

ALTON CANOE CLUB

Outside Meeting Statement

Summer 2024



Whilst safety during our winter pool sessions is relatively easy to control and we have the added benefit of Lifeguard cover provide by the Sport Centre, outside trips are a different matter.

The club ensures that all our **calendar publicised outdoor sessions** are run by experienced outing leaders who fully meet our 'outdoor activity leader' criteria for the conditions you will be paddling in.

If the group leaders considers that participants' ability and conditions on the water pose an unacceptable risk, the session will not take place.

Our club British Canoeing affiliation provides all members attending our publicised events with third party insurance cover which covers injury to a third party caused by a club member (**note**: this is not personal injury insurance).

All other outdoor paddles arranged between members and not part of the ACC calendar, are undertaken at the paddlers own risk.

Please remember that we **all** have a '**duty of care**' towards other paddlers.

With this in mind we have put together the following provisions to help safeguard our members during club events.

- Participants over 18 years old are responsible for their own safety.
- Any under 18's taking part must be accompanied on the water by a **competent senior member** who has agreed to take full responsibility for their safety (with prior arrangement **not** on the night). The paddlers' parent(s) must also remain in sight/contact of the paddling group.
- All new members wishing to paddle with us during the summer must have attended our "competence" pool session and the "introduction to paddling" outdoor sessions advertised on our calendar.
- All participants are responsible for the suitability of their boat, equipment and clothing - whether owned or borrowed.
- Minimum equipment requirement for any outside event is:
 - Kayak/Canoe in reasonable condition and with adequate buoyancy.
 - Buoyancy aid
 - Spray deck
 - Paddle
 - Helmet
 - Wind proof cagoule, woolly hat and secure footwear (not flipflops!)
 - Warm and comfortable base layer

Please ask if you need more help or information.

- Before joining us on the water outside, every participating member is required to have signed our record sheet and read our outdoor risk assessment, to confirm that they understand this Outside Meeting Statement.

It is a requirement that all participants of club events are members of Alton Canoe Club.

and finally

Canoeing & Kayaking are 'Assumed Risk – Water Contact Sports' that carry risks of injury and in rare circumstances, death. Participants should be aware of and accept these risks, and be responsible for their own actions and involvement.