

CIVIL SERVICE CANOE CLUB: RULES FOR PARTICIPANTS – CLUB SAFETY POLICY

Note: 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.

- The organiser of a trip (acting on behalf of the Club) has the right not to permit an individual to take part in activities – whether because of water or weather conditions, personal competence (including swimming ability) and experience, availability of suitable equipment (whether Club or personal), behaviour, medical conditions, or otherwise.
- The trip leader has the right to exclude anyone regarded as behaving irresponsibly, or to require him or her to modify their behaviour.
- Anyone acting against the recommendations of the trip leader does so at their own risk.
- If a participant is unable to swim 50 metres, they must notify the trip leader, and will only be allowed to take part at the discretion of the trip leader.
- Anyone suffering from a medical condition which might be relevant to their safety (diabetes, heart conditions, asthma and epilepsy are obvious examples) must ensure that the organiser is aware of the condition, and any medication which may be required to deal with it (including where such medication is carried and how it is to be administered).
- Buoyancy aids must be worn on all Club canoeing activities.
- Suitable helmets must be worn on all white water canoeing activities. In the event of any doubt as to whether conditions require the use of helmets, those concerned are deemed to accept the risk if they choose not to wear helmets, particularly if advised to do so by the trip leader.
- Participants should be aware of the particular risks posed by weirs and other man-made constructions, and by moored or fixed obstacles in tidal waters.
- The Club is not responsible for loss of, or damage to, any personal possessions or equipment. Using equipment belonging to someone else involves accepting responsibility for it.
- The Club will not generally charge participants in respect of any loss of, or damage to, Club equipment, but reserves the right to do so if it is considered that the user has not taken reasonable care. This includes making arrangements to secure (by cable and lock) Club boats whilst not in use. Participants should be aware that the Club does not generally insure its equipment whilst in use.
- All participants should be aware of the risks of contracting Weil’s Disease and other illnesses associated with canoeing. They should contact their GP and the Club if they become ill after a trip. Whilst on the water, appropriate precautions should be taken, such as the wearing of plasters over cuts.
- Participants should appreciate that motor transport is statistically more dangerous than canoeing. All drivers must realise that they are responsible for the safety of their passengers, for the loading and securing of equipment both within and on their cars (and on any trailer), and for the general safety aspects of their cars, such as tyre pressures, effective lights etc.
- Participants should be mindful of their responsibilities – as a representative of the Club and also of CSSC in general. Others may be watching and may form opinions from what they see, so make sure that your conduct enhances rather than harms the reputation of both bodies.