

Sprint Boats and Sea Kayaks Usage Policy

The club has invested funds in kayaks and racing canoes for the purpose of:

- introducing paddlers to paddling for the pleasure of it and the pursuit of physical development;
- developing the future participation in and promotion of competitive paddling;
- providing quality equipment for the safe practice of canoeing;
- providing suitable boats for club-organized regattas;
- providing opportunities for school, team-building, and corporate outings, etc.

This usage policy is written to cover the safety aspects of using the craft on the Fraser River and Bedford Channel and to facilitate an equitable use of the equipment by all members, and to enable facilitate the availability of the correct boats for the scheduled coached sprint programs.

The boats may only be used in the Bedford Channel, east of the Paddlesport dock. Members must obtain prior permission from club executive, coach, or program instructor to paddle beyond the east end of Bedford Channel or west of the Paddlesport dock.

Individual use of Sprint Boats must be approved by a member of the club executive, coach, or program instructor. Newcomers to the sport are expected to train through a graduated program beginning in Dolphin and/or recreational kayaks and only progressing to more advanced boats as experience is acquired.

A group of club members may book a specified number of boats for one or more specified periods each week and pay the appropriate usage fees. Boats must be booked and boat usage fees apply. This allows opportunity for club members to use the boats for the purpose of training for sprint racing events or cross training for other paddling sports (e.g. dragon boat or outrigger canoe racing). Club sanctioned events include practices, competitive events, or trips that are scheduled by the club executive, coach, or program instructor.

Members must comply with the Club Safety Regulations as published from time to time. Subjects include, but are not limited to:

- a group leader - one person, who has been approved by the appointed executive member or their designate, as competent to paddle and provide leadership to the group;
- members must paddle with a minimum of three persons in attendance;
- paddlers must stay together and in winter stay close to shore;
- the required safety equipment must be carried;
- paddlers must wear a properly fitted personal floatation device (PFD);
- paddlers must know the dangers and effects of hypothermia and the procedures in case of capsized;
- three paddlers is considered the minimum as it is important that, in the event of an incident, one person stay with the injured party while the other person leaves to seek assistance. If the program leader considers that both paddlers have sufficient experience, the program leader may reduce the minimum to two. During the summer period, due to the lower risk of hypothermia, the executive may reduce this minimum to two paddlers. Notification of the change will be posted on the club's website. Paddlers must individually decide if the actual conditions are suitable for the participants.

All boats must be booked in advance. A log sheet must be completed in advance of each session, noting names of all paddlers, boats used (boat type and number) and whether a coach boat was also in attendance. All participants must be Fort Langley Canoe Club members or drop-in participants, who must sign a waiver and pay the drop-in fee.

Recreational and River Kayak Usage Policy

The club has invested funds in tandem canoes and voyageur canoes for the purpose of:

- introducing paddlers to paddling for the pleasure of it and in the pursuit of physical development and paddling safety;
- providing training opportunities;
- providing quality equipment for the safe practice of canoeing;
- providing suitable boats for club-organized regattas;
- providing opportunities for school, team-building and corporate outings, etc.

This usage policy is written to cover the safety aspects of using the craft on the Fraser River and Bedford Channel and also to facilitate an equitable use of the equipment by all members.

The boats may only be used in the Bedford Channel, east of the Paddlesport dock. Members must obtain prior permission from club executive, coach, or program instructor to paddle beyond the east end of Bedford Channel or west of the Paddlesport dock.

Club members, both adult and youth, may use these club kayaks during club drop-in sessions. Members are not charged a fee for these non-coached recreational drop-in kayak sessions. This allows opportunity for club members to use the boats for the purpose of training for sprint racing events or cross training for other paddling sports (e.g. for dragon boat or outrigger canoe racing). Club sanctioned events include practices, competitive events, and trips that are scheduled by the club executive, coach, or program instructor. Club drop-in sessions must be open to all members of the club. These sessions must be set up on a regular schedule. The schedule (including days and times) are to be published in advance either through email or on the club website. Boats must be booked in advance.

One person, designated as the leader must be approved by the executive based on their ability to paddle and provide leadership to the group. Groups must be made up of at least three people and need to stick together while on the water. During freshet, access to the boats will be limited. Members must comply with the Club Safety Regulations as published from time to time. The wearing of a properly fitted personal floatation device (PFD) is mandatory and two or three throw bags should be taken by the group. Only designated club paddles may be used.

On occasions, usually only when the Dolphins are required for club organized programs, lessons or other sessions, it may not be possible to use the dolphins, although the river boats should be available. The club will endeavour to give members ample notice.

All boats must be booked in advance. A log sheet must be completed in advance of each session, noting names of all paddlers, boats used (boat type and number) and whether a coach boat was also in attendance.

All participants must be Fort Langley Canoe Club members or drop-in participants, who must sign a waiver and pay the drop-in fee.

Dragon Boat Usage Policy

The club has invested funds in dragon boats for the purpose of:

- providing quality equipment for the safe practice of dragon boating;
- developing the future participation in and promotion of competitive paddling;
- providing suitable boats for club-organized regattas;
- providing opportunities for school, team-building and corporate outings, etc.

This usage policy is written to cover the safety aspects of using the craft on the Fraser River and Bedford Channel and also to facilitate an equitable use of the equipment by all members.

All use of a dragon boat (DB) must be booked through the executive DB representative.

The club 6/16 boats may be booked for weekly practices by teams of club members.

Boat usage fees apply for weekly booked sessions.

DB teams are encouraged to use the BUK boat before a regatta that is known to use BUK boats for racing. The club BUK boat may be booked for these practice sessions by teams that have paid for regular practices, on a first come-basis. The BUK is not intended to be booked for weekly practices.

The team captain must ensure that a club-approved steersperson is in control of the DB at all times and that the steersperson understands their responsibility for the safety of the crew, equipment, and third parties' interests. It is therefore essential that the steersperson assesses the ability of the crew and its individual members to operate safely in the prevailing and possible conditions. The steersperson must understand the freshet rules. The steersperson must also ensure the boat and docks are properly secured and locked and equipment properly put away. The captain shall ensure that a backup steersperson is named and part of every crew.

The captain must ensure the team complies with the minimum number of paddlers. During times of freshet (as published on the club website) the minimum number of paddlers will be 16 if suitably experienced, or 20 if less experienced. At times of exceptionally slack water, the team captain may permit a team to compose of only 10 experienced or 14 inexperienced paddlers. At all other times, at least 12 experienced, or 16 inexperienced, paddlers are required.

The team captain must ensure that a suitable safety person is on board to take control of any arising emergency. It is required that a throw bag, bailer, and spare paddle be carried on board at all times. It is highly recommended that a first aid kit and a cell phone (in water-proof container) also be carried. Paddlers must know the dangers and effects of hypothermia and the procedures in case of capsizing. Paddlers must individually decide if the actual conditions are suitable for the participants. If boats are on the water after dusk or before dawn a stern all-round white light must be used. Members must comply with the Club Safety Regulations as published from time to time. All participants must wear an approved, properly fitted personal floatation device (PFD) when on the ramp and dock, as well as in the boat. In the winter, it is recommended that participants wear wetsuits. Members are expected to purchase their own PFD and DB paddle, although club PFDs and paddles may be used for drop-in participants and programs.

All participants must be Fort Langley Canoe Club members or drop-in participants, who must sign a waiver and pay the drop-in fee.

Voyageur and Tandem Canoe Usage Policy

The club has invested funds in tandem and voyageur canoes for the purpose of:

- providing quality equipment for the safe practice of recreational canoeing;
- providing training opportunities;
- providing suitable boats for club-organized regattas;
- participation in historic re-enactments;
- providing opportunities for school, team-building and corporate outings, etc.

This usage policy is written to cover the safety aspects of using the craft on the Fraser River and Bedford Channel and to facilitate an equitable use of the equipment by all members.

All use of tandem and voyageur canoes must be booked through the Recreational Canoe representative on the Executive. The canoes may be booked for sessions by groups of club members on a drop-in basis or as a team session. Drop-in sessions are available to all members, free of charge, as this is considered the entry point to the club. Closed teams of members, and club authorized outings may be charged usage fees. Given the history of the Voyageur on the Fraser River, the voyageur canoes are frequently used for re-enactments such as Brigade Days and Douglas Day. Trip expenses are collected from participants.

The group leader must ensure that a club-approved steersperson is in control of the canoe at all times and that the steersperson understands their responsibility for the safety of the crew, equipment and third parties' interests. It is essential that the steersperson assesses the ability of the crew and its individual members to operate safely in the prevailing and possible conditions.

The group leader must ensure that a suitable safety person is in the group to take control of any arising emergency. It is required that a throw bag, bailer, and spare "Mohawk" paddle be carried on board at all times. It is highly recommended that a first aid kit and a cell phone (in water-proof container) also be carried. Members must comply with the Club Safety Regulations as published from time to time. All participants must wear an approved, properly fitted personal floatation device (PFD) when on the ramp and dock, as well as in the boat. Members are expected to purchase their own PFD, although club PFDs and paddles may be used by drop-in participants and programs.

In the voyageur canoe, during times of freshet (as published on the club website) the minimum number of paddlers will be 8 as long as at least 4 are suitably experienced. At all other times, the minimum number of paddlers will be 6 as long as at least 2 are suitably experienced.

The minimum number of tandems on the water at one time is two, provided that at least three paddlers are participating. Three paddlers is considered the minimum as it is important that, in the event of an incident, one person is able to stay with the injured party whilst the other leaves to seek assistance. If, in the event that the program leader considers that both paddlers have sufficient experience, the program leader may reduce this number to two paddlers in one boat. A log sheet must be completed in advance of each session, and to include time of departure, names of each participant, intended route and name of boat.

All participants must be Fort Langley Canoe Club members or drop-in participants, who must sign a waiver and pay the drop-in fee.

Outrigger Canoe Usage Policy

The club has invested funds in outrigger canoes for the purpose of:

- providing quality equipment for the safe practice of outrigger canoeing;
- developing the future participation in and promotion of competitive paddling;
- providing suitable boats for club-organized regattas.

This usage policy is written to cover the safety aspects of using the craft on the Fraser River and Bedford Channel and to facilitate an equitable use of the equipment by all members.

All use of an outrigger canoe (OC) must be booked through the OC representative (club executive). The club OCs may be booked for weekly practices by teams comprised of club members. Boat usage fees apply.

The team captain must ensure that a suitable steersperson is in control of the OC at all times and that the steersperson understands their responsibility for the safety of the crew, equipment and third parties' interests. It is therefore essential that the steersperson assesses the ability of the crew and its individual members to operate safely in the prevailing and possible conditions.

Each member of the crew must have completed a club-supervised huli session within the previous 14 months. The only exception being that a paddler who has joined the club since the last club huli session, and who has been approved by the steersperson and captain of the crew may be allowed to paddle in the OC6, but must agree to participate in the next club huli session. Prior to the boat leaving the dock, the huli drill must be reviewed and huli-specific tasks assigned to paddlers.

The team captain must ensure that a suitable safety person is on board to take control of any arising emergency. It is required that a throw bag, bailer, and spare paddle be carried on board at all times. It is highly recommended that a first aid kit and a cell phone (in water-proof container) also be carried. Paddlers must know the dangers and effects of hypothermia and the procedures in case of capsize. Paddlers must individually decide if the actual conditions are suitable for the participants. If boats are on the water after dusk or before dawn a stern all-round white light must be used. Members must comply with the Club Safety Regulations as published from time to time. All participants must wear an approved, properly fitted personal floatation device (PFD) when on the ramp and dock, as well as in the boat. In the winter, it is recommended that participants wear wetsuits. Members are expected to purchase their own PFD and OC paddle, although club PFDs and paddles may be used for drop-ins participants and programs.

The minimum number of paddlers will be five 5 at any time. A log sheet, listing the names of each participating paddler and the intended route, must be completed in advance of each session.

All participants must be Fort Langley Canoe Club members or drop-in participants, who must sign a waiver and pay the drop-in fee.

Coach Boat Usage Policy

The club has invested funds in coach boats for the purpose of coaching teams on the water. The coach boat may also be used as a rapid response vessel to any emergency situation and as a patrolling safety boat for programs and regattas.

This usage policy is written to cover the safety aspects of using the craft on the Fraser River and Bedford Channel and to facilitate an equitable use of the equipment by all members.

All use of a coach boat and engine must be booked in advance through the club executive. Boat usage fees apply. Users must purchase their own fuel.

The safety boat operator must be Pleasure Craft Operator Card (PCOC) certified and carry their PCOC with them during operation. The operator must be authorized by the club and have attended a club organized familiarization and training session, within the previous 36 months, relating to the boat and engine to be used.

The operator and passengers must each wear a properly-fitted PFD at all times and obey the navigation “rules of the road”, including the local rules specified for the Bedford Channel.

It is required that a throw bag, bailer, and “Mohawk” paddle be carried on board at all times. It is highly recommended that a first aid kit and a cell phone (in water-proof container) also be carried.

Unless in the process of rescuing personnel, the maximum number of people permitted in a safety boat is three, including the operator.

Immediately following use, and in order to monitor engine performance and maintenance schedules, a log book must be completed with the following:

- boat operator’s name;
- engine used (type or number);
- engine hours (length of time used).