



# SAFETY ON THE WATER

Updated: February 2024



# SAFETY FRAMEWORK

To promote a safe and enjoyable environment for all SPC members and visiting paddlers when using Club and Personal assets during Club sanctioned paddling sessions including SPC organized races.

# Safety Equipment - Club Canoes

Club **OC6 & OC3** canoes **MUST** have the following Safety equipment on board.  
It is **BOTH** paddlers' & steerers' responsibilities to check before launch!



## MANDATORY for BOAT

1. Life Vests for each paddler on Board
2. Club Safety Bag
3. Bailers
4. Tow Rope
5. Lights, if paddling before dawn & after sunset

## MANDATORY for STEERS

1. Whistle
2. VHF Radio (best for emergencies)  
or
3. Mobile phone (locked to SG operator, as a backup)

# Safety Bag System for OC6s, OC3s

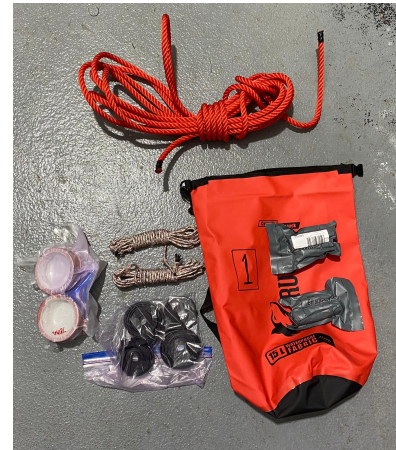
Safety bags need to be filled before and emptied after each session to allow both kit and the inside of the bag to dry (if you can't close it properly 😊).

Each bag must have these items inside:

1. 2 x field dressings.
2. 1 x ziplock bag of four rubber straps,
3. 1 x vacuum sealed bag with two rolls of tape
4. 2 x rope. PLUS, you take a long rope from the wicker basket that is placed near by >DON'T put the long rope in the safety bag.

## PLEASE:

- 1) **Respect the system** and keep it tidy and ordered....it's there for YOUR safety
- 2) **Respect the kit**....there are 8 safety bags and 8 complete sets of kit to go inside. Don't nick items for your own use...that's just crappy and lazy.
- 3) **Respect your club mates**....a number have spent time and effort setting this up....for YOUR safety.



# Safety Equipment – Single & Double Crafts, SUPs



## MANDATORY

1. Leg Leash
2. Life Vest
3. Whistle
4. VHF Radio (best for emergencies) or
5. Mobile Phone (locked to SG operator, as a backup)
6. Spare paddle
7. **Lights if paddling before dawn & after sunset**



## Recommended

1. Safety Bag
2. Tow Rope

# SPC Rules & Protocols

## CLUB SESSIONS

### Mandatory Safety Briefing BEFORE each Club Session

By: Coach, Designated Session Leader, Race Organizer  
For OC6s and Single Craft paddlers

#### Checklist

1. Identify leader of each group
2. Provide Tide & Current Info
3. Alert if any Paddler has Medical Condition
4. Pairing of Single Craft Paddlers – Buddy system
5. Set separate Course for each Group as necessary
6. Agree on stop points e.g. at Channel Crossings
7. Designate an experienced Sweep Canoe if inexperienced / rookie paddlers taking part
8. VHF Channel announced & set (VH71/72)
9. Lights for Dawn / Dusk Paddling

## RACES

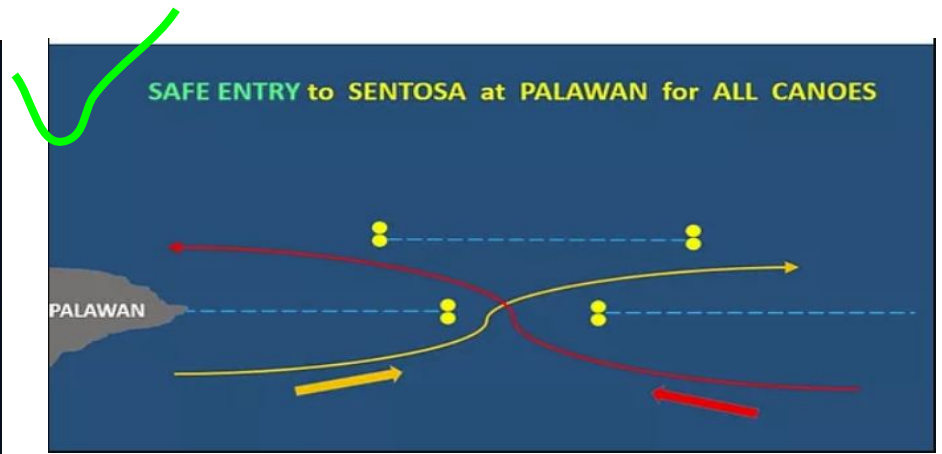
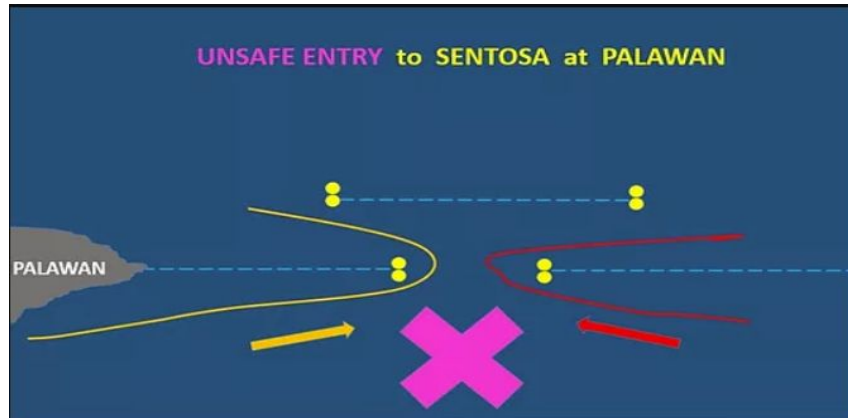
### Mandatory Safety Briefing BEFORE each race

By: Race Organizer  
For OC6s and Single Craft paddlers

#### Checklist

1. Safety Briefing showing course and incident management
2. Review incident management processes
3. Deploy Safety Boat and Sweepers
4. Race Officials communication via VHF Radios + Base Station. Use Mobile Phones as backup comms.
5. Officials to check each racer's safety equipment and craft

# Safe way of getting through blue barrels



Small crafts, please give way to bigger crafts!

# NO-GO Zones: Keppel & Harbourfront

Areas close to Keppel Fairway & Harbourfront are OFF-LIMITS!

Note that all areas marked as "... Fairway" on these maps are shipping lanes.

You have NO RIGHT OF WAY versus ferries, container ships, tug boats, etc. Stay close to the islands/shore when paddling near Fairways.

Check traffic in both directions before crossing. This is especially important in the channel between Sentosa and the Sisters Fairway, where high-speed ferries run.

**Vessels can approach much faster than you realize. When in doubt, wait for the vessel to pass and double-check your clearance before attempting to cross a fairway.**



# Communication



VHF Radio



Mobile phone



Whistle

## Escalation Protocol



Police Coast Guard: **999**  
MPA Marine Safety Control: **6325 2488**

### VHF Channels

Police Coast Guard: 7  
MPA Marine Safety Control: 7

All Marinas: 77

Between SPC paddlers: 71 / 72

# Incidents at Sea – Escalation Protocol

## With injury or life threatening situation

- Session leader
- Police Coast Guard or Port Marine Safety
- Safety Team / Exco

## Without injury or canoe is out of control and poses a danger to others

- Session leader
- Port Marine Safety
- Safety Team / Exco

## Equipment/canoe damage, other incidents

- Session leader
- Ops Manager and Head Coach (if club equipment)
- Write note detailing damage on White Board

# Incidents at Sea – Communication Procedure

If you are stopped by the MPA (Marine Port Authorities) on the water, **please remain calm, courteous and cooperative**, exercise patience and caution - you are directly/indirectly representing SPC.

When contacting the Police Coast Guard, Port Marine Safety or Marinas for assistance, please follow this procedure:

1. State that the vessel type is “Paddling Canoe”
2. Provide your name
3. State the nature of the emergency
4. Give them your exact position
5. Follow any instructions given by the officer taking the call

Remember to notify the SPC Exco as soon as it is safely possible to do so.

# Other helpful information

This information will be updated from time to time, and is intended to provide access to additional information and resources to help you stay safe on the water!

- [Mousley, R. "Surfski Safety Gear". Surfski.info. 26 March 2019.](#) This is a great article with lots of info on what gear to use, including recommendations on brands / models of gear to use.

**You are responsible for  
your own SAFETY  
ON & OFF the water!**

**SAFETY DOES NOT HAPPEN  
BY ACCIDENT**