

## Halifax Canoe Club

### Paddling Policy for Young People

Halifax Canoe Club seeks to encourage young people to develop their paddling skills and participate within the safe environment of the club and its activities. However the Club is also keen that young people can develop as responsible and independent canoeists, while balancing this against the duty of care that the Club owes to young people.

This policy sets out the process for, and criteria under which young people that are member of the Club can paddle without a coach or their parent/guardian being present.

- Junior members of the Club are all those under 18 whether they are individual or family members of the Club.
- This policy applies to the club's home waters only (defined as Puzzle Weir to club egress steps),

#### Member who are under 16's

Members of the Club who are under 16 **must** paddle with a Club coach or with their parent / guardian.

#### Members who are 16 or over and under 18

Any member of the Club who is over 16, but under 18 may apply to the coaching panel to paddle as part of an experienced group without a coach or parent/guardian being present. This will be granted where the Club's Coaching Panel feels that the young person is sufficiently mature and where the young person can meet the following conditions:

- Hold the BCU 3 Star Award (WW), and satisfy the coaching panel that they are capable of rescue and recovery at normal water levels. Alternatively, in exceptional circumstances, they may be approved by the coaching panel as having equivalent experience.
- Their parents/guardians understand and accept the assumed risks associated with this policy and give their permissions for the young person to paddle without a coach present.

When paddling under this policy, the following conditions must be strictly adhered to:

- They paddle as part of a group of **no less than three** competent paddlers.
- They must ensure that all the other members of the group they are paddling in are happy for them to be in the group.
- Water levels – for the young person to paddle, the water levels must be no more than normal. That is there must be a clear beach at the foot of the club egress steps to land the boats of the group.
- If the group is comprised solely of under 18's **all** of the group must meet **all** of these conditions.
- This policy applies to the club's home waters only (defined above). Club activities for young people away from the Club must be under the supervision of an appropriately qualified coach.

#### **Recording and Monitoring**

The coaching panel will keep a record of all under 18's that have been approved under this policy and a list maintained in the clubhouse. Approvals will be reviewed regularly and approval will be suspended or withdrawn if the conditions of this policy are not complied with.