



Welcome to the Gibsons Paddle Club

This package contains information from your Executive. We have a few basic guidelines that we would like to make you aware of for safe and fun paddling.

Gibsons Paddle Club members are a keen and enthusiastic bunch with a great variety of water-related backgrounds and expertise. We have several outriggers from small boats (OC 1 & 2 – see Small Boat Policy below) to larger canoes (OC 4 & 6) located in Gibsons and Sechelt. We also have a voyageur style canoe (Dolphin Spirit) located in Sechelt.

Drop in paddling year round is in Gibsons on Sunday mornings at 8:00 AM. The Dolphin Spirit goes out on Saturday mornings, provided there is enough people to paddle (contact outriggers@gibsonspaddleclub.ca for more information).

We welcome you to join us for good times paddling. More information is available on our website www.gibsonspaddleclub.ca or you can contact membership@gibsonspaddleclub.ca.

See you on the water.

From all of us in the Gibsons Paddle Club – Welcome!



Gibsons Paddle Club Safety Policy

1. **Safety is the responsibility of everyone, all the time.** All members are required to read the safety policy and sign acknowledging they have read and accept the policy.
2. **If in doubt, don't go out. Know your crews' capabilities.**
3. **Check local weather conditions** – wind speed and direction, air/water temperature, tides, fog, etc. www.gibsonspaddleclub.ca
4. Crews (paddlers and steersperson) must have the skills for the weather conditions of the day.
 - a) **Outrigger Crews must have at least 3 paddlers with the required huli experience (huli'ed within the last 12 months).** See Winter Restrictions Policy for requirements during winter months.
 - b) **Dolphin Spirit Crews** must abide by the Langley Canoe Policy.
5. **Practice / review safety procedures regularly.**
6. **Outrigger Huli practices are restricted to Paddle Club scheduled practices** (The Paddle Club provides at least 2 opportunities for Huli practice during a calendar year.) **or to outrigger crews with a minimum of three crew members with ocean huli experience in the last 12 months.**
7. **Winter restrictions** (See Winter Restrictions Policy) are in effect from November 1st to March 31st.
8. All crews are required to **Sign out their canoe every trip and sign in upon return.**
9. **Check the canoe every time you use it.** (Bailers, lashings, plugs, etc.)
10. **Everyone must have a properly fitting PFD** (The wearing of PFDs at all times while on the water is strongly encouraged). **A Safety Bag** (The Club provides a bag with a throw line, whistles, space blankets and repair kit.) **must be in the canoe on every trip.** (See Small Boat Policy for OC 1 and OC 2 requirements.)
11. **Non members can go out in a canoe up to two times only without joining the Club provided they have signed a waiver form.**
12.
 - a) The ratio of member /non members in an outrigger canoe is a minimum of 3 members (who have huli'ed within the last 12 months) permitted to take out up to 3 non members in the months June 1 to September 30.
 - b) Dolphin Spirit crews must have a steersperson sanctioned by the Gibsons Paddle Club and an experienced bow person (see the Langley Canoe Policy).
13. Small boat users are required to take the small boat training before going out in an OC 1 or OC 2 (see Small Boat Policy).
14. **Appropriate dress for the weather** both actual and potential is required. A dry bag with a change of clothes, jacket and hat is recommended. Take a water bottle.
15. **Review your HULI Procedure (who does what) and everyone must know their seat responsibility before you go out.** Outrigger crews should review their huli procedures before going out, so everyone knows what they will be doing in the event of a huli.
17. **Inform your captain/steersperson of any health issues** (including medications).
18. **Anyone going out before sunrise or after sunset is required to use the appropriate navigation lights.** A white light mounted on the stern (rear) and red and green side directional lights mounted on the bow (front) of the boat.
19. **If you Huli a report must be submitted to outriggers@gibsonspaddleclub.ca.**



GIBSONS PADDLE CLUB Winter Restrictions Policy

1. Winter restrictions are in effect from November 1st to March 31st.
2. The time of day for paddling is restricted from ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset of each day.
3. **The Paddle Club Safety Policy must be followed.**
4. The crew must be familiar with local geography so that in the event of an emergency, they can give the Coast Guard their exact location.
5. The observed weather and MARINE weather forecast must be stable or improving.
The forecast is available on the internet at www.gibsonspaddleclub.ca.
6. Paddling locations of Gibsons, and Sechart: All paddlers must stay within zone 1 **unless** they meet the requirements, in full, of the outer zones (zone 2 or zone 3) for each location.
7. **Winter restrictions for small boats:**
 - a. **Paddlers must have taken small boat training**
 - b. **Paddlers must have ocean huli experience in small boats within the last 12 months**
 - c. **OC 1 users going out alone are restricted to Zone 1.**
 - d. **All other requirements for Zones 1 to 3 apply to small boat users.**
8. **ZONE 1 Requirements, all locations:** Boats and crew must remain within 100 metres from the shore (in the Winter Restriction area as defined in paragraph 11) at all times. Crew must be equipped with, and meet the requirements of, the following:
 - Appropriate thermal protective clothing is required. No cotton allowed. Wetsuits are **strongly** recommended.
 - Properly fitting PFD's must be worn at all times.
 - Bailers: Two large and two small secured to the boat in a quick - release manner. Ladder: It is **strongly recommended** that crews carry the ladder in the canoe.
 - **Paddle Club Safety Bag – check the bag to make sure all the listed items are present.**
 - **OC 4 – requires a minimum of three crew members, with a minimum of three crew members who have Huli'ed in the last 12 months**
 - OC 6 – **requires a minimum of five crew members, with a minimum of three crew members who have Huli'ed in the last 12 months**
 - **Mirage – in addition to the above Mirage crews must have a minimum of three crew members who have Huli'ed in the Mirage**



GIBSONS PADDLE CLUB Winter Restrictions Policy

9. **ZONE 2 Requirements, all locations:** OC-6/OC-4 Paddlers wishing to go beyond 100m, while staying within the Winter Restriction area as defined in paragraph 11, are required to have the following:

- Appropriate thermal protective clothing is required. No cotton allowed. Wetsuits are **strongly** recommended.
- Properly fitting PFD's must be worn at all times.
- Bailers: Two large and two small secured to the boat in a quick - release manner. Ladder: It is **strongly recommended** that crews carry the ladder in the canoe.
- **Paddle Club Safety Bag – check the bag to make sure all the listed items are present.**
- **OC 4 – requires a minimum of four crew members, with a minimum of three crew members with ocean huli experience in the last 12 months**
- OC 6 – **requires a minimum of six crew members, with a minimum of five crew members with ocean huli experience in the last 12 months.**
- **Mirage – in addition to the above Mirage crews must have a minimum of five crew members who have Huli'ed in the Mirage**
- Spare paddle.
- Waterproof VHF radio or a cell phone in a dry bag.
- Dry-bags with spare clothes for entire crew.
- Survival Kit including space blanket, fire starter, flares, flashlight, fresh water, high energy snacks

10. **ZONE 3 Requirements, all locations:** OC-6/OC-4 Paddlers wishing to go **beyond** the zone 2 area in the Winter Restriction area as defined in paragraph 11 are required to have the following:

- Appropriate thermal protective clothing is required. No cotton allowed. Wetsuits are **strongly** recommended.
- Properly fitting PFD's must be worn at all times.
- Bailers: Two large and four small secured to the boat in a quick - release manner. Ladder: It is **strongly recommended** that crews carry the ladder in the canoe.
- **Paddle Club Safety Bag – check the bag to make sure all the listed items are present.**
- **OC 4 – requires a minimum of four crew members, with a minimum of three crew members with ocean huli experience in the last 12 months**



GIBSONS PADDLE CLUB Winter Restrictions Policy

- **OC 6 – requires a minimum of six crew members, with a minimum of five crew members with ocean huli experience in the last 12 months.**
- **Mirage – in addition to the above Mirage crews must have a minimum of five crew members who have Huli'ed in the Mirage**
- Spare paddle.
- Waterproof VHF radio or a cell phone in a dry-bag.
- Dry-bags with spare clothes for entire crew
- Survival Kit including space blankets, fire starter, flares, flashlight, fresh water, high energy snacks
- Motorized escort boat, equipped with a towrope and large enough to carry at least six additional passengers (crew members in case of an emergency) and tow an OC-4/OC-6 canoe at the same time.

11. Winter Restriction Areas are defined as:

i. In Gibsons:

- a. **Zone 1:** stay within 100 metres from Gibsons Harbour to Hopkins Landing.
- b. **Zone 2:** the area bounded by Gibsons Harbour, the Bluff and bearing southeast, across the Gap (Shoal Channel), to the northwest shore of Keats Island, to Melody Point, across Howe Sound to Hopkins Landing, to the Langdale Ferry terminal, and passing Hopkins, Soames, Grantham's, back to Gibsons Harbour.
AND from Gibsons Harbour to the Gap and hugging the shore to Chaster House (Gower Point) and back, along the shore to Gibsons Harbour.

ii. In Sechelt:

- a. **Zone 1:** stay within 100 metres from shore from Mackenzie Marina to Tuwanek.
- b. **Zone 2:** the Sechelt Inlet area waters bounded by the Mackenzie Marina, south to the Lighthouse Pub (Porpoise Bay), north to Tillicum Bay, Tuwanek and Three (3) Mile Point, bearing west, directly across the Sechelt Inlet to Piper Point and back (south) to the Mackenzie Marina



Gibsons Paddle Club – Small Boat Policy

- 1) All members have unrestricted access to the Walden Nalu OC-1's (plastic)
- 2) To gain the right to use any other OC-1's or OC-2 the club currently has or may purchase in the future, GPC members must pay the small boat fee and go through a training session supervised by a designated small boat trainer.

For guidelines and details on the training session refer to the “Small Boat User Procedure”. The “Small Boat User Procedure” document is provided to each member doing the training session. On completion of the training session, the member must sign a Small Boat Usage agreement.

- 3) **The Club will have a Small Boat Manager who is responsible for:**
 - a. Maintaining a list of experienced members to be small boat trainers.
 - b. Maintaining a list of members who are current “licensed” small boat users.
 - c. Arrange training sessions for new small boat users.
 - d. Collect and submit the small boat fees, when necessary (i.e. At the time of training new small boat users.) to the treasurer.
 - e. Recommend to the executive the small boat usage fee for the following year.
 - f. Represent small boat users at the executive level.
 - g. Recommend to the executive modifications to the Small Boat Policy.
 - h. Maintain information for small boat repairs including parts, qualified repair persons, required maintenance/repairs, etc.

4) Training

- a. Training for the usage of small boats includes:
 1. the basic methods of hauling the boats in and out of the water,
 2. paddling technique,
 3. huli recovery
 4. proper storage and handling techniques
- b.. Training sessions are scheduled on an as needed basis. Members interested in taking the small boat training should contact the small boat manager at smallboats@gibsonspaddleclub.ca. Members can attend the training session without being obligated to pay the yearly small boat usage fee.

- 5) **Fees** – In recognition of the fact that small boats have a maintenance cost:
- a. An additional fee, in addition to the regular yearly membership fee is required. Small boat fees are set at the AGM in the same manner as Club membership fees (see Membership fee policy) and will not be prorated.
 - b. The fee will be used to pay for maintenance of the small boats, and to purchase additional equipment that may be required for the small boats. Fees not utilized for maintenance and equipment will be held in an account for future repairs and maintenance (in the event maintenance costs exceed the annual fees collected) and to build a contingency fund for future replacement/purchase of small boats.
 - c. Fees are due by January 31st of the current year.
 - d. Fees will be payable to the Gibsons Paddle Club, and are submitted with the member's annual membership fees or may be submitted to the Small Boat Manager, if registering for small boats at other times during the year.
- 6) **Padlock Combination** – When a Club member has taken the required training, and has paid the required fee:
- a. The trainer will provide the member with the combination that will open the padlock on the small boats.
 - b. The member is responsible for keeping the combination confidential and will not share the combination with non small boat users.
 - c. Each January 31st, the combination for the padlock will be changed.
- 7) **Safety** – The GPC Safety Policy applies to small boat users and in addition the following safety rules apply:
- a. In the summer small boat users will keep the boat at least 2 full boat lengths (5-fee or 16 meters) from shore with the following exceptions:
 - i. Gibsons Harbour
 - ii. Between Keats and Home Island the user will take the passage closest to Home Island.
 - b. During the winter months (November through March) small boat users must comply with the Winter Restrictions Policy, with the zone for winter paddling for small boats being restricted to:
 - The shores from Gibsons to Hopkins Landing keeping as close as possible to shore avoiding the shallow areas North of Armours beach and Granthams Landing and the rocks at Soames Point.

- c. Youth 18 years and under must be supervised by an adult at all times. The small boat manager has the discretion to waive this rule, if appropriate.

8) General Rules

- a. Small Boat Bookings – The Outrigger Canoe Scheduling Policy applies. As the Club currently owns only two OC-1s and one OC-2 the following booking restriction applies in order to provide fair access to small boats for all users:
 - Small Boat users may paddle as many times as they wish but can only have one booking per week for an OC-1 and one booking per week for an OC-2. Before using the small boat prior to an unbooked outing, the boat booking schedule on the internet must be checked and the booking put in the schedule (the booking must be removed from the calendar after use)
 - Members wanting more than one booking per week (i.e. Training for racing) may contact the small boat manager at smallboats@gibsonspaddleclub.ca
- b. Small boats may not be taken off the Sunshine Coast. Small boat users wanting to use small boats other than the Gibsons area must contact the small boat manager, and are responsible for transportation and any damage that may occur.
- c. Racing – The small boats will not be available for races other than the Howe Sound Outrigger Races. Usage of the small boats in the Howe Sound race will be determined by time trials, if necessary (i.e. More requests than the number of boats available). Time trials will be organized and conducted by the users who wish to race small boats.
- d. Any damage to, or loss of, equipment that occurs to the Club's assets as a result of negligence becomes the responsibility of the user, and the user is liable to the Club for any financial cost that are incurred in repairing the damage or replacing the loss.



Gibsons Paddle Club – Membership Fee Policy

The annual membership is valid from January 1st till Dec 31st of the current year. Membership renewal fees are due by January 31st of the current year.

A member from the previous year may remain in good standing until the Annual General Meeting of the current year. Failing receipt of his/her annual due, membership privileges are revoked.

Membership fees will be decided by the membership at the AGM. Members renewing their membership by January 31st of the current year will pay the previous year's membership fee. Members paying memberships after January 31st will pay the membership fee for the current year as decided at the AGM. In the event that membership fees are decreased (by vote of the membership at the AGM) members paying the higher fees will be reimbursed the difference to the lower membership fee.

Note: Members must have paid their current year's membership to vote at the AGM.

NO REFUNDS: Memberships are non-refundable and non-transferable.

LIFETIME MEMBERS: Lifetime members, after paying a one-time fee of \$1,500 are entitled to a lifetime membership. Payments may be made in a lump sum or, a deferred payment plan of: 50% first month, 25% next month and 25% in the third and final month.

YOUTH MEMBERS: Youth memberships apply to youth less than 19 years of age at the time of registration and will be charged a fee of 25% of the current year's membership fee.

POST SECONDARY STUDENT MEMBERS: Post Secondary Student memberships apply to full time post secondary students and will be charged a fee of 50% of the current year's membership fee.

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: Family memberships apply to adults and youth (under 19 years) of the same family, with a maximum of 4 persons in total (maximum 2 adults) and will be charged a fee of 2 times the current year's membership fee.

SUNSHINE COAST DRAGON BOAT CLUB MEMBERS: In recognition of their former membership in Gibsons Paddle Club, the Sunshine Coast Dragon Boat Club members will be charged a fee of 50% of the current year's membership fee. Sunshine Coast Dragon Boat Club members will be associate members and have no voting rights and cannot hold a position on the Executive.

NEW MEMBERS: **New** (does not include membership renewals) members joining after July 15th of the current year will pay membership fees for the balance of the current year as follows: \$10 registration fee plus a prorated membership fee per day to December 31st (based on the current year's membership fee – other rates adjusted accordingly).

VISITING PADDLERS: A visiting paddler will be assessed custom fees according to the length of his/her stay on the Sunshine Coast. Visiting paddlers have no voting rights. A visiting paddler's membership privileges expire at the end of their stay on the Sunshine Coast (fee period) unless they upgrade their membership to annual GPC membership by paying the balance of the Club's annual membership fee.

PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS: All prospective members may have a maximum of two tryouts on the water before becoming a GPC member, provided they have signed a waiver form.

MINI-SERIES MEMBERSHIP: A mini-series membership (value is equal to 25% of the current year's membership fee) is available for the paddlers taking part in a Challenge Race or a community sponsored race other than the Challenge Race. It allows the paddler to take part in six weeks of training **prior** to the race. Registration forms must be completed before training begins. Mini-membership holders have no voting rights or other club privileges other than those stated here.

If the *mini series* paddler wishes to join the GPC as a full member, their mini series fee (per paddler) will be applied to their first annual membership fee. If a youth (18 years and younger) takes part in a mini series, his/her membership is valid for the remainder of the year.

PULLING TOGETHER JOURNEY MEMBERSHIP: Community members participating in the Pulling Together Journey and preparing for the journey in the Dolphin Spirit canoe will be charged 25% of the current year's membership fee for the time preceding the journey. Registration forms must be completed before paddling begins. Pulling Together Journey membership holders have no voting rights or other club privileges other than those stated here.

If the *Pulling Together Journey* paddler wishes to join the GPC as a full member, their Pulling Together fee will be applied to their first annual membership fee. If a youth (less than 19 years) takes part in the Pulling Together Journey, his/her membership is valid for the remainder of the year.

YOUTH PROGRAM

The purpose of a youth program is to encourage school age youth to participate in paddling from April to the end of June. Youth must be attending local elementary or secondary schools.

1. Youth Program participants are charged a \$10 registration fee which allows youth to paddle from April to the end of June. (Youth Program form must be signed by the parent/guardian and will include student info, emergency contact, waiver and acknowledgement of Safety Policy.)
2. A coach (who is a Paddle Club member) will accompany the youth on every trip and teach paddling basics, safety, etc. Suggested times are once or twice per week for 1.5 hours. (OC4 and/or OC 6 only)
3. They must attend a Huli practice either as scheduled for youth program or during a Mini Series/GPC Huli practice, prior to the end of June.
4. If the youth participate in the Howe Sound Outrigger Race, or Challenge Race then they become members after the race (at no additional charge) and can continue to paddle.
5. Youth who do not participate in the race and wish to continue to paddle will pay the balance of a youth membership and become Club members.