

## SCA Marathon Racing Committee

### 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) and boat buoyancy at events, as agreed by the SCA Marathon 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

**For all events, the following safety precautions will apply:**

#### **1. Boat Buoyancy**

All boats used in marathon racing must be fitted with sufficient buoyancy to support the boat and crew in the event of a capsize. Inherent buoyancy in composite boats is not sufficient to meet this requirement. Additional foam buoyancy or air bags must be fitted.

#### **2. Personal floatation Devices** (buoyancy aids and life jackets)

- a. All paddlers who are ranked in divisions 7,8,9 and those in the Geoff Sanders Series must wear an approved buoyancy aid or life jacket for all marathon races, in singles or doubles.
- b. All paddlers under 16 years of age, (on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January in the year of competition) must wear an approved buoyancy aid or life jacket for all marathon races on rivers and open water unless the event organiser gives specific dispensation after consulting the paddlers team leader &/or parent.
- c. 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 at all times on the water.
- d. 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.
- e. Paddlers competing in closed cockpit boats (e.g. Slalom or White Water Racing Boats) on down-river courses must wear approved buoyancy aids and an approved crash helmet.

**Any competitors failing to comply with these rules will not be allowed to participate in the race.**