

Halifax Canoe Club

Young Persons Paddling Policy

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 to help young people develop as responsible and independent canoeists, while balancing this against the duty of care that the Club owes to them.

This policy sets out the process for, and criteria under which young people (under 18s) who are members of the club can paddle at the club without a coach or their parent/guardian being present.

This policy applies to the club's **Home Waters** only. ***Home Waters are defined as the river from just below the double weir to the egress steps at the bottom of the whitewater course and the canal between Luddendenfoot and Salterhebble locks (see the club's 'home waters' map).*** It is envisaged that this policy is primarily to allow young people to paddle on the whitewater course at the club.

Member who are under 16's

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

Members who are 16 or over and under 18

Any member of the Club who is 16 or 17 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 BC 3 Star Award (WW), or be approved by the coaching panel as having equivalent experience via a coach who can assess the 3 Star white water award.
- Satisfy the coaching panel that they are capable of rescuing capsized paddlers and equipment on the white-water course when the river conditions are 'Green' according to the club's **River Condition Policy**.
- Their parents / guardians understand and accept the assumed risks associated with this policy and give their permission for the young person to paddle without a coach present.

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

- Young people paddle as part of a group of **no less than three** competent paddlers.
- Young People 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 river condition must be 'Green' according to the club's **River Condition Policy**.
- If the group is comprised solely of under 18's **all of the group must be approved under this policy** and adhere to all of these conditions.
- Young people should paddle on the club's home waters only (defined above).
- Young people take responsibility for any club equipment they borrow as per the club's Equipment Policy. Any loss or damage must be reported to the club's Equipment Officer as soon as possible.

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.