Exeter Canoe Club Operating Procedures for Juniors

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1. Introduction

The Club has a large number of junior paddlers of different ages and abilities and who are welcome to join in most aspects of the Club. For their safety and well being special rules apply to junior paddling to ensure proper supervision and support for juniors at all times.

The following procedures apply specifically to juniors, and should be read in conjunction with the Club's Operating Procedures for Paddlers.

British Canoeing's (BC) definition of a junior (youth) paddler is a person under the age of 18.

The Club's procedures for juniors apply to all people under the age of 18 years.

2. Club

a. Assumed risk sport and personal responsibility

If parents/carers permit their child to take part in club activities they are accepting the Club's paddling rules and procedures on behalf of their child.

3. Premises and equipment

a. Keys to the boat shed

The Club has generally permitted all members aged over 18 who are of Paddle Discover standard or above and who have their own public liability insurance cover to purchase a key to the boat sheds.

When a member is aged under 18 the key to the boat shed may be purchased and held by the parent / carer.

b. Clothing and personal equipment

Club members wishing to use their own personal equipment are responsible for ensuring that the equipment is appropriate for the activity and maintained safely. The Club does not take responsibility for the use of personal equipment.

Parents / carers are responsible for ensuring that their child is capable of using any personal equipment safely. An example is whether the child can remove the spraydeck easily.

Parents / carers are advised to consider consulting their child's coach or leader for advice before committing to purchase any craft or equipment.

c. Buoyancy aids

Under 18s are required to provide the Membership Secretary with an Experienced Juniors Consent Form signed by a parent/carer and the junior's coach or leader before they are permitted to paddle racing craft without a buoyancy aid.

4. PADDLING

a. Club activity

Club activity is divided into supervised and unsupervised categories. Unaccompanied juniors may only paddle on club activity that is supervised because these sessions have an authorised club coach or leader who takes responsibility for the session.

Juniors may paddle on unsupervised club activity only if their parent / carer is also paddling in the same activity and in a position to supervise them.

b. Club trips and tours

Juniors are welcome on club trips as the coach / leader will have made safeguarding arrangements to enable juniors to attend. Parents / carers are recommended to meet the leader of the trip to familiarise themselves with what the trip entails and to check that their child is ready to undertake the trip.

c. Transport to club away trips

The Club does not arrange transport for club trips. If a parent/carer makes an arrangement with an adult club member regarding transport for their child, the parent/carer takes full responsibility.

The parent/carer is requested to respect the club's safeguarding procedures and ensure that their child does not travel in a vehicle with only one adult / one child when the adult is not a family member.

4d) Minimum age

The Club welcomes junior paddlers and is pleased that they wish to take up the sport.

The club has considered the various activities which take place within club activity and has set the following minimum ages. All activities are subject to the junior paddler being able to manage the session, and they should be confident swimmers. Juniors may not take part in collaborative club activity.

Section	**Activity**	**Children accompanied by parent / carer on the water**	**Children with a parent remaining in the vicinity to take charge of the child if necessary**	**Unaccompanied children**
Recreation	Club trips	Age 10	n/a	Age 13
Recreation	Evenings*	Age 10	Age 11-12	Age 13
Recreation	Day time	Age 8	Age 8 to 12 and once the child has passed Paddle Discover Award	Age 13
Recreation	Specific day time juniors session	Age 6	Age 8 to 12 and once the child has passed Paddle Discover Award	Age 13
Racing	Evenings	Age 10	Age 11-12	Age 13
Racing	Day time	Age 10		Age 12
Racing	Specific day time juniors session	Age 8		Age 10

*Evening meetings normally meet at 6.15pm and may not get off the water until 9pm

5) Safeguarding

The Club has various policies in place to support and protect children. You may also wish to be reassured by looking at our Safeguarding Policy:

https://www.exetercanoeclub.org.uk/procedures/

The Club coaches and leaders have appropriate first aid, safety and safeguarding training. Where necessary, they are vetted by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

6) Parents and carers

Parents and carers are required to follow the Club's procedures when they are on the Club premises or near to the Club's paddling activity, for example

- Safeguarding procedures
- Code of conduct for Juniors and Parents

Parents and carers may be subject to the Club's complaints procedure in the same way as a member of the club.

Version	Date of approval	Type of amendments
Operating procedures for juniors 2021	Committee meeting 15 March 2021	Full review