



RISK WARNING

Sea kayaking is a high risk recreational activity which can expose participants to known, unknown or unanticipated hazards and risks that could result in serious physical or emotion injury or, in extreme cases, death. It could also result in damage to a participant's own property or the property of others. Such risks cannot be eliminated without jeopardizing the essential qualities of this adventure activity, taking place as it does on open waters subject to the vagaries and forces of nature.

Sea Kayak Club WA Inc. is an organisation that provides and coordinates a variety of sea kayaking activities for its members with emphasis on safety and minimization of the hazards and risks discussed above. The club enables like minded individuals to take part in these activities in a supportive group environment, to share their accumulated skills and experience and provide support and assistance to new paddlers. All activities take place within guidelines laid out in the club's operating policies and procedures. The club's members and officers act in a voluntary capacity utilizing their skills, knowledge and experience in good faith. However, those taking part in club activities or acting according to club policies and procedures or on the advice of a club member or officer do so at their own risk.

Club Trip Coordinators, Instructors and more experienced club members will give an indication of the expected conditions and risks associated with each club activity and the skills, experience and equipment required of a participating paddler, according to the club trip / paddler grading system. This advice is given in good faith utilizing their own knowledge and experience to assess available information on weather and sea conditions, the course to be paddled, known or anticipated hazards and any other relevant data.

It is the duty of each participant to assess the information and advice provided and use it as a guideline to make their own decision as to whether or not their skills and experience will enable them to take part in an activity without increasing the level of risk to themselves or other participants. The individuals involved are the only ones able to make a completely informed assessment of their own current fitness, health, mental condition, skill, experience and personal equipment at any given time. Members must err on the side of caution if there is any doubt about their ability to take part in an activity without increasing the level of risk to themselves or other participants.

A Trip Coordinator or peer group of paddlers may advise an intending trip participant not to take part in a particular activity or refuse to allow them to take part in an activity if they have good reason to believe that the participant has not honestly assessed his / her ability to take part or does not have the experience, knowledge or skills to honestly assess his / her ability to take part. The participant must accept that this action is taken in his / her own best interests and in the best interests of the group.

A Trip Coordinator or peer group of paddlers may cancel or modify a club activity at their discretion where not to do so could reasonable be expected to raise the risks involved in proceeding to an unacceptable level.

There is no such thing as a completely safe kayaking activity, even trips on protected waters such as estuaries, lakes and rivers can become demanding and hazardous in adverse weather conditions. Novice paddlers in particular need to be aware of this. Weather and sea conditions can deteriorate rapidly and without warning, very strong wind gusts and on the ocean, isolated large waves can occur without warning and conditions can be misjudged. Members must take these factors into consideration when making decisions as to whether or not to participate in club activities.