to raise these with coaches or committee members.
- 3.11 All participants in Club activities (new or guest paddlers) should complete a membership form after two sessions; beginners should join after completing their induction course.
- 3.12 They are responsible for informing the Membership Officer of any changes to the information given on the form, including emergency contact details.
- 3.13 Club members should read this Policy, the club rules and the codes of conduct and apply them in the spirit they are intended.
- 3.14 The Club does not take responsibility for the actions of members who ignore these guidelines or ignore the advice of coaches or those holding positions of responsibility in the Club.
- 3.15 Members should be aware of the potential for injuries caused by manual handling of paddling equipment. They should seek guidance and training on the best methods to use for manual handling and use these techniques whenever they are handling equipment.