



PEER PADDLE GUIDANCE

Sutton Bingham Paddlesports Club set out to organise and run as many diverse and interesting trips as feasibly possible. Any trips organised by members of the club who are not a coach / instructor / leader registered with **Paddle UK** will automatically be classed as a **Peer Paddle**.

Peer Paddles are not covered by Club liability or insurances it is therefore recommended that all participants of a Peer Paddle have **Paddle UK** membership ~ this will not only provide personal insurance cover but also allow licensed access to certain canals and rivers.

Whilst **Peer Paddles** are fully encouraged by the club, as it keeps people on the water doing the sport they love, you should be aware of what this type of trip encompasses and that YOU will be responsible for YOU at all times.

- **YOU** need to be competent and comfortable on the water you intend to paddle, with people who may be no better than yourself.
- **YOU** need to be able to take care of yourself and be proactive in your own rescue and help rescue others if required to do so.
- **YOU** need to be aware who you are paddling with and what their ability is.
- **YOU** need to understand the classification / grades when paddling on **rivers**, the possible hazards and their implications,
- **YOU** need to be aware of the wind, tide and sea state when paddling on the **sea**.
- **YOU** should not rely on others for your own personal safety.
- **YOU** should do a mental Risk Assessment on whether YOU are going to be safe in a Peer group or whether you would be safer in a Led/Guided/Coached group – be realistic about your ability.

If you are not comfortable with the situation you may find yourself in, don't do it. Wait until a Club organised trip comes along. If you are comfortable then go ahead and ENJOY.



Peer paddles are activities which sit out with the **Paddle UK** definition of "Club Activity" and as such are not covered by Club Associate Member Insurance. Examples of this are: Ad hoc paddles arranged at short notice between individual club members.