

BOATING RULES AND INFORMATION

SAFETY RULES

- 1. General Safety:** The Safety Rules of the Guide Association including Safety Rules for Joint Adventurous Activities of The Scout Association and The Guide Association must be observed at all times. It is the responsibility of each Event Leader to ensure that the arrangements for safety of crews within the group conform to Paxmead Safety Rules. Boating accidents can happen very quickly and all concerned with safety must constantly be on the look-out. **Please see Paxmead Health & Safety Documentation (at Paxmead).**
- 2. Boat Crews - Swimming & Proficiency:** Everyone taking part in boating activities must be able to swim at least 50m and keep afloat in clothes and buoyancy aid for 5 minutes. Non-swimmers may be taken rowing with the permission of the person in charge of boating.
- 3. Life Jackets and Buoyancy Aids:** A life jacket or buoyancy aid must be worn for all water activities by everyone on the water. It is also recommended that a buoyancy aid is worn by anyone on the jetty.
- 4. Safety Boat:** Only qualified persons may use any power craft at Paxmead, they are NEVER to be used for passenger trips when needed to be used as a rescue boat.
- 5. Launching of Boats:** No boat is to be launched without the permission of the person in charge of boating. Unqualified persons may not launch without a qualified person on the water. The person in charge of boating must check that the boats are serviceable before launching and that the correct equipment is used at all times. Ensure that all boats are placed on trailers correctly, where required, before being moved.
- 6. River Conditions:** No boat is to be launched when the river is in spate, i.e. running fast. At other times if the Leader is in doubt about the safety of the water conditions for boating the Lock Keeper must be contacted: Chertsey - 01932 562208 / Shepperton - 01932 221840. All Leaders must take into account the ages and skills of the participants when making a decision about the weather and water conditions.
- 7. Accidents:** **See Paxmead Health and Safety Documentation (Current Accident Forms can be downloaded from the Girl Guiding Website).**
- 8. Boats:** A list of boats available is included with your booking form. You must not use any boats in the boathouse tagged as 'personal or instructor only' or 'awaiting repair' or equipment located in the loft area. Instructors only should have access to the store room.
- 9. Navigation:** The 'Rule of the Road' requires that all boats are kept to Starboard (the right). Please remember to keep as clear as you can of fishermen and moored boats, they have as much right to use the river as you have. The snagging of fishermen's lines or hitting moored craft is not acceptable - we do not want to be unpopular with any other river user.
- 10. Thames Licences:** Any Instructor or Adult (over 18) must only use craft that has a full Thames Licence and not exempted (this is stated on the licence). Do not use a boat if it does not have a current licence.



BOATING RULES AND INFORMATION (cont.)

11. **Instructors:** Please ensure that boating only takes place at Paxmead using Instructors with relevant current BCU qualifications. All Instructors must have a current first aid certificate appropriate to their qualification. The water at Paxmead is graded as Level 2 Inland, therefore a BCU Level 2 (or upwards) Coach is required as minimum with Level 1 Coaches as support. Ratio of Instructors to anyone on the water must be strictly adhered to, see point 12 below. Canoeing and Kayaking must only take place when the Instructor has the relevant BCU qualification and is a current member of the BCU.

12. **Ratios** of instructor to trainees at Paxmead

for Canoeing / Kayaking . Bellboat / Kata Kanu's and Dragon Boat

Coach	Age of participants	Ratio
Level 2 & 3	10 years old upwards	maximum 8 trainees per instructor
	Under 10 years old	maximum 6 trainees per instructor
Level 1	10 years old upwards	maximum 6 trainees per instructor
	Under 10 years old	maximum 6 trainees per instructor

Please ensure that instructors operate within the BCU regulations.

Any person without a recognised BCU qualification who has been asked to help on the water must be counted in the trainee numbers. This is only waived at the discretion of the lead instructor if they are confident of their abilities, but overall responsibility remains with the lead instructor.

13. **Rowing and Pulling** - See Guiding Manual for qualifications required. Qualified persons only to be in charge of the boat that they are in, do not overload the boat with people who cannot swim or have not passed a survival test. Copies of all boating and first aid qualifications must be seen and agreed with the County/Paxmead Boating Adviser on the suitability of the instructor at Paxmead before boating will be allowed.

14. **Return of Boats to Base** - it is very important that any defects, loss or damage should be reported in the notebook located on the table at the rear of the boathouse by the blue door.

15. **Handling of boats in and out of the water** - The following should be noted:

- Please treat all equipment with care and respect at all times.
- Whilst your own safety is paramount, please do not drag the boats, always carry with another person if too heavy to handle on your own.
- Please do not seal launch Paxmead boats from the low jetty as the bottom of the boats get damaged on the concrete sandbags.
- Please ensure that all boats are sponged dry before being returned to the correct rack in the boathouse.
- Boats should be stored the right way up on the racks otherwise the cockpits snag on the wooden beams.
- Please ensure all buoyancy jackets and spray decks are hung on hangers or hooks to dry

