

YPRC Policy and Procedures Regarding the Use of Club-Owned Boats and Equipment

Club Sponsored Activities

A member (adult or approved minor) of Yonkers Paddling and Rowing Club (YPRC) in good standing, i.e. who has paid all annual membership and rental fees, has signed a waiver for the current membership year, may be permitted the use of a club owned boat and certain equipment during Club sponsored events. Such use shall be arranged with the House Captain and shall be based on a first-come first-served basis.

Non-Club Sponsored Activities

An adult member of Yonkers Paddling and Rowing Club (YPRC) in good standing, i.e. who has paid all annual membership and rental fees, has signed a waiver for the current year and has been **safety certified** by the Safety Committee will be permitted the use of a club owned boat and certain equipment on a non-club sanctioned paddle subject to the terms and conditions contained herein.

The Safety Certification Committee

YPRC has established a Safety-Certification Committee (SCC) that will be responsible for certifying members to use club owned boats and equipment at non club sanctioned paddles.

Any member in good standing can request to be on the committee. The request will be subject to the approval of the Commodore and the SSC. The SSC shall never have less than 3 members or more than 5 members.

For the 2023 season, the SCC shall consist of the following:

Chevaughn Dixon ACA Level 4 Sea Kayak, ACA Level 1 Paddle-board

Phil Giller ACA Level 2 Sea Kayak

Frank Horvath ACA Level 2 Sea Kayak

Jack Gilman ACA Level 2 Sea Kayak (emeritus)

YPRC Safety Certification for Members

Safety Certification is an assessment offered by the SCC to members in good standing of YPRC. Those who pass have the privilege of requesting the use of club boats with club owned equipment consisting of a paddle, a PFD, a spray skirt, radio and safety bag.

Only a safety certified member may use a club boat outside of club sanctioned activities. **A safety certified member may not grant a non-certified member, minor or guest permission to use a club boat.** A member who is not safety certified may only request to use club boats on club scheduled trips and approved events.

To be approved, a member must demonstrate the basic kayaking skills listed in this document and should have knowledge of YPRC general policies. Each member is responsible for adhering to them at all times. Any Member who, in the sole discretion of the SCC, disregards the written protocols may lose their privilege of club membership or their certification as safety certified with permission to use club boats and equipment. The decision of the SCC may be appealed to the YPRC Board of Directors, but will stand unless and until the Board decides otherwise.

This certification only permits club boats with equipment to be launched from the Alexander St boathouse. Club boats and other club equipment may be taken off property to launch from a site other than the Alexander St. boathouse **only** with the express written permission of the House Captain. No other club officer has the authority to grant this permission.

Process for becoming Safety Certified

A Safety Certified member may be asked at any time by the SCC or any of its individual members to demonstrate continued maintenance of the required skills. All Safety Certified members must renew their Safety Certification every 5 years. A list of all Safety Certified members will be maintained at the Club and published on the wall of the boathouse.

Safety Certification

Safety Certification status is designated by the SCC or by any of its individual members. To be Safety Certified, a member MUST understand all YPRC safety policies as contained in this document.

1. Any member who has taken and passed the ACA Coastal Kayaking Level 2 Assessment (2020 or later) will be designated safety certified. If this assessment was completed outside of YPRC; please provide the safety committee with the name of the ACA instructor who passed you.
2. Members may also demonstrate the ability to perform the kayaking skills set forth herein and others at the discretion of the SSC in lieu of a formal assessment class.

Skills to be DEMONSTRATED to become Safety Certified

STROKES and MANEUVERS:

Lifting and Carrying Kayaks: Good, safe technique.

Launching: YPRC dock and/or Habirshaw beach for entering boat in a safe manner.

Efficient forward paddling: 50 yards in a reasonably straight line against the current.

Stopping: Stop the kayak from a good speed, forward and reverse.

Reverse: 15 yard paddle in a straight line with reasonable control, looking over shoulder.

Rotate 360 degrees on the spot: Spin kayak using forward and reverse sweeps.

Turning on the move: Sweep strokes while underway to turn boat.

Draw sideways: Move the boat sideways 10 feet, both sides; (in-water or sculling draw).

Ruddering: Trailing paddle to keep the boat straight at reasonable speed.

Low Bracing: Both sides (at least demonstrate knowledge)

Landing: Return to dock and/or beach and exit boat in a safe manner.

Rescue and Recovery:

Wet Exit: Capsize while wearing spray skirt.

Assisted Rescues: Heel Hook, T-Rescue (or any approved group rescue) to empty boat or side-by-side assisted and re- entry. **Each candidate must perform rescue and being rescued on the Hudson River in normal conditions. RESCUES MUST BE COMPLETE WITHIN 2 MINUTES to pass.**

Self-Rescue: demonstrate use of paddle float, cowboy or roll.

Towing: Demonstrate understand use of tow line, knowledge of when to employ. Must demonstrate contact tow and single tow in normal conditions.

Technical Knowledge:

Equipment: Have a working knowledge of basic paddling equipment (see Exhibit A).

Safety: Understand the dangers of kayaking and how to avoid trouble. Understand the tides and currents

for the Hudson River, how to read the Eldridge currents guide book or online information from NOAA.

Trip Planning: Understand how to access conditions on day of the trip. Leave a float plan in the clubhouse with all required information (see Exhibit B). Be familiar with whistle and paddle signals.

VHF Radio: Have a working knowledge of basic radio use. See YPRC Protocol regarding VHF Radio operation (see Exhibit C)

Kayak Experience

Paddled at least a short duration (3 hr.) and distance (8 miles)

Hypothermia and Hyperthermia: Know symptoms and treatment.

CONGRADULATIONS if you have passed. So now what?

Before you go, notify the House Captain via email at least 24 hours before intended use. The House Captain will advise whether there is a conflict with a club program, or other group, on the date of intended use.

PFD'S MUST be worn at all times while on the water.

Boating under the influence of drugs or alcohol is strictly prohibited.

Boats may only be used during daylight hours only. No night trips are allowed unless it is a club sanctioned event. **No solo trips are allowed** (unless you are a certified ACA kayak instructor). It is recommended that a minimum of three safety certified or personal boat owners be on the trip.

At least one safety certified member or member with their own boat **MUST** have a safety bag (pump, paddle float, tow line, contact tow) and be comfortable using the equipment. A club owned safety bag will be hanging next to the First Aid equipment in the club house. **Please USE it and RETURN IT.**

All boats, safety bags, radios and any other equipment taken out must be returned to where it was found. Any issues with any of the equipment must be reported to the House Captain by email.

On the date of intended use the members must enter into the log book the names of all individuals on the trip, A Float Plan **MUST** be written up and left in the log book. (Blank copies located in a folder on wall in Clubhouse above the log book). A sample Float Plan is annexed as Exhibit B.

By authorizing the use of club boats on a specific date, the House Captain does not warrant that the conditions, including but not limited to the weather, wind, current and water temperature in existence on the date of intended use will be safe for the planned trip.

It is the sole responsibility of the safety certified member and other paddlers on the trip to consider all such conditions on the date of intended use in conjunction the member's level of kayaking experience to determine whether it is safe to operate the club boat.

It is the responsibility of the safety certified member to inspect the boat and equipment prior to use. Any missing or damaged equipment must be reported to the Fleet Captain Peter Riley and House Captain Jack Gilman via email.

Peter Riley priley347@gmail.com

Jack Gilman HUDSONSB@YAHOO.COM

ENJOY PADDLING ON THE HUDSON