

UAPS WHITEWATER SAFETY POLICY

General

All participants should consider United Alberta Paddling Society (UAPS) club trips to be a 'Common Adventure' under the guidance of a Trip Leader. As such, trip participants share responsibility for their conduct on a trip, and are individually responsible for judging their own capabilities and safety as the trip progresses. This document serves to outline the expectations of the UAPS Executive of trip participants.

Executive

The UAPS Executive has the responsibility for maintaining a current list of approved Trip Leaders and Sweep boaters. The UAPS Executive also has the responsibility of maintaining a current calendar on the club website (paddleuaps.ca) with club trips listed.

Trip Participants

Despite the mutually supportive group structure of a club trip, each Participant is ultimately responsible for their own safety, and must assume sole responsibility for ensuring that they meet the following mandatory requirements:

- a. UAPS Member in good standing
 - b. Have the appropriate skill level for the trip
 - c. Have completed and submitted a Club Waiver
 - d. Participants under the age of 18 has properly submitted an 'Acknowledgment of Risk' form
 - e. Have obtained the consent of the authorized Trip Leader.
- UAPS reserves the right to refuse participation of any person who does not meet the minimum standards indicated above
 - In addition to the above requirements, the decision to participate on any trip is that of the participant. Such a decision should be made according to the Participant's best judgment of his/her capabilities given the intended river, water levels, expected degree of difficulty of the river and forecasted weather conditions. It is the Participant's responsibility to ensure that their decision to participate takes all of these factors into account. The Participant should obtain any necessary information from their Trip Leader in order to make an informed decision to take part on any trip.
 - Participants are responsible for their own conduct during a trip, ensuring that their actions do not put themselves, or the group at risk. eg. staying together, following leader's instructions
 - Participants should constantly evaluate their own safety and that of the group. Concerns about safety should be voiced promptly to the nearest leader.
 - During emergency situations all Participants are expected to work together under the guidance of Trip Leaders and Sweeps.
 - It is Participant's responsibility to ensure they have filled out emergency contact information and filed it with the Trip Leader for every club trip they participate in

Sweep Boaters

In addition to meeting all of the Participant Paddler requirements, Sweep Boaters must meet the following criteria:

- Listed on the UAPS Approved Leaders list as an approved Sweeper for the specific trip
- Appointed by the Trip Leader to assist on the trip

- Assist during rescues/emergencies under the direction of the Trip Leader

Trip Leaders

In addition to meeting all of the Participant Paddler requirements, Trip Leaders must meet the following criteria:

- Listed on the UAPS Approved Leaders List as an approved Trip Leader for the specific trip
- Must be familiar with the run on which the trip is to occur; Trip Leaders are only approved to lead on runs which they have previously run and demonstrated the ability to lead a successful excursion on.

Operating Procedure

Prior to the trip:

- The Trip Leader will check the Participant list and ensure that to the best of his/her knowledge the paddling ability of each Participant is appropriate for the trip. The Trip Leader will also confirm weather and water conditions are appropriate for the group.
- In accordance with Transport Canada regulations, the Trip Leader will ensure that Participants contact and emergency information is stored in the club folder in a vehicle at the takeout

On the Trip Day:

- Trip Leaders will ensure that each Participant is appropriately equipped for the outing
- Trip Leaders will conduct a safety talk with all Participants. The safety talk will include introductions of lead and sweep boaters, river signals, expected risks and plans to mitigate identified risks. Trip Leaders should also ensure they are aware of any Participant paddlers special needs, medical or otherwise.

On the River:

- Trip Leaders are expected to lead with a 'Safety First' attitude. All decisions on the river need to be made with the weakest paddler in the group in mind. Trip Leaders should always be evaluating the condition of their group and adjusting accordingly.
- When running the major features of the river Trip Leaders and Sweep Boaters will manage the feature dependant on group skill and environmental conditions. If the decision is made to run a feature, safety management will err on the side of caution.

Off the River:

- Trip Leaders will report to the UAPS Executive any problems or challenges.
- The UAPS Executive welcomes recommendations for future trips from any Participant.

I understand my above responsibilities as a UAPS Participant Paddler.

Paddler Signature

Date

Paddler Name

Witness