



Please retain this information sheet – copies available at [www.soak.org.uk](http://www.soak.org.uk)

## Membership

Individuals may paddle with the Club for a maximum of three sessions in any membership year before membership fees must be paid. The membership period is 1 June – 31 May, with a sliding scale for part year subscriptions. Non-members pay an increased evening fee.

## Code of Conduct

Stratford On Avon Kayaks (SOAK) is a club run by paddlers for paddlers - the aim is for all paddlers and non paddlers to support the development of skills and to have fun. It is the policy of SOAK that all paddlers, volunteers, coaches and parents show respect and understanding for each other and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the Club.

### Paddlers

- Take care of all property belonging to the club or club members
- Treat other paddlers with respect at all times on and off the water.
- Treat other paddlers as you would want to be treated yourself
- Control tempers and avoid behaviour which may inconvenience or upset others
- Co-operate and listen to your coach or club officials

### Club Officials, Coaches, Volunteers and Non-paddlers

- Consider the wellbeing and safety of paddlers before the development of performance
- Develop an appropriate working relationship with paddlers, based on mutual trust and respect
- Make sure all activities are appropriate to the age, ability and experience of those taking part
- Display consistently high standards of behaviour and appearance
- Follow BCU and club guidelines and policies
- Hold the appropriate, up-to-date, qualifications
- Club officials to ensure appropriate club affiliation and insurance provisions are met
- Encourage paddlers to value their performance
- Never condone the use of prohibited substances

### Parents/Guardians

- Help your child to recognise good performance
- Never force your child to take part in sport
- Never punish or belittle a child for making mistakes
- Publicly accept official's judgments
- Support your child's involvement and help them to enjoy the sport
- Use correct and proper language at all times
- Set a good example by applauding good performances of all paddlers

## Emergency Medical Assistance

SOAK coaches, who are qualified First Aiders, will provide emergency medical assistance if necessary.

## Data Protection

All information provided by you on the Registration Form will be collated for club purposes only. This includes the sharing of contact details between club members and via the members' area of the club website. Please ensure you circle any details on the Registration Form that you **do not** want to be shared in this way. Your details will not be shared with any outside organisations without your consent and all personal details will be regarded with the utmost confidentiality and privacy.

## **Photographic Policy**

Club activities are often exciting and can be difficult to photograph or video due to the water based nature of the activity. It is therefore often appreciated that when photographs and images are taken they can be shared and enjoyed by others.

Please be aware that SOAK cannot police the taking of photographs or videos in public areas. SOAK also cannot police the distribution of photographs and videos.

Club members are permitted to take photographs and videos of club activities within the following guidelines:

- Permission must be sought from Committee members prior to any photography or videos being taken during pool sessions.
- No photographic equipment may be taken into changing rooms or used in areas where people are getting changed.
- No photographs should be taken depicting nudity, or which may be otherwise reasonably considered to be indecent.

SOAK takes no responsibility for the content or distribution of photographs taken by individual members.

## **River Paddling**

As a club we have the duty to inform our paddlers of environmental hazards on the water. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask a club official. As the river is not an enclosed environment, and is potentially hazardous, we expect everyone to carefully respect the instructions of the coaches running the session to ensure everyone's safety.

If sufficient coaches are not available, places will be allocated on a first come first served basis - do not leave children assuming the club has space for them or accepts responsibility for them.

Arrive ready to paddle. Failure to be properly equipped could result in you not being allowed to paddle for the safety of yourself and others.

You are responsible for the equipment you use AND for getting it to and from the river - parents of younger children will need to help their children to and from the river.

You should be aware of the symptoms and causes of Hypothermia, Hyperthermia, Aural Osteomata or Surfer Ear and Leptospirosis or Weil's Disease. Further information can be found by searching the internet and from the SOAK River Paddling information sheet.

**Other Documents** - Also see the Club Constitution and Child Protection Policy at [www.soak.org.uk](http://www.soak.org.uk)

SOAK has a Child / Vulnerable Adult Protection Officer – please contact a member of the committee or consult the website if you would like to discuss any issues.