



Chippenham Sailing and Canoe Club

Participation & Risk Statement

“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”.

British Canoeing Participation Statement

Canoeing, Kayaking and Paddleboarding are “Water contact sports” with inherent hazards and risks. CSCC does not usually provide a safety boat or guided trips. The development of risk awareness and self-reliance is important. Though many experienced CSCC members paddle on their own from time to time, most paddling activities are undertaken with others. **Most paddling mishaps can be avoided by assessing conditions, developing your skills in a safe learning environment, paddling with others and paddling within your personal limits.**

Members should take responsibility for learning how to avoid and/or deal with incidents by:-

- Assessing water and environmental conditions before setting out (especially, on club waters, rates of flow that are higher than you are used to)
- Being aware of your own and your companions capabilities
- Learning how to deal with incidents such as capsize, falling overboard and/or losing control of their boat
- Learning how to respond to medical emergencies

Strategies for dealing with this kind of mishap are likely to involve:-

- Paddling with experienced peers or formal group leaders
- Wearing appropriate personal buoyancy and appropriate clothing
- Learning self-rescue techniques
- Carrying emergency equipment and a reliable means of summoning assistance

Members bringing children or guests to use of use club equipment and facilities are responsible for their safety.

Safe use of our facilities also means ensuring the compound is maintained in a safe and secure condition so to reduce the risk of harm to unauthorised visitors.