

Notes for Parents of Youth Members

Keep Safe

Among the strengths of Thamesway Canoe Club are its family atmosphere and its responsible attitude to safety. We are affiliated to the national body which oversees the sport, the British Canoe Union, and follow their guidelines. We encourage children to take up paddling and try to make it enjoyable for them, as well as safe. However, there are inherent hazards in kayaking and canoeing which make it necessary for us to set a number of restrictions relating to children. These notes do concentrate on negative aspects. Please don't let this put you off. By acknowledging and allowing for hazards and difficulties we keep risks under control and make it possible to have a lot of fun whilst participating in this very rewarding sport.

The Rules

No children under 7

Children may belong to Thamesway Canoe Club from the age of 7 years. For reasons of liability, we are unable to take younger children. (Younger children of experienced paddlers may be present where club activities are taking place, on the understanding that they must be accompanied by and supervised by a parent or guardian who shall take complete responsibility for their safety, well-being and behavior, both on and off the water.)

7 to 12: Stay with your child

For children between seven and twelve, parents must stay to take care of and supervise their children off the water. Children may become wet, cold and tired part way through a session, and may need support from someone with a dry towel and change of clothes. There are also considerations of the appropriateness of others giving this kind of attention to children.

Over 12s: Be contactable

For over 12s parents may not need to stay with the young person. However, it is important that we know who to contact in case of emergency, and how to do so. You must leave contact details with the person manning the registration desk, or the trip leader.

Illnesses and Medical Conditions

Please let us know of any illnesses and medical conditions that may affect your child when paddling, and ensure that trip leaders know them too. These include any food allergies.

Saying "NO"

The leaders of club activities are responsible for the safety of their entire group, and therefore have discretion to decide who may participate on a particular occasion. This applies particularly to river trips where the hazards are greater and the difficulty can vary considerably depending on water levels. In doing so they take account of the skills, stamina, clothing and equipment of the individual concerned, the composition of the whole group, and the prevailing conditions. Consequently, there may be occasions when individuals, adults as well as children, cannot go on an arranged trip. Please be understanding if this happens, as the decision will have to be taken to ensure the safety of everyone involved.

Hazards

If your child develops an illness following a canoeing session, please ensure that you mention the fact that they have been canoeing to the doctor.

Canoeing, kayaking and related water sports are inherently risky activities. Club activities are led by experienced paddlers, and the club and its leaders endeavour to minimise the risks involved as far as possible. However, all members of the club who take part in club activities do so at their own risk, and neither the club nor its officers can accept liability for any loss or injury of any kind sustained at any club activity or meeting place.

Any Questions?

Any member of the committee will be glad to help answer any questions you might have, but in the first instance please direct them to:

Child Protection Issues: Rob Wykeham-Martin (Welfare Officer) or any member of the committee
Youth participation and enjoyment of activities: Tom Mellor (Youth Rep)