

KIRKCUDBRIGHT CANOE CLUB

CODE OF CONDUCT

Welfare and Safety

Kirkcudbright Canoe Club (KCC) recognises that the safety and welfare of its members is foremost and that, whatever their age, gender, disability, culture, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, social status or sexual identity, have a right to protection. KCC operates a zero tolerance to: tormenting and threatening gestures, racial or sexuality taunts, sexual gestures, unwanted sexual physical contact or sexually abusive or inappropriate comments or any use of violence or offensive language.

If anyone suspects that unacceptable behaviour is taking place it is expected of them that they inform an appropriate person. This can be a committee member, a coach or the KCC Welfare Officer – Paul McCleary.

All Coaches and Leaders in KCC, comply with the British Canoeing Safeguarding Training and Disclosure Requirements.

At certain times, with control and discretion, physical contact during Paddlesport may be required. Coaches, Leaders and volunteers will only use physical contact if their aim is to:

- a. Develop skills or techniques
- b. Treat an injury
- c. Prevent an injury or accident from occurring
- d. Meet the requirements of the activity engaged in, unless the situation is an emergency the coach/volunteer will seek the permission from the parent/guardian.

Behaviour

KCC has a duty of care to its members. To ensure this, the Coaches and Leaders will, in the interest of safety, monitor the behaviour of its members.

If a member's behaviour is judged to be compromising the groups or another person's safety then they will be removed from the activity.

If the decision is made to exclude a member from clubs activities. There will be no appeal against an exclusion decision made by a Coach, Leader or a member of the clubs committee, but the reason for the decision will be given. All fees will be forfeited.

Assumed Risk Statement

Canoeing and Kayaking are 'assumed risk water contact sports' that carry associated risks. Members must be aware of and accept these risks, and be responsible for their own action and involvement".

Upon acceptance into the membership of the Kirkcudbright Canoe Club, members must;

1. Understand that kayaking and canoeing is undertaken at their own risk.
2. Ensure they understand the risks and have the appropriate knowledge and skill for a Club activity and the prevailing environmental conditions.

Members are also responsible for the suitability and condition of their personal equipment. Neither the club, nor its office bearers, accept any liability for any loss or injury during club activities.

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Data Protection

The personal information you supply to KCC will be held and used in strict confidence and in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. It will be held securely and used by specific Club Committee Members to manage your club membership, club activities and related club benefits.

The Club is affiliated to the Scottish Canoe Association (SCA) which provides third-party insurance and other benefits. KCC will disclose the absolute minimum personal information to the SCA and this will be held and used by the SCA in line with their own Data Protection policy.

Your data will NOT be used by the SCA for marketing purposes or disclosed to any third parties. If you wish to allow the SCA to do this, you may activate this yourself through the SCA's Self Service Portal.

The Club may also pass personal information (which may include information about your health) to the SCA insurer in the event of our club making an insurance claim. The information may be put onto a register of claims and shared with other insurers to prevent fraudulent claims.

For further information on how the SCA manages your data, contact office@canoescotland.org or write to

Scottish Canoe Association
Caledonia House
1 Redheughs Rigg
Edinburgh
EH12 9DQ

For information on how the Club will manage your data, contact the club Secretary.

Responsibility for Yourself

Paddlers should paddle within their own ability and that of the group without taking unnecessary risks. We paddle in remote areas, often in unfavourable weather. Everyone should ensure their own equipment and safety gear is functional and appropriate for the activity and conditions.

Members should discuss any medical condition with Coaches and Leaders that could affect their performance or place a burden on the group; carry appropriate medication if necessary.

Paddlers will stay with their group, following reasonable instructions of Coaches or Leaders. You are free to opt-out of any activity or portage (carry boat around) any section you feel is beyond your ability. Any group member is free to raise concerns – they may be the only one to spot an impending problem.

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Responsibility for Others

All paddlers have a responsibility for the care and welfare of other paddlers. Coaches and Leaders will plan and execute Club activities within the remit of their qualifications or they may forfeit SCA legal and insurance protection.

Coaches and Leaders will consider route planning, river levels, sea state, weather conditions, group composition and organisation, supervision ratios, and personal and group safety equipment.

Coaches, Leaders and group members will respect other paddlers and support any requests to portage or opt-out.

Responsibility for the Environment and Other Land Users

Club members are ambassadors for KCC and Paddlesport. You should treat the environment and waterways with respect and other countryside users with courtesy.

The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 gives you the legal right to be on most land and inland water for recreation, education and for going from place to place, providing you act responsibly. It does not, for example, give the right to:

- Intrude on others' privacy (e.g. congregate, change or camp close to houses)
- Drive or park a vehicle on private land
- Enter gardens grounds, buildings or farmyards (unless there is a right of way or footpath)
- Cross sown or growing crops (although field margins are okay)

More information on responsible use of the countryside and your rights under The Act is available online - [Scottish Outdoor Access Code](#).

Members should avoid damage to the riverbank or watercourse and leave the river environment in the same (or better) state than they find it. Drivers should park considerately and avoid blocking narrow roads or monopolising public car parks or lay-bys.

All the waste you generate through your activities should be taken with you for disposal in an appropriate receptacle.

Fishing

Club Members should be sensitive around fishing activity. Announce your presence where possible and follow any reasonable requests. Pass quietly on the opposite side of the river/loch to avoid disturbance and do not linger in eddies.

However, rivers and lochs are public rights-of-way in Scots Law and unreasonable demands from fishermen, landowners or their representatives can be ignored. Anti-social, threatening, or unreasonable behaviour should be reported to the Police and SCA Access Officer.

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Photography, Video and Social Media

Photography and video are part of the enjoyment of recreational and competitive Paddlesport and can be valuable learning tools.

The Club has control over and will regulate club/official content on our website (<http://www.kirkcudbrightcanoecub.co.uk/>) and Facebook page ([Kirkcudbright Canoe Club](#)).

Members must behave sensitively and responsibly when taking and handling images, particularly in connection to postings on internet and social media. In accordance with the KCC Photography Policy.