

## APPENDIX 1

### **BOATING GUIDELINES:**

SCOUT: The term Scout refers to members of all sections of the movement including Scouters. The terms 'boats' and 'boating' refers to oars, power, sail etc. not windsurfing or canoeing, except where otherwise made clear.

**Scouter's Responsibility:** Before allowing a SCOUT to take part in any boating activity the Scouter-in Charge should consider the age, experience and reliability of the Scout and the ability and experience of her/himself or any other person in charge of any part of the activity. The Scouter should always take whatever precautions a prudent parent would observe for the safety of his/her own children.

#### BASIC RULES

1. All persons in charge of boating should know and understand these boating rules, and also the rules and warnings issued by the local authorities or by a local Scout Group/ Sea Scout Area (ie. County or Provincial) Committee relating to the waters concerned.
2. All persons in charge of boating must consider the weather conditions, existing and forecast before undertaking any activity afloat.
3. All persons in charge of boating should inform themselves of the details of tides, currents, hazards and dangers which may be found in the waters concerned.
4. Swimming — NO SCOUT may undertake boating activities unless he/she can swim at least 50 m in shirt, shorts and stockings and thereafter remain afloat for 2 minutes.
5. Dangerous Clothing: Knee or thigh boots or other dangerous clothing should not be worn in boats.
6. On all Sea Scout activities afloat, including rowing regattas and races, a personal flotation device (life jacket or buoyancy aid, depending on the activity or waters in question) should be worn by each person afloat. In large fully decked sailing or motor craft, the person in charge of the craft may allow jackets to be removed when appropriate – eg. when below deck, when moored, etc.

#### NOTES on Personal Flotation Devices -

- (i) Personal Flotation Devices (Life jackets or Buoyancy Aids) should conform to CE specifications. (For details see pp 42 – 43 of the Sea Scout Leaders Handbook).
  - (ii) For most ordinary Sea Scout activities, 100N jackets are the most suitable. For activities in sheltered inland waterways, or in safe enclosed inshore waters with close support (including safety craft) and supervision - e.g. dinghy training, sailing and rowing regattas, and such events, 50N jackets may be used.
  - (iii) Personal Flotation Devices should be checked regularly for general condition, straps, lacing and fastenings. as well as whistle and retroreflective strips. If used, also check that lights, gas and automatic inflation devices are regularly serviced and inspected.
  - (iv) The Scouter in Charge should ensure that lifejackets / buoyancy aids are worn and securely fastened. Check and use leg straps if appropriate for the PFD concerned.
  - (v) The Merchant Shipping (Mechanically Propelled Pleasure Craft) (Safety) Regulations, 2001, published in Statutory Instrument No. 284 of 2001, has laid down regulations on the use of PFDs in power craft and on the age limits for those in charge of power craft. A summary of these regulations is given after the Boating Rules.
7. In addition to PFDs, safety harnesses should be worn in fully decked sailing or motor craft by all those on deck at night or in rough weather.

8. Lights must be carried when operations may not be complete before dark. Small craft in darkness should have a white light for display to prevent collision. Vessels under power and larger sailing craft require the regulation white, green and red lights. (Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea).
9. **Charge Certificates:** Any person in charge of a boat should hold a Charge Certificate for the type of boat and area in question, and are issued by the County/Provincial Sea Scout and Water Activities Committee. Certificates are available for rowing, sailing and power craft, in different categories of water. (For details see pp 38-40 in the Sea Scout Leaders Handbook. When a craft is in the charge of a person not a member of the Scout or Guide Movement of Ireland, a Charge Certificate will not be required. However, it is the responsibility of the Scouter in Charge to satisfy him/herself that such a person has the necessary knowledge, skill and experience before allowing Scouts to sail with him/her. The boat's insurance should also be checked.

10. **Boat Certificates/Insurance:**

- (a) Any boat owned by or on long term loan to a Scout Group should be covered by a Boat Certificate issued by the County/Provincial Sea Scout and Water Activities Committee ( see p.41 of the Sea Scout Leaders Handbook). These are valid until 31st March after the date of issue. Boats should then be re-examined before further activities are undertaken. (**Note** - this is the Boat Certificate duration and is not related to the season of use - check the Boat Insurance policy for the Season and Lay-up periods). Certificates are issued by the Area Committee on the recommendation of examiners appointed by the Committee or by the Sea Scout Team. Certificates should be displayed on the vessels concerned. In respect of Boats other than the above, the Scouter should satisfy him/herself, by direct examination or by seeking advice , for example from the official Area Boat Examiner, that the boat is seaworthy for the purpose for which it is to be used. In all cases the Scouter should ensure that the Boat carries the necessary equipment, that it is adequate for the activity, that it is not overloaded and that it is stowed so as not to hinder its free working.
- (b) Groups are encouraged to have appropriate craft examined by the RNLI Sea Check Scheme.
- (c) High speed craft and craft with outboard engines over 20 hp must be individually notified to your insurance company. The towing of water toys/skis/ wakeboards , etc. are all subject to additional insurance advice.
- (d) Trailers owned and used by the Group must have their own insurance policy. The Leader in charge must check the regulations for using a trailer on the road. All trailers require lights and safety chain. A braked trailer must be used for loads over XXX. A 4WD vehicle may be required to tow in some cases. Trailers must not be overloaded to exceed the permitted towing or axle weights. Bearings should be checked before long trips, and a spare wheel and toolkit carried. Ensure that anyone towing the trailer has adequate insurance for the vehicle and holds the appropriate driving licence.

11. **Classifications of Waters:** Boating waters are divided into 5 different categories and this classification is closely linked with the Charge Certificate System.

- (a) Enclosed Safe Waters — suitable for basic instruction and practice. Limits of the area are to be laid down by the Scouter in Charge and should lie within the ordinary 'Restricted Waters' of the 'Group'. The levels of proficiency required for these waters are the responsibility of the local groups.

- (b) Restricted Waters — suitable for more advanced instruction and practice. Limits of the area are laid down for each Group by the County/Provincial Sea Scout and Water Activities Committee, in consultation with the Group and local experts. Scouts should not boat outside this area without an appropriately qualified adult leader. An Intermediate Charge Certificate is required here
- (c) Day Cruising Waters — suitable for day cruises and expeditions, requiring an Advanced Charge Certificate or ISA/RYA Day Skipper Certificate. Taking charge of a group of craft in 'Day Cruising Waters' requires an Instructor's Rating or a ISA/RYA Coastal Certificate.
- (d) Coastal — requires ISA/RYA Coastal Skipper Certificate .
- (e) Offshore — requires ISA/RYA Yachtmaster Offshore Certificate.

DAY Cruising or extended Cruise Camping should be properly planned and organised and unexpected eventualities guarded against. These extra guidelines below apply to cruising.

12. The Scouter in Charge should make out a provisional Sailing Plan beforehand and obtain the permission of the Area Sea Scout Committee. The District Commissioner or other person or body appointed by him for the purpose (eg PA) should be notified and a PC Form completed if required (this does not apply to cruises or expeditions within the 'Day Cruising Area')
13. The Scouter in Charge should run through a carefully prepared check-list before setting out on a cruise and ensure that the correct standard, spare and other gear appropriate for the particular craft and cruise is all aboard and correctly stowed.
14. The Scouter in Charge should consider **with particular care** the age, experience and reliability of the SCOUTS concerned and also the age, ability and experience of any other person who will be in charge of any part of the proposed activity. He should make sure that the parents of all SCOUTS taking part are fully briefed on the plan of the cruise.
15. Before setting off, an authorised Scout official or contact person, or local Harbourmaster or Gardai should be informed. It is advised that a passage plan should also be filed with the Coast Guard, giving details of craft, number of crew, route, destination and ETA. Similarly, return to home port or completion of the cruise should be reported to all the parties informed of the departure. It may be advisable to report progress during the cruise, particularly if changes have to be made in the Cruising plan. Note – Sea Scout Information Document no. 007, “Passage/Voyage Planning”, contains details of passage planning, as well as a suggested planning form. This form, or a document recording the appropriate information, should be filled in and a copy left with a shore contact person, such as Group Leader or other Leader, a parent, Harbour Master or District Commissioner. This document is available on the Sea Scout Information pages on the Scouting Ireland website - [www.scouts.ie](http://www.scouts.ie)
16. Distress Signals — The recommended pack for the type of water concerned should be carried - a minimum of 2 hand flares and 2 orange smoke signals must be carried in Day Cruising Waters. In addition, 2 red parachute flares must be carried in Coastal Waters. They should be stored in a waterproof container and be kept at hand for quick use.
17. A hand held marine VHF radio, kept in a waterproof box or case, should be carried. A waterproof mobile phone may be a useful addition, but this must not be relied on in an emergency situation, or even as the primary means of shore contact.
18. The party should include 2 competent persons over the age of 17 years
19. Where necessary the Scout Personal Accident Insurance and Scouters Indemnity Policies should be extended to cover the cruise.
20. Cruising — Coastal/Off Shore in yachts requires the appropriate Advanced Certificate and ISA/RYA Coastal/Offshore Yachtmaster.  
Questions on expeditions should be directed to the Sea Scout Area Committee or National Team

## RELAXATIONS

Under certain circumstances Rules 4 and 9 (Swimming and Charge Certificates) may be relaxed at the discretion of the Scouter in Charge. Each relaxation of a rule should be a deliberate decision taken at the time and valid for that particular activity, time and circumstances. No such relaxation should be allowed to become a 'blanket' relaxation or to be seen as setting a precedent. If there is no person present who is competent to relax a rule then the rule must stand. A 'competent person' would be an adult Leader with at least an Intermediate Charge Certificate.

**RULE 4** Swimming — this rule may be relaxed and permission given to a non-swimmer to go boating in 'Safe Enclosed Waters' only, provided that he/she wears a PFD, has had previous experience of floating in water wearing a flotation device and the Scouter in Charge takes into account the type of boat, reliability and skill of the person in charge and the weather conditions prevailing. This rule should never be relaxed for canoeing or windsurfing.

**RULE 9** Charge Certificates — In enclosed safe waters and in 'Restricted Waters' this rule may be relaxed for training purposes, provided that a competent Scouter is nearby or sailing in company and is in effective control of the activity.

## RESTRICTIONS

A Scouter may at any time restrict the area of operation of a SCOUT'S Charge certificate until he/she feels that the SCOUT has the necessary experience and self-confidence to operate throughout the area.

## GENERAL

(a) In all cases, Scouters should ensure that boats carry all the necessary equipment, that it is not so stowed as to hinder the boat's free working, that the boat is not overloaded and that its appearance will not bring discredit to the Group or to the movement.

(b) Appropriate rescue cover should be considered for all activities and in particular when a fleet of boats is being used for training, on expeditions or at regattas. The minimum ratio of safety boats to participating craft is 1:10 (ISA race/training guideline).

### BOATING LIMITS – Restricted Waters and “Enclosed Safe Waters”

#### **Louth Coast** 2 Louth (Blackrock)

Restricted waters - Soldiers Point to Anagassan, west of Castletown River

Enclosed safe water – Carraigponsha to Old Boathouse, west of Fane River

#### **North Dublin Coast**

Restricted waters - 7 & 9 Ports - Nose of Howth to Portrane Martello Tower

14 Port - Portrane to Loughshinny, up to half mile offshore

16 Port and 17 Port - Loughshinny to Balbriggan

Enclosed safe waters - 7 Port (Howth) - Howth Harbour

9 Port (Malahide) - Estuary from viaduct to Sailing Club, and Broadmeadow Water

14 Port (Donabate) - Rogerstown Inlet & Broadmeadow

16 Port (Skerries) - Skerries Harbour

17 Port (Loughshinny) - Loughshinny Harbour

**Dublin Bay Area** 1 Port, 3 Port, 4 Port, 5 Port, 8 Port, 12 Port, 15 Port

Restricted waters - West of a line drawn from the Baily Light to the Muglins and thence to Whiterock (north end of Killiney Bay, SW of Sorrento Point)

Enclosed safe waters

1 Port (Ringsend) - Dublin Port between Toll Bridge and Poolbeg Yacht Club

4 Port (Dodder) - River Dodder and Grand Canal Basin

5 Port (Dollymount) - Dollymount lagoon

3 Port (Dalkey) - within half mile of Bullock Harbour

12 Port (Sandycove) - within half mile of Sandycove Harbour

8 Port (Dunlaoghaire) - inside Dunlaoghaire Harbour

15 Port (Ballyfermot) - as for 1 Port. Also Grand Canal

**Wicklow Coast**

5 Wicklow (Bray)

Restricted waters - Bray Head to Killiney Bay (Sorrento Point), half mile offshore

Enclosed safe waters - Bray Harbour and immediate area

1 Wicklow (Greystones)

Restricted waters - Greystones to Bray, half mile offshore

Enclosed safe waters - Greystones Harbour and immediate area

4 Wicklow (Wicklow Town)

Restricted waters - Wicklow to Six Mile Point, half mile offshore

Enclosed safe waters - Wicklow Harbour and immediate area

9 Wicklow (Arklow)

Restricted waters - Clogga Head to Mizen Head, half mile offshore

Enclosed safe waters - Arklow dock and river

**Wexford Coast**

2 Wexford (Port of Wexford)

Restricted waters - Wexford harbour and port, and River Slaney to Enniscorthy

Enclosed safe water - inner port area

6 Wexford (Rosslare)

Restricted waters - Rosslare Bay

Enclosed safe water - immediate area of Rosslare Harbour

**Waterford Harbour and rivers**

1 Wexford (New Ross)

Restricted waters - R. Barrow, Cheek Point to St Mullins & R Nore to Inistioge

Enclosed safe water - New Ross town reach of the river

1 Waterford (Port of Waterford) & 2 Waterford (Dunmore East)

Restricted waters - Waterford Harbour north of line from Swine Hd to Hook Hd

Enclosed safe water - West of line Dunmore E Lt Ho to Blackrock

**Cork Harbour Area** - 1 Cork, 3 Cork, 4 Cork, 10 Cork, 12 Cork,

Restricted waters - All of Cork Harbour north of a line from Fort Davis to Fort Meagher, including Owenboy River, R. Lee and Lough Mahon, East Passage and Fota Channel

Enclosed safe water -

1 Cork (Crosshaven) & 12 Cork (Carrigaline) - Owenboy River

3 Cork (Douglas) -

4 Cork (Cobh) - Area of Cobh Quays

10 Cork (Monkstown) - Sand Quay to Monkstown Creek

**Cork and Kerry Coasts**

7 Cork (Kinsale)

Restricted waters - River Bandon and estuary north of a line between Preghane Point and Sandycove Island

Enclosed safe water - north of line from Charles Fort to Castlepark Beach

8 Cork (Bantry)

Restricted waters - east of a line between North and South Beaches and north of a line between Whiddy Point East and the west side of Glengarriff Bay

Enclosed - within line from Abbey to Rabbit Island to Chapel Island to Bantry Pier

17 Cork (Castletownbere)

Restricted waters - Berehaven north of a line between Pipers Pt. and Naglas Pt. and West of a line from Lonehort Pt to Bank Harbour

Enclosed safe water - Castletown Harbour

2 Kerry (Tralee)

Restricted waters - Tralee Bay south of a line between Ilauntannig and Illaunnacusha

Enclosed safe water - Fenit Harbour area

### **Shannon**

5 Limerick

Restricted waters - Southern arm of Lough Derg and Scarrif Bay, west of a line from Parker Point to Cribby Island

Enclosed safe water - Within half mile of the centre at Tinerana Bay, or any other suitable launching place decided by a Leader holding Advanced Charge Certificate

Athlone

Restricted waters - L. Ree south of Rindoon, incl. Inny estuary & Inner Lakes

Enclosed safe waters - Town reach of the river, above the lock.

Galway

Restricted waters - Southern section of Lough Corrib and the river.

Enclosed safe water - the river between the lough and the Eglinton Canal

3 Sligo (Rosses Point)

Restricted waters - River and estuary north east of a line from Raghly Point to Black Rock. Also Lough Gill

Enclosed safe water - Between the Scout Den and Coney Island

## **APPENDIX 2**

### ***CANOEING GUIDELINES Note – These Guidelines are at present under review***

1. Do not canoe if you cannot swim: Each Scout must be able to swim at least 50m in shirt, shorts and runners and then remain afloat for 2 minutes.
2. Do not canoe alone: There must be at least 3 Scout canoes on the water at any time. It is safer and better fun to enjoy your sport with other canoeists.
3. A buoyancy aid must be worn at all times: Each Scout must wear a well-secured buoyancy aid or lifejacket at all times while afloat in a canoe - see also Rule 18 for types of buoyancy aids .
4. Helmets must be worn at all times: This rule may only be relaxed on flat calm waters at the discretion of the Leader-In-Charge. In a competition, apply the rules of that competition regarding helmets.
5. Spraydecks must be worn on closed-decked canoes or Kayaks at all times. This rule may be relaxed on flat clam water at the discretion of the leader.

6. Canoe buoyancy: Canoes must have adequate buoyancy fore and aft, properly secured in place, capable of supporting the canoe when full of water.
7. Bow and Stern Toggles:  
All canoes shall be fitted with toggles or proper grab bands to both bow and stern.
8. Footbar: All canoes must be fitted with a properly secured, easily adjustable footbar. Nuts and bolts must be maintained free from rust. Where the canoe could nose-dive (eg steep weirs) bow buoyancy should extend back to the footbar.
9. Canoe Leader Certificates:  
When Scout canoes are afloat a Canoe Leader Certificate holder must be present, qualified to take the group on the waters in question. To paddle on Training Water and Group 1-2 Rivers the Leader may hold the Basic Canoe Leader Certificate.  
A leader holding a Restricted Canoe Leader Certificate can act as a second leader in above waters, or when accompanied by one other qualified leader may train Scouts on Flat/Sheltered Training waters.  
Leaders holding ICU or BCU Canoe Leader award are acceptable as long as the Scout Leader is satisfied that the holders are suitable and have an understanding of the Scout canoe guidelines. (Latest information available on the Sea Scout website or contact Sea scout Team for equivalent qualifications).
10. Age : The normal minimum age for canoeing is 11 years. **But note**, some canoeing is now allowed in the Cub Scout Section, particularly for Sea Cubs. This is covered in the Guidelines for Cub Canoeing.

### PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

11. The canoeist's clothing should provide warmth both when wet and dry, with a minimum of bulk and weight. The canoeist should be comfortable and arms unrestricted - swimming togs, long - sleeved T-shirt or football shirt, shorts in warm weather, long woollen socks or neoprene booties. Jeans must not be worn as they cause serious heat loss when wet.
12. A wet-suit (long-john type is best, arms are not restricted and it retains the heat well) must be worn when required by these rules.
13. Runners, gym shoes or hard-soled neoprene booties to protect the feet must be worn at all times to avoid cutting the feet when walking on the shoreline or river-bed.
14. Light wind - proof anorak or cagoule, which can be closed at the wrist and neck, must be worn when required by these rules and should be carried by each Scout at all times. These anoraks reduce heat loss from the body due to wind, especially when one is wet.
15. Helmets must be worn at all times - one which provides adequate protection to forehead and ears.
16. A light woollen hat is recommended. It should not be too bulky to be worn under the helmet. Do not wear a full-face balaclava, as this restricts breathing when wet.
17. A spraydeck helps to retain heat and must be used for all winter canoeing; it must have a securely fitted quick-release cord.
18. Personal Flotation Devices (lifejackets or buoyancy aids) shall be CE approved. They must fit the wearer, taking into account weight and body-build. They should be comfortable to wear, provide all-round protection and help to retain heat. All tie cords, straps, zips or belts should be secure, easy to fasten and, when worn, tied securely so that the buoyancy aid cannot slip up over the face.  
The usual type of buoyancy aid for canoeing is the 50 Newton type.  
Seek advice from a specialist Kayak supplies store or Adventure Store regarding most suitable models.

### WINTER CANOEING

19. Winter canoeing is defined as any canoeing activity undertaken from the 1 October to 30 April.

20. Wet suits, spray decks and cagoules **must** be worn for all winter canoeing. This rule should not be relaxed under any circumstances.

### CANOE SURFING

21. There should be a minimum of 6 canoeists in the surfing party. The ratio of canoe leaders to canoeists is 1:4 - this is a minimum requirement.
22. The Leader-in-Charge must hold a minimum qualification of Advanced Canoe Leader Certificate. For **Winter surfing** a Canoe Instructor must be present.
23. Each canoeist in the surfing party must hold the Canoe Badge at least.
24. All rules concerning the correct clothing must be adhered to. In addition, **wet- suits must be worn.** The Canoe Leader may relax this rule on hot days.
25. Helmets must be worn at all times.
26. It is recommended that additional buoyancy should be fitted in all canoes.
27. A surf-master must be based on the beach, to watch over the surfing group.
28. All members of the party must carry a suitable whistle.  
The Call Signs are:- 2 short blasts - All canoeists return to shore.  
3 short blasts - Canoeist in difficulty.
29. No equipment should be carried in canoes. Survival Kit / Repair Kit /First Aid kit must be based with the Surf -Master.
30. Avoid surfing where there are swimmers. Obey the directions of a Beach-guard.
31. The surfing zone must be marked out with marker flags.
32. A "marker" canoeist must be posted a maximum distance beyond the surf.
33. Canoeists going out through the surf must give way to surfing canoeists coming in. If required, they must capsize their canoe.
34. Certain canoes are not suited to canoe surfing, particularly canoes with prominently pointed bows.

### ADDITIONAL RULES FOR CANOE LEADERS

35. The ratio of Canoe Leaders to canoeists is 1 : 4, and is a minimum requirement.
36. Be familiar with the Scout /Guide canoeing rules and apply all rules, particularly winter rules and restrictions, including when cagoules, wet - suits and spraydecks must be worn.
37. Be aware of and apply any local rules or warnings issued by the harbour, navigation or local authorities, or any local rules issued by Scout or Guide groups, which relate to any waters used for Scout/Guide canoeing.
38. Before undertaking any Scout canoeing each leader must check existing weather conditions, local forecasts and shipping forecast if canoeing in restricted and expedition waters. More importantly know how to interpret his information.
39. The leader-in-charge must ensure that normal day canoe trips are completed at least 1 hour before darkness. However, night canoeing is permissible provided approval is obtained from the Group Leader and Sea Scout Team or Area Committee..
40. The leader-in-charge must inform himself of the details of tides, currents, tidal rips, weirs, rapids or any other hazard likely to be encountered, or on waters adjacent to the water being used.
41. Before each canoe activity the leader-in-charge must check the personal canoeing gear of each member in the party to ensure that dangerous clothing such as wellingtons or loose heavy woollen pullovers, is not being worn by any member of the party.
42. The leader-in-charge must check the soundness of each canoe before the trip to ensure that deck and hull are sound, side seams are watertight, seat and cockpit are securely fitted, buoyancy is adequate, footbar securely in place and correctly adjusted, and bow and stern toggles or grab

line fitted. If deck lines are fitted they must not be tied to the cockpit rim. Particular attention should be paid to old repairs.

43. The leader-in-charge must ensure that all preparations for a canoeing activity are adequate - route planning, transport. etc. - and that details of the intended trip are left with a responsible adult who will know what to do in the event of a mishap. For sea passages the Coast Guard should be informed and a passage plan notified.
44. The leader-in-charge must ensure that his canoe and the canoes of all other leaders are adequately equipped for rescue, including all deck lines, fore and aft paddle parks, bow and stern toggles or grab bands, long tow with quick release and snap link, short tow attachable on both sides. It is recommended that Leader canoes should be high rather than low volume.
45. The leader-in-charge must ensure that adequate first-aid and emergency repair kits shall be carried by the party. All first-aid and emergency equipment must be carried in waterproof containers, not in plastic bags.
46. The leader-in-charge must ensure that spare paddles are carried where appropriate.
47. The leaders in a party must carry a whistle and a throwing line.
48. The leaders must ensure that scouts show courtesy to others both on and off the water, including fishermen, swimmers and any other users of the the water.
49. The leader-in-charge is responsible for the provision of a powered rescue craft if required by the Classification of Waters. Depending on the circumstances, consideration should be given to carrying a VHF radio and appropriate flares when operating in sea areas in particular. Carrying a mobile phone is also worth considering on all trips, although it is not a reliable primary means of communication. (All above should be suitably waterproofed and easily accessible.
50. The leader-in-charge or organiser of a competitive event must inform the Area Committee or Sea Scout Team least two weeks before the event.

### **OTHER EQUIPMENT**

51. All canoeing equipment should be kept in good order and checked regularly. A canoe equipment officer should be appointed to take responsibility for regular maintenance.
52. Temporary patches must be removed after the trip, the canoe stripped and dried before permanent repairs are undertaken. Temporary patches must not be used except to complete the trip.
53. Paddles must be in good repair, blades secure in the loom, the paddle must be able to float.
54. First aid kits must be carried on all canoe trips. The size and extent of the kit will depend on the size of the party and the journey being undertaken.
55. Emergency kit must include at least bivvy bags. For winter canoeing a sleeping bag, additional clothing, flask of hot drink and sufficient emergency rations appropriate for the trip for the whole party must be carried.

### **GRADING OF RIVERS**

#### **Grades**

**N.Gr.**No grade due to lack of information. Canoeists who have paddled on these rivers are asked to forward their comments to the Sea Scout Team, or to the Irish Canoe Union.

- 1 Easy - Flat sections - Small rapids - Route easy to find - Sheltered.
- 2 Medium - Some weirs - Frequent Rapids - Route easy to recognise - Exposed sections.
- 3 Difficult - Large weirs - Heavy rapids - Whirlpools - Route difficult.

- 4 Very Difficult - Long stretches of heavy weirs and rapids, large waves -Difficult broken water - Inspection from the bank advisable.
- 5 Exceedingly Difficult - Long unbroken stretches of heavy irregular rapids - Fast eddies - Difficult whirlpools - Previous inspection very necessary - FOR THE VERY EXPERIENCED ONLY.
- 6 CANNOT BE ATTEMPTED WITHOUT RISK TO LIFE.

The list on the following pages is a guide to the conditions which may be expected at various times on the main canoeing rivers of Ireland. The rivers are listed in clockwise order around Ireland, starting at the River Liffey. The following abbreviations indicate the different water heights -

- S.L. - Summer Low
- S.Av. - Summer Average
- Wint. - Winter
- W.H. -Winter High
- ≠ indicates "not canoeable".

**The Principle Rivers of Ireland Suitable for Canoeing**

River	Description	Grade			
		S.L.	S.Av.	Wint.	W.H.
Liffey	Ballymore Eustace - Dublin Touring River	1	1-2	2	2-3
Dargle	Bray Only certain sections in high water	≠	1-2	2	2
Avonmore	Laragh - Meetings Only for the experienced in high water	1-2	2	2-3	3
Avonbeg	Greenan - Meetings  Only for the very experienced	2	2	3	3-4
Aughrim	Aughrim – Woodenbridge Only for the very experienced	2	2	3	3-4
Slaney	Baltinglass - Wexford An excellent touring river	1	1-2	1-2	2
Barrow	Mount Mellick - Sea An excellent touring river Navigable waterway Athy - Sea	1	1-2	1-2	2
Nore	Ballyragett - Sea An excellent touring river	1	1-2	2	2-3
Suir	Thurles - Sea Easy touring river (Tributaries Tar, Nier, Anner might suit in high water)	1	1-2	1-2	2
Blackwater (Munster)	Rathmore - Sea Good touring river Upper sectns.	1	1-2	1-2	2-3
Lee	Ballingeary - Cobh White-water river at source in high water. Easy below Inniscarra Dam	1	1-2	1-2	2 3 on upper sectns
Bandon	Short sections good	1	1-2	1-2	2
Sullane	Macroom High water - for experienced only	1	2	2	3
Ilen	Good short sections	1	1-2	1-2	3
Flesk	Loo Bridge - Lakes of Killarney Upper sections - experienced only	≠	2	2	3
Feale	Abbeyfeale - Ferrybridge	----- N.Gr. -----			
Maigue	Croom - Ferrybridge Good for touring	1	1-2	1-2	2
Mulkear	Abingdon - Annacotty Some challenging sections for the experienced in high water	2	3	3	3-4

Shannon	Upper reaches, eg Owenmore for the experienced only	2	3	3	3-4
	Easy touring L.Allen to O'Brien's Bridge, but L.Ree, L.Derg are potentially stormy.	1	1-2	1-2	2
	Tidal Curragour Falls - only for the very experienced	2	2-3	2-3	3-4
Boyle	L.Gara - L.Key (R.Shannon) Fast touring river	1	1-2	1-2	2-3
Carnadoe	Strokestown - Shannon Flat water	1	1	1-2	1-2
Camlin	Quiet but fast flowing	1	1-2	1-2	1-2
Inny	L.Sheelin - Shannon			-----N.Gr.-----	
Suck	Castlerea - Shannon			-----N.Gr.-----	
Brosna	Clara - Shannon			-----N.Gr.-----	
Owengarney	Castle Lake - Bunratty Narrow, very shallow	≠	1-2	1-2	2
Fergus	L.Inchiquin - Clare Castle Easy touring river	1	1-2	1-2	2
Corrib	L. Cara - Galway Easy touring river. Lakes require care	1	1-2	1-2	2
Erriff	Erriff Bridge - Killary Harbour			-----N.Gr.-----	
Owenmore	Bellacorrick - Tullaghan Bay			----- N.Gr.-----	
Moy	Banada - Foxford - Ballina Good touring river	1	1-2	1-2	3
Easky	White water river Only for the experienced	2	3	3	3-4
Owenmore	L.Templehouse - Collooney - Ballisodare Dangerous falls at Ballisodare - 40 foot drop	2	3	3	4-5
Unshin - Ballisodare	Cooper Hill - Collooney - Ballisodare Fast touring river - note falls Ballisodare	2	2-3	2-3	3
Bonet	Manorhamilton - L.Gill - Sligo Good sections with falls at and above Dromahair	2	3	3	4
Erne	L.Gowna - Belleek Easy touring river but Lower L.Erne very exposed	1	1-2	1-2	2-3
Eske	L.Eske - Donegal Only sections in high water	≠	≠	≠	1-2
Gweebarra	Doochary - Gweebarra			-----Tidal-----	
Clady	Dunlewy - Bunbeg			-----N.Gr.-----	
Swilly	Foxhall - Letterkenny			-----N.Gr.-----	

Foyle	Camowen - Lisboy	1	1	1-2	1-2
	Excellent touring				
	Omagh - Drumragh	≠	1	1-2	1-2
	- Quiggery Water				
	- Owenreagh				
	- Strule	Short sections canoeable			
	Continuation of Camowen	1	1	1-2	1-2
	- good touring				
	- Owenkillen - short sections	1	1	1-2	1-2
	- Glenelly - for the experienced	2	2-3	3	3-4
	- Mourne - good touring	1	1	1-2	1-2
	Continuation of Strule - Finn				
	- upper reaches for experienced paddlers in high water	2	2-3	2-3	3-4
	- easy below Ballybofey	1	1	1-2	1-2
Roe	Dungiven - Roe Bridge	-----N.Gr. -----			
Upper Bann	Bannbridge - L. Neagh	-----N.Gr. -----			
L. Neagh	See Classification of Waters				
Blackwater (Ulster)	Aughnacloy - L. Neagh	1	1-2	1-2	2-3
	Good touring river but some difficult stretches				
Lagan	Moira - Belfast	1	1-2	1-2	1-2
	Touring river				
	White Water - Mourne Park - Kilkeel	≠	≠	≠	3
	Short, rocky river. Canoeable in high water				
Glyde	Louth - Annagassan	-----N.Gr. -----			
Boyne	Leinster Bridge - Drogheda	1	1-2	2	3
	Excellent touring river				
Blackwater (Leinster)	Kells - Navan	1	1	2	2
	Touring river				

**CLASSIFICATION OF COASTAL WATERS AND LAKES FOR CANOEING**

The following definitions are a maximum and the Canoe Leader-in-charge shall restrict the extent of these waters to be used by Scouts, considering the size of the group, the experience of certificate holders, strength of the weakest members of the group together with the weather both present and forecast, and anything else that may influence a safe canoe activity.

**CLASSES** In the following class system all three sections must be considered and points from all sections added together to identify the class of water at that time.

When evaluating the conditions in any area care must be taken to allow for conditions that may develop, with possible changes in the weather and change in the tide.

In conditions where waters are exposed to offshore winds an additional 2 points must be added to the total.

- 5 points Class 1 -- (Training Waters)
  - 6 - 11 points Class 2 -- (Restricted Waters)
  - 12+ points Class 3 -- (Expedition Waters)
- Classes 4, 5 & 6 are outside ordinary Scout activities.

<b>A - WIND EFFECT ON SEA</b>	<b>Points</b>
Calm easy water	1
Mild chop or swell under 1 foot high	2
Rough choppy waves up to 2 foot high	3
3 foot waves - canoeist disappears in troughs	4
4 foot waves	5
5 foot waves - difficult to keep together	6
<b>B - TIDAL INFLUENCE</b>	
Little or no tidal effect	1
Some tidal effect up to 1 knot	2
1 - 2 knots - progress difficult against current	3
Tidal races and overfalls 2 - 4 knots	4
Tidal races and overfalls 4 - 6 knots	5
Tidal races, overfalls and whirlpools 6 - 8 knots	6
<b>C - RELEVANT COMMITMENT ENTAILED</b>	
Landing easy at all times	1
Landing occasionally more difficult - more than 200 yards away	2
Landing only effective every 400 yards	3
Landing over 1 mile away	4
Landing over 2 miles away, or landing impossible due to cliff	5
More than 5 miles from shore or safe landing	6

**EXAMPLE:**

On a day with a mild chop less than 1 foot high, with a 1 - 2 knot tide, and landing at times 200 - 300 yards away, the points totals would be as follows -

- Section A 2 points
  - Section B 3 points
  - Section C 2 points
- 7 points = Expedition waters - Class 3.

Notes:

1. Helmets required at all times if setting out from or landing on a beach
2. Suitable powered rescue craft capable of accommodating the entire canoe party is required for all canoeing on waters of Class 3 and above.
3. Class 4 and above trips by sanction of the Canoe Committee only.

### APPENDIX 3 *WINDSURFING GUIDELINES*

1. Do not windsurf if you cannot swim.
2. Do not windsurf alone. (Minimum of 3 persons in party).
3. An approved buoyancy aid should be worn at all times.
4. Beginners should not windsurf in offshore wind conditions without a proper rescue craft.
5. Board Volume: consider the board type and volume particularly when you are learning. Your first board should have enough volume to float you comfortably in all directions.
6. PROFICIENCY: You should attend a recognised training centre, or seek instruction from an experienced person. The ISA scheme is recommended.
7. LEADERSHIP: The leader should consider the waters, weather, age and experience of the Scouts involved, as well as his own and other instructors experience before participating in windsurfing. A ratio of 1 leader to 4 Scouts is recommended as a minimum.
8. EXTENT OF WATERS: Windsurfing should only take place on class 1 and 2 waters, as defined in canoe rules. Enclosed sheltered waters preferably shallow are best for initial training. Windsurfing for beginners should not take place in areas with strong tides or other dangers present, or in offshore wind conditions.
9. The minimum age is 11 but fitness should be considered for all the ages. The size of the rig should also be taken into consideration.

#### EQUIPMENT

10. Warm clothing which will provide warmth when wet or dry should be worn. The clothing should be brightly coloured.
11. A wet suit is recommended and should be worn between 31st October and 1st April.
12. Runners, gym shoes or hard soled booties should be worn.
13. A windproof jacket or cagoule should be worn.
14. A light woollen hat will help maintain body temperature.
15. A buoyancy aid should be worn. Personal Flotation Devices (lifejackets or buoyancy aids) shall be CE approved. They must fit the wearer, taking into account weight and body-build. They should be comfortable to wear, provide all-round protection and help to retain heat. All tie cords, straps, zips or belts should be secure, easy to fasten and, when worn, tied securely so that the buoyancy aid cannot slip up over the face.  
The usual type of buoyancy aid for windsurfing is the 50 Newton type. Seek advice from a specialist windsurfing supplies store or Adventure Store regarding most suitable models.
16. WINTER WINDSURFING: 31st October to 1st April a wet suit, hat and cagoule should be worn at all times.
17. The board and equipment should be checked afterwards.

#### LEADER GUIDELINES

18. The ratio of Leaders to Scouts is 1:4 and this is a minimum requirement.

19. Be familiar with the guidelines and apply them. Take particular note of clothing, age and experience of people involved and the weather conditions.
20. Be aware of and apply local rules or warnings issued by Harbour authorities or local Scout groups.
21. Before undertaking windsurfing check existing conditions and obtain a local forecast. Know how to interpret this information. Note the effect of land and sea breeze, valleys and mountains.
22. All windsurfing should be completed at least 1 hour before darkness. Do not windsurf in the dark or in poor visibility.
23. All leaders in the party should be aware of the details of tides, currents, rips or any other hazard likely to be encountered on waters including those adjacent to the waters being used.
24. The leader in charge should check personal equipment of all in the party and make sure that no dangerous clothing is being worn.
25. The leader in charge should check the board and rigging for damage or wear and replace any necessary items. (Page 13 IYA Book).
26. The leader in charge should ensure that all preparations for the windsurfing activity are adequate — insurance, transport, adequate leaders, rescue craft, etc. and that details of the intended activity are left with a responsible adult who will know what to do in the event of a mishap.
27. The leader in charge should ensure that tow lines are carried and that all in the group know the self rescue procedure. Leaders competent to carry out first aid and AR should be available. A first aid kit, bivvy bag and hot drink should be available on shore. Smoke signals or Day-Glo flag should be carried on trips.
28. Consider other water users and keep clear of swimmers. Understand and obey the “Rules of the Road at Sea”.
29. The leader in charge should ensure that a rescue craft is available and is suitable to local conditions.
30. ROOFRACKING/TRANSPORT: Ensure that the board and rigging is properly secured, complies with the Rules of the Road and is insured. A marine policy is required to cover use of the board on water.
31. SYLLABUS AND STANDARDS: The leader should obtain the help of experienced persons or attend a course of instruction at a recognised centre before taking Scouts windsurfing on training waters.
32. ISA Level 2 or equivalent, is needed for restricted waters. This can be waived for training purposes for level one holders (or equivalent) if a safety boat is in attendance. For operation outside of training waters the leader should hold a recognised First Aid and AR certificate.
33. Boards are not subject to boat Certification but should be checked by the leader as detailed earlier.
34. Vessels being used as rescue or safety craft are subject to the rules appropriate to that type of craft.

## **APPENDIX 4 - IRISH SAILING ASSOCIATION**

### **A. Policy regarding Personal Flotation Devices (PFD)**

#### 1. General Principal

Personal safety is primarily the responsibility of the person concerned.

#### 2. Adults

In respect of all craft, the I.S.A. strongly recommends that all adults should wear a Personal Flotation Device (PFD) while aboard open boats or when on deck on other craft. In regard to persons over the age of 16 it is emphasised that the use of safety devices and equipment while on the water is the personal responsibility of the individual. Suitable personal safety equipment, such as personal flotation devices and/or harnesses, should be worn by all persons while on the water. Such items could be temporarily removed only when the circumstances permit their safe removal. However, they should be retained if there is the least doubt as to the safety of the weather and sea conditions prevailing, or forecast to prevail.

#### 3. Young People

The special position of children and young persons attracted particular attention within the ISA, especially those under the age of 16 who were deemed not to have attained sufficient age to be solely responsible for their own safety. In this context, the ISA recommends that all persons under the age of 16 should have to wear an appropriate Personal Flotation Device(PFD) on board all vessels (powered or non-powered).

#### 4. Persons undergoing training

When undergoing practical training all persons should wear a Personal Flotation Device (PFD) while on the water or in the vicinity of the water.

### **B. ISA Recommendations on Support Boats**

The growth in the fleet of boats used to provide support to sailors competing in Irish events is particularly noticeable in Junior classes. This extra activity, which involves powered craft and sailing dinghies operating in close proximity, has given rise to a number of incidents and accidents. The ISA's Safety Task Force has recommended as follows:

1. "Sailing Instructions" governing the use of support boats may be necessary. Where already in place, consideration must be given as to how the "SIs" will be enforced.
2. When drafting Sailing Instructions, Event organisers should consider:
  - a. Making it a requirement that "Support Boats" should come under the command of a separate "Support Boat" co-ordinator.
  - b. Making VHF communication between "Support Boats" and a co-ordinator compulsory.
  - c. Making ISA Power Boat Level 2 Certificate compulsory for "Support Boat". helmspersons.
  - d. Recommending the maximum number to be carried in a "Support Boat".

Page Amended July 04

## **APPENDIX 5 GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS ON PLEASURE CRAFT**

### **Statutory Instrument No. 259 of 2004**

The Merchant Shipping (Pleasure Craft) (Lifejackets and Operations)(Safety) Regulations, 2004, published in the above Statutory Instrument, apply to **all pleasure craft**, not just mechanically propelled craft, and to any person on board such craft, or on board a vessel or object of any kind being towed by such craft, being operated in Irish waters. They supercede Statutory Instrument No.284 (2001)

**Exceptions** are craft being used for rescue, other emergencies, or law enforcement. They do **not apply** to rowers in boats designed and used for rowing races, and capable of being entered into regattas or other events recognised by the Irish Amateur Rowing Union, and of a design and type used in Olympic Games or other international rowing regattas.

**The main points are summarised here. For full details please refer to the original document – S.I.259 (2004).**

It is an offence to –

- permit a person under 16 years to operate or be in control of a personal watercraft (eg. “jet-ski”), or fast power craft (eg. capable of 17 knots or over).
- permit a person under 12 years to operate or be in control of a craft powered by an engine of more than 5 horsepower.
- not to have on board the vessel sufficient PFDs for each person on board
- not to wear a PFD on an open craft or on the deck of a decked craft under 7 meters LOA, which is not made fast to the shore or at anchor.
- permit a person under 16 years not to wear a PFD on any open craft or on the deck of any decked craft which is not made fast to the shore or at anchor.
- permit a person not to wear a PFD while being towed or while on board a vessel or other object being towed
- not to wear a PFD while on board or being towed by a personal watercraft
- operate or control (or attempting to), or permitting a person to operate/control a pleasure craft while under the influence of alcohol or drugs such as to be incapable of having proper control.
- consume alcohol/drugs on a pleasure craft which could affect safety or cause a disturbance on board, or affect safety of or constitute nuisance to others using Irish waters.
- consume (or permitting a person to consume) alcohol or drugs, while being towed by, or on a vessel or object of any kind being towed by a pleasure craft.