



## 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](http://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 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>.
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.**