



# Bradford & Bingley

## canoe club



### 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 actions 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 risks associated with paddlesport. 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 risk assessment.
- b) all members are encouraged to learn to identify hazards and assess risk for themselves and alert the Trustees to potential problems immediately. Contact details are on the club's website.
- c) safety is achieved by all participants behaving responsibly towards themselves and each other.

To help mitigate risk, members should abide by the practices listed below. The list is non-exhaustive and members should also assess and mitigate risks by thinking for themselves.

1. Members will take responsibility for their own decisions and actions on and off the water.
2. Members have a duty of care to each other. They should understand the concepts of duty of care and the potential consequences of negligence. With this in mind, we ask that members share relevant emergency information with coaches and buddies.
3. The decision of any member not to take part in any activity should be respected.
4. Members will carry and 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 and experienced paddlers. For example, if asked not to paddle at the club in higher water levels, don't get on.
6. Do not participate in club activities if you are under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
7. Scheduled safety checks are carried out to the facilities but members should also be alert for wear and damage.
8. This document should be read in conjunction with our other Codes of Conduct and Standard Operating Procedures.