



# Bradford & Bingley

## canoe club



### Safety Code Of Practice

Canoeing and Kayaking are "Assumed Risk" - "Water contact sports" that may carry attendant risks. Participants should be aware of and accept these risks, and be responsible for their own action and involvement.

All club coaches and officials are volunteers and give their time freely. They are committed to providing opportunities for individuals to develop their paddling skills and knowledge. This will involve exposure to some risk. We endeavour, at all times, to minimise that risk but cannot eliminate it entirely.

The club takes a positive approach to risk management. We believe that:

- a) risk is inherent in our sport and all decisions should be made on the basis of an assessment of that risk.
- b) all members should be encouraged to begin to learn to identify hazards AND assess risk for themselves as soon as they start to paddle.
- c) safe practice on the water is achieved by all participants behaving responsibly towards themselves and each other.

1. Members will take responsibility for their own decisions and actions on and off the water.
2. Members have a duty of care to club members and other paddlers. They should understand the concepts of duty of care and the potential consequences of negligence.
3. The decision of any member not to take part in any activity should be respected.
4. Members will wear safety equipment appropriate to the activity, conditions and individual ability. They are encouraged to make their own judgement about what is appropriate based on an understanding of the hazards and assessment of the risk involved.
5. Members will respect the judgement of more qualified and/or experienced paddlers. For example, if asked to wear safety gear, the paddler in question will do so or be entirely responsible for the consequences.

Adopted at AGM - 21st October 2004  
Amended June 2007  
Checked and amended 18<sup>th</sup> November 2009