

## **Safety Rules and Information**

Safety is paramount. It is up to the committee of each discipline to establish the rules for minimum safety requirements, as they are the ones with the knowledge to do this. Set out below are the safety rules relating to personal floatation devices (buoyancy aids & life jackets), boat buoyancy and safety cover at events, as agreed by the SCA Sprint Committee. There will be no dispensation from these rules.

Event organisers can set safety requirements, which are more stringent but should not allow anything, which, is in anyway less.

If competitors, for any reason, cannot comply with or do not want to comply with the safety rules they will not be allowed to race and will be disqualified from any race in which the competitor has not complied with the safety rules.

Event safety rules should be well publicised in advance of events so all competitors are aware of them and paddlers should check the individual race information sheets for any event specific safety requirements. However, paddlers should remain aware that conditions or circumstances might change in the days immediately before or even during the course of an event requiring more stringent safety rules to be imposed.

## **Safety Rules**

### **1. Personal Floatation Devices** (buoyancy aids and life jackets)

- a) All personal floatation devices (buoyancy aids) must be EC approved (compliant with EN393, EN395, ISO12402-5 or ISO12402-6) and worn in accordance with manufacturer's instructions:
  - i. It must be the appropriate size for the wearer to ensure adequate buoyancy in the event of capsize.
  - ii. It must be a snug fit to ensure it does not lift in the water in the event of capsize.
  - iii. It must be fastened securely using all buckles, zips and fastenings whenever the wearer is on the water.
- b) Approved Buoyancy Aids (floatation devices) must be worn at all times on the water, by paddlers who meet any of the criteria below:
  - i. are aged U14
  - ii. are ranked in Sprint Division D, or lower (in any age group)
  - iii. have not met the minimum standards for racing at British National regattas as published by the British Sprint Racing Committee
- c) Organisers may require other competitors to also wear approved buoyancy aids if they feel that the conditions require it, so all competitors should come prepared to comply with this requirement.

### **2. Boat Buoyancy**

- a) Buoyancy should be present in both the front and back of the boat and secured to the structure of the boat.
- b) Buoyancy should be sufficient for the boat to float in a horizontal plane when filled with water with sufficient reserve buoyancy to support the paddler. (Inherent buoyancy in composite boats is not sufficient to meet this requirement. Additional foam buoyancy or air bags must be fitted.)
- c) Bulkheads if fitted should be intact and sealed.

### **3. Regatta Safety**

Races that are held on open water must have at least one safety boat in attendance and it is the responsibility of the race organiser to assess the appropriate level of safety cover required.