



EXPEDITION

## Water Sports Safety Code

Participants should choose water which is suitable for the aim of the expedition, the type of craft, and above all else, that is well within their competence and experience. A principle condition of the Expedition section is that all expeditions must be unaccompanied and self-sufficient, providing a sense of isolation and remoteness.

Respect the feelings of the local community:

- Keep to authorised routes, footpaths, portage trails, access points and slipways when not in open water.
- Leave gates as you found them.
- Do not obstruct farm entrances, footpaths, portage trails, access points or narrow lanes with parked vehicles.
- Do not leave litter.
- Do not shout or make a lot of noise.
- Keep away from aquaculture sites which treat the bio security of their operations very carefully.

### Be safe:

- Know how to control the craft properly.
- Make sure the craft is in good condition and properly equipped.
- Be familiar with the warning signs and markers for other activities.
- Keep a good look out for people in the water, slow moving boats and anglers concealed in bankside vegetation.
- Respect other water users and be willing to give way or stop.
- Have and display all appropriate licences.
- Launch and moor only at authorised sites.
- Make sure there is adequate insurance in place.
- Do not cut across the bows of an oncoming craft.
- Do not waste water by passing a single craft through a lock.
- Do not take your craft onto private waters without permission.
- Do not launch, moor or land on private property without permission.
- Do not use private waters to gain access to other waters or property.

- Do not allow fuel, oil, paint, chemicals or detergents to leak or spill into the water or onto the bank.

### Simple guidelines for river canoeists:

- Check access rights for all locations of activity. These vary around the UK so do not assume the access rights of one area are the same as another.
- If in doubt contact the British Canoe Union (BCU), Welsh Canoe Association (WCA), Scottish Canoe Association (SCA) or your local office of the Environment Agency.
- Access to many rivers is dependent upon the goodwill of riparian/fishery owners and tenants. Do not abuse their goodwill.
- Respect local rules enforced by the BCU/WCA/SCA and affiliated canoeing clubs.
- Do not enter private land without permission.
- Have respect for the interests of nature conservation, anglers, agriculture and any other users of the river.
- Stop canoeing if you are clearly disturbing wildlife.
- Pass anglers quietly. Try to:
  - Keep away from banks being fished.
  - Comply with reasonable directional requests.
  - Keep well clear of fishing tackle.
  - Avoid loitering in pools if anyone is fishing.
  - Cause as little disturbance as possible.
- Leave the water if requested to do so by an Environment Agency bailiff. Ask for identification if you are in doubt.

### Canoeing is a safe sport but:

- Take all reasonable safety precautions.
- Wear a buoyancy aid.
- Keep away from weirs, sluices and other dangers.
- Do not venture into flood-swollen rivers.
- Cover cuts and scratches and be aware of the risks posed by Weil's disease.
- Avoid swallowing river water.