

SIPC Winter Paddling Procedures

DAY OR NIGHT

1. Winter paddling procedures apply from October 15 - March 31.
2. All OC1s must paddle with a partner. NO SOLO PADDLING.
3. All OC1 and OC6 paddlers must have successfully completed a huli drill within the last 24 months and have it recorded with the OC Director. Grandfather clause in effect until April 1, 2018 for current members.
4. When you complete your huli drill you need to notify the OC Director and provide a witness name and contact number.
5. The steersperson is required to review safety and huli procedures, ensure all safety equipment is on board and assign tasks prior to taking the boat out at the start of every winter practice.
6. All paddlers must wear an approved lifejacket or PFD with a whistle throughout the duration of practice. Flotation devices must be *CLIPPED, ZIPPED, AND APPROPRIATELY SIZED*. No inflatables.
7. All boats must stay within 30m of docks or shoreline at all times. There will be absolutely no cutting across the lake.
8. All boats paddling before sunrise or after sunset must have one solid (non-flashing) white light visible 360 degrees around the boat as per Transport Canada's requirement for Navigation Lights and one secondary light. The lights need to be mounted to the stern and bow of the OC.
NO LIGHTS? NO PRACTICE.
9. Best practice winter safety is before heading out onto the water, "buddies" assigned (partners - seatmates in dragon boats- who locate one another in the event of an emergency which can include, but is not limited to, capsizing), and tasks assigned in the event of an emergency. A total head count including steers and coach should be communicated through the boat.
10. Paddling in extreme weather conditions is not permitted. Lightning storms, visibility below 150m due to fog, wind above 20km/hr, and temperatures below 0 degrees Celsius (including wind chill) are a few of the weather conditions wherein paddling is prohibited. If weather conditions worsen while out on the lake, the steersperson is obliged to return to the dock if it is safe, or to any safe area of shore that is closer than our dock so that the crew can take cover until conditions improve.
11. All paddlers, callers, coaches, and steers must read, sign, and comply with the safety rules at all times. All paddlers of the crew must sign a waiver and/or be an SIPC member.
12. Paddlers must approach the captain, steers, or coach and disclose any physical condition which may impair their ability to safely respond to an emergency.
13. The steersperson may cancel a practice due to unsafe conditions.
14. Boat minimums for the winter paddling season:
 - The OC6 requires a minimum of 5 paddlers including an experienced steersperson.
 - The 20 paddler dragon boats require a minimum of 12 paddlers and an experienced steersperson.
 - The 10 paddler dragon boat requires a minimum of 8 experienced paddlers and an experienced steersperson.
15. For safety purposes, at any given time during a practice the steersperson is permitted to take control of the boat. All paddlers are required to immediately comply with instructions from the steersperson even when these instructions conflict with those given by a coach/captain.
16. At all times during practice (including: launching the boat; paddle practice on the water; and returning to the dock with all paddlers disembarked, and the boat returned to shore) the steersperson is obliged to act in the best interest of the safety of the crew.

MANDATORY SAFETY GEAR FOR WINTER PRACTICE - don't leave shore without it

1 extra paddle

1 extra pfd

2 (minimum) large bailers

2 noise-making devices eg. pealess whistles

1 first aid kit

1 throw bag

2 lights (clear, white, non flashing, visible all around the boat) if paddling before sunrise, or after sunset

Each crew is responsible for paddling with 1 method of communicating in the event of an emergency. A cell phone in a waterproof bag will suffice. Call 911 or *16 to contact the Canadian Coast Guard Marine Services Rescue Coordination Centre.

All boat damage must be reported to sipaddlingclub15@gmail.com Please include photos when possible.