



SKCWA PROGRAMMED CLUB TRIP GRADING GUIDELINES.

INDEX.

PAGE 2	-	EXPLANATORY NOTES
PAGE 3	-	SKCWA TRIP AND PADDLER GRADING GUIDELINES.
PAGE 4 - 7	-	SKCWA PROGRAMMED TRIP GRADING GUIDELINES.

DISCLAIMER

The information in this document has been compiled in compliance with Australian Canoeing Inc – “Safety Guidelines Draft as at February 1 2004” which defines the minimum standards for the conduct of safe non competitive canoeing and kayaking activities. The information in these guidelines is of a general nature only and is not intended to be relied upon as, nor as a substitute for, specific qualified or professional advice. No responsibility for the loss occasioned to any person acting on or refraining from action as a result of any material in these guidelines can be accepted.

SKCWA - TRIP / PADDLER GRADING GUIDELINES - EXPLANATORY NOTES.

The Trip / Paddler Grading Guidelines have been established as a guideline to: -

- a) Assist Trip Coordinators and Instructors in grading an on water activity according to the activity, and weather and sea conditions prevailing or forecast over the duration of that activity.
- b) Assist Participants with a gauge to self assess their current competence, skills, physical and mental condition and general ability to participate safely in a graded on water activity in the conditions applying.

When making their self assessment participants need to consider the following factors.

- a) What are my current limitations ?.
 - Can I cope with the current and forecast weather and sea conditions.
 - Can I cope if weather or sea conditions deteriorate and are different or worse than forecast.
 - What speed can I maintain in the expected conditions, compared to the rest of the group.
 - Am I able to paddle the distance necessary to complete the trip in a reasonable time.
 - Can I paddle the distances necessary to get out of difficulty in worsening conditions.
 - What is the maximum time I will have to stay in my boat without landing, can I do this.
 - Can I cope mentally and physically with all foreseeable hazards.
 - Am I capable of carrying out self and assisted rescues if required.
 - Do I have all of the items of equipment necessary for the trip, are they in good condition.

Club members must be aware that paddling on the ocean is generally more physically and mentally demanding than it is on sheltered waters, and that a reasonable fitness level will be required to paddle even moderate distances. Participants must be able and prepared to honestly assess their own abilities and not expect others to do this for them. Paddlers may have a formal skill qualifications, but are unfit for the trip on the day due to lack of fitness, ill health lack of competence or insufficient experience in the prevailing conditions. If in doubt paddlers should adopt the precautionary principle and not attempt the trip.

At grade 2 and above, all paddlers must be prepared and ready to care for themselves and others in the event of complications. Decisions will often be made according to a consensus arrived at through group discussion. All participants must be prepared to contribute, non-participation in the decision making process will be taken as acceptance of any consensus arrived at by other trip participants.



SKCWA - TRIP AND PADDLER GRADING GUIDELINES

Trip Grade	Paddler Grade & ID Colour	Relevant AC Sea Skills Award	Participant Pre-requisites	Typical Location description	Weather/sea limits	Relevant AC Coordinator Award
0	Grade 0 Yellow	Non Award Grade	Novices with no previous skills or experience. protected. Usually a Basic Skills instruction session or a social gathering.	Closed or sheltered flat water only.	Calm to 5 knot breeze Calm Water	- Sea Instructor 2.
1	Grade 1 Green	Introduction To Sea Skills Award.	Beginners with basic skills and some paddling experience. Able to paddle up to 15 kms. per day on estuaries and lakes or other protected waters.	Unsheltered Inland open waters. River, estuary or lake. Currents to 2 kn. Crossings less than 1 km from land.	5 to 10 knot wind Waves to 0.5 mtr.	- Sea Leader 2 -Sea Instructor 2.
1	Grade 1 Green	Introduction To Sea Skills Award	Paddlers with basic skills and some paddling experience. Able to paddle up to 15 kms. per day on sheltered coastal waters.	Sheltered coastal waters. Crossings up to 2.5 nm from land. Currents to 2 kn. Possible wind against wave or tide effects. Small breaking seas.	10 to 15 knot wind Swell to 1.5 mtr. Sea to 0.5 mtr.	- Sea Leader 2 - Sea Guide 2 -Sea Instructor 2.
2	Grade 2 Red	Sea Skills Award	Paddlers with proficient skills plus ability to assist rescue, self rescue, bracing, towing, and entry and exit through 1.5 mtr. Surf. Able to sustain speeds of 4-6 km. hr. for up to 25 km per day in unprotected coastal waters. Able to make short open water crossings.	Unsheltered coastal waters. Crossings up to 5 nm from land but less than 3 hours paddling time. Currents to 3kn. Possible wind against wave or tide effects. May encounter steepening swell and breaking seas. Possible surf entries and exits.	15 to 20 knot wind Swell to 2.0 mtr. Sea to 1.0 mtr	Peer Group - Sea Leader 2 - Sea Guide 2 - Sea Instructor 2
3	Grade 3 Blue	Advanced Sea Skills Award.	Advanced paddlers able to apply complex sea kayaking skills in difficult conditions. able to sustained speeds of 4 – 6 km/hr for up to 35 km per day in unprotected waters. Able to make extended open water crossings.	Unsheltered coastal waters. Crossings up to 15 nm from land. Currents to 4kn. Possible wind against wave or tide effects. May encounter steep swells and breaking seas. Possible difficult surf entries and exits.	20 to 25 knot wind. Swell to 2.5 mtr Seas to 1.5 mtr.	Peer Group - Sea Guide 3 - Sea Instructor 3
4	Grade 4 Black	Advanced Sea Skills Award	Advanced Paddlers, able to self rescue in all situations. Very reliable rolling, surfing, and rescue skills in severe conditions. Able to paddle up to 40 km per day at speeds above 6 km/hr with long open crossings or unlandable stretches.	Unsheltered coastal waters. Crossings of more than 15 nm from land. Currents to 4kn. Possible wind against wave or tide effects. May encounter steep swells and breaking seas. Possible difficult surf entries and exits.	Paddlers know their limits	Peer Group



SKCWA PROGRAMMED CLUB TRIP GRADING GUIDELINES.

Trip details	Kms	Trip Location Grade	TRIP GRADE ADJUSTED FOR WIND AND SEA CONDITIONS EXPECTED				
			Calm to 5 knot breeze Calm Water.	5 to10 kn wind Waves to 0.5 m	10 to15 kn wind Swell to 1.5 m Sea to 0.5 m.	15 to20 kn wind Swell to 2.0 m Sea to 1.0 m	20 to 25 kn wind Swell to 2.5 m Sea to 1.5 m
Swan and Canning Rivers - upstream from Melville waters		0	0	0	1	2	3
Swan River - Melville waters and downstream not involving an open water crossing.		0	0	0	1	2	3
Swan River - Melville waters and downstream involving open water crossing.		1	1	1	1	2	3
Serpentine and Murray Rivers upstream from Peel inlet		0	0	0	1	2	3
Peel Inlet - not involving open water crossings		0	0	0	1	2	3
Peel Inlet - involving open water crossings		1	1	1	1	2	3
Moore River		0	0	0	1	2	3
Frankland River upstream from Walpole Inlet		0	0	0	1	2	3
Walpole Inlet not involving open water crossings		0	0	0	1	2	3
Walpole Inlet involving open water crossings		1	1	1	1	2	3
Blackwood River upstream from Hardy Inlet		0	0	1	1	2	3
Hardy Inlet not involving open water crossings		0	0	0	1	2	3
Hardy Inlet involving open water crossings		1	1	1	1	2	3

- Paddlers graded " 0 " must be accompanied by an instructor.
- Members wishing to upgrade their paddling skills may participate in trips one grade above their paddler grade when accompanied by an Instructor.



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TRIP GRADE ADJUSTED FOR WIND AND SEA CONDITIONS EXPECTED

Trip details	Kms	Trip Location Grade	Calm to 5 knot breeze Calm Water.	5 to 10 kn wind Waves to 0.5 m	10 to 15 kn wind Swell to 1.5 m Sea to 0.5 m.	15 to 20 kn wind Swell to 2.0 m Sea to 1.0 m	20 to 25 kn wind Swell to 2.5 m Sea to 1.5 m
Yanchep lagoon - Alkimos wreck - Yanchep lagoon	18	1	1	1	1	2	3
Hillaries - little Island - Mullaloo - Hillaries	13	1	1	1	1	2	3
Hillaries - Rottnest Island	35	3	3	3	3	3	3
Hillaries - Cottesloe	20	1	1	1	1	2	3
Beach Street Groyne - South Beach - Beach Street Groyne	13	1	1	1	1	2	3
Beach Street Groyne - Rottnest Island	20	3	3	3	3	3	3
Rottnest Island - lee coast sheltered bays.	n/a	1	1	1	1	2	3
Rottnest Island circumnavigation	25	1	1	1	2	2	3
South Beach - Mewstone - South Beach	20	2	2	2	2	2	3
South Beach - Carnac Island - South Beach	20	2	2	2	2	2	3
South Beach - Mewstone - Carnac Island - South Beach	23	2	2	2	2	2	3
South Beach - Woodman Point - South Beach	20	1	1	1	1	2	3
South Beach - Fishing Boat Harbour - Bathers Beach - South Beach	10	1	1	1	1	2	3
Kwinana Beach - Garden Island Cliff Point - Kwinana Beach	20	1	1	1	1	2	3
Woodman point - Mewstone - Woodman Point	20	2	2	2	2	2	3
Woodman Point - Carnac Island - Woodman Point	20	2	2	2	2	2	3
Woodman Point - Mewstone - Carnac Island - Woodman Point	25	2	2	2	2	2	3

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Trip details	Kms	Trip Location Grade	TRIP GRADE ADJUSTED FOR WIND AND SEA CONDITIONS EXPECTED				
			Calm to 5 knot breeze Calm Water.	5 to 10 kn wind Waves to 0.5 m	10 to 15 kn wind Swell to 1.5 m Sea to 0.5 m.	15 to 20 kn wind Swell to 2.0 m Sea to 1.0 m	20 to 25 kn wind Swell to 2.5 m Sea to 1.5 m
Woodman Point - Carnac Island - Garden Island Nth - Woodman Point	25	2	2	2	2	2	3
Woodman Point - Garden Island (Herring Bay) - Woodman Point	20	2	2	2	2	2	3
Woodman Point - Garden Island Circumnavigation - Woodman Point	37	2	2	2	2	2	3
Woodman Point - Challenger Beach - Woodman Point	15	1	1	1	1	2	3
Woodman Point - South Beach - Woodman Point	20	1	1	1	1	2	3
Cape Perron causeway - Garden Island circumnavigation	35	2	2	2	2	2	3
Safety Bay - Shoalwater Bay shoreline	5	0	0	1	1	2	3
Safety Bay - Penguin & Seal Islands - Cape Perron	12	1	1	1	1	2	3
Safety Bay - Seven Sisters - Long Point - Safety Bay	21	1	1	1	1	2	3
Safety Bay - Garden Island South end - Safety Bay	18	1	1	1	1	2	3
Safety Bay - Garden Island Cliff Point - Safety Bay	30	1	1	1	1	2	3
Mandurah Island circumnavigation	28	2	2	2	2	2	3
Mandurah - Rockingham	40	2	2	2	2	2	3
Mandurah - Fremantle	60	2	2	2	2	2	3
Bunker Bay - Dunsborough	10	1	1	1	1	2	3
Bunker Bay - Cape Naturalist - Smiths Beach	20	2	2	2	2	3	3

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