

VI PADDLING (VIP) SOCIETY

SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Signing the Adult or Youth Waiver and/or the VIP Membership form acknowledges that you have read, understood and agree to follow these Safety Protocols.

Overall

In all circumstances common sense should prevail. All the protocols in the world are no substitute for your own good judgment. Safety is each paddler's responsibility.

Seasons

- Winter: October 1 to March 31
- Non-Winter: April 1 to September 30

Clothing / Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) / Leashes

- All paddlers are required to wear appropriate clothing for weather and water conditions (e.g. cotton is not appropriate)

Approved Full PFDs and Belt PFDs only

Per the Transport Canada website, 'approved' means a PFD with a label that states it has been approved by any of the organizations below:

- Transport Canada
- Canadian Coast Guard
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada

- Full and Belt PFDs need to be in good working order.
- Paddlers are required to know how to use the Belt PFDs in case of emergency.

Youth Paddlers in all crafts: Full PFD use is mandatory at all times, in all seasons, on the dock and on the water.

- **Dragonboat**
 - There must be one PFD per person in the boat at all times.
 - Belt PFDs need to be worn when in the dragon boat at all times.
 - Non-paddlers (i.e.: drummer, coach, stern) and non-swimmers: PFD use mandatory.
 - Winter season, paddling in daylight – Full PFD use recommended but not mandatory.
 - Winter season, paddling after dark – Full PFD use mandatory.
 - Non-winter season: Full PFD use is recommended but not mandatory.
- **OC1, OC2 and OC6**
 - PFD (full or belt) must be worn at all times.
 - Wearing Full PFDs and using leashes in the OC1 and OC2 is mandatory when paddling past the Johnson Street bridge.
- **Surf Ski**
 - Full PFD and leash must be worn at all times.

Self-Recovery Requirements – OC1, OC2, OC6 and Surf Ski

- All small boat users are required to demonstrate that they are able to successfully complete a huli drill in front of a VIP coach before they are allowed to take out a small boat.

Maintenance

- Check the OC1, OC2, OC6 and Surf Ski for damage before taking the boat out.
- Do not take the boat out if it is damaged.
- Report all boat damage to: equipment@vipaddling.com

Lights

- Lights must be used on all boats if out on the water after sundown.
- Dragonboat and OC6 – lights must be placed on the fore and aft of the boat. (Lights are in the box on the dock.)
- OC1, OC2 and Surf Ski – paddlers are responsible for providing appropriate lights.

Weather

- Refer to the Environment Canada website for Victoria Harbour: http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/city/pages/bc-75_metric_e.html
- If there are sustained winds greater than 35km/h reported, no boats shall leave the dock.
- If there is a wind warning in place, boats are restricted to the water between Tillicum bridge and Bay Street bridge.

- Heavy fog is defined as fog so thick you cannot see the Selkirk trestle from the Banfield dock. In the case of heavy fog, no boats shall leave the dock.
- In the case of fog that does not qualify as heavy, boats are restricted to the water between Tillicum bridge and Bay Street bridge.
- If there are electrical storms in the vicinity, no boats shall leave the dock.
- If an electrical storm blows in while boats are on the water, paddle as quickly as possible to shore and wait for it to pass, then proceed back to the dock.

Number of Paddlers

As a general rule - no boat shall go out with less than 60% capacity of paddlers. This could change at the discretion of senior coaching staff.

- Champions must have at least 6 paddlers
- BuKs must have at least 12 paddlers.

Do not include drummer, stern or coach in this count.

Drugs/Alcohol

- No boat shall leave the dock with an intoxicated paddler, drummer, stern or coach.
- Final authority on who is intoxicated lies with the coach, or if there is no coach, the stern.