

Poverty Bay Kayak Club Policy



Paddle Alone Policy

Where possible the club always advises that it is safer to paddle with others rather than alone.

Sheltered paddling: *The area of water is defined as from the club to the second island or in the opposite direction to the cut where the river meets the ocean. Up the Taruheru River, to the Champion footbridge. Paddlers must be at least 16 Years; coaches have indicated that they are capable of paddling independently and they have parental consent until 18 years.*

Unsheltered Paddling: *This is defined as the area from the club outside the areas defined as sheltered paddling. Paddlers must be at least 18 years.*

Sheltered Paddling Alone:

1. We recommend you wear a properly fitted personal flotation device (PFD) that suits you and your needs and wear suitable paddling clothing for the conditions.
2. Check the forecast for expected weather.
3. Check the water conditions to ensure it is safe and suitable for your paddling ability. If the water conditions are not suitable or have been deemed unsafe to be on by a PBKC coach, the PBKC committee, or local authority you must NOT paddle.
4. Paddle within your limits, including the type of craft, expected weather and water conditions, fitness and time/distance of your planned paddle.
5. Let someone know where you are going, when you intend to return, and what procedures to follow should you not return as expected. If you are between the ages of 16-18 years you must have parental and coach consent to paddle alone in a sheltered environment. *In certain circumstances a paddler who is under 16 years who has coach approval may paddle on the water alone but must have coach and/or guardian supervision. Approval for this will be on a case-by-case basis.*
6. Ensure your equipment is well maintained and you use/carry appropriate safety equipment.
7. If paddling before sunrise or after sunset wear high-visibility clothing items and wear a light.
8. Be aware of local hazards and always look out for potential danger, other craft, swimmers and foreign material.
9. Know the rules – understand and follow give-way rules, other paddlers/watercraft.
10. Have practiced and are competent with what to do in the event of a capsized, including emergency actions if required.
11. Carry any required medicines and appropriate food, and drink for the paddle. Where possible take a communication device.

Unsheltered Paddling:

1. Wear a properly fitted personal flotation device (PFD) that suits you and your needs, and suitable paddling clothing for the conditions.
2. Check the forecast for expected weather and water conditions to ensure it is safe and suitable for your paddling ability.
3. Let someone know where you are going, when you intend to return, and what procedures to follow should you not return as expected. You must be 18 years or over.
4. Paddle within your limits, including the type of craft, expected weather and water conditions, fitness and time/distance of your planned paddle.
5. Ensure your equipment is well maintained and you use/carry appropriate safety equipment. This includes airbags in kayaks and paddle/craft leash to prevent you from being separated from your paddle or craft if you capsize.
6. Make sure you wear high-visibility clothing items and equipment. Use a light if paddling before sunrise or after sunset.
7. Carry two forms of waterproof communication which may include a mobile phone (in a waterproof bag), flares, a PLB (personal locator beacon) or VHF radio.
8. Be aware of local hazards and always look out for potential danger, other craft and swimmers.
9. If the water conditions are not suitable or have been deemed unsafe to be on by a PBKC coach, the PBKC committee, or local council you must NOT paddle.
10. Know the rules – understand and follow give-way rules, navigational buoys and beacons and appropriate actions when crossing channels or shipping lanes.
11. Put a name, number, and emergency contact number on your craft which can identify you and is useful for emergency services if you become separated from your craft.
12. Have practiced and are competent with what to do in the event of a capsize, including emergency actions if required.
13. Carry any required medicines, food, and drink in case of emergency.