

B.K.A. Safety Policy

The following should be deemed essential to obtaining Full BKA Club membership.

- A full inspection of the kayak to be carried out by the appointed Safety Officer.
- A High Visibility Cap must be worn or High Visibility Flag Fitted.
- PFD inspected for Proper Fit, also no signs of excessive wear and/or deterioration.
- Headlamp or torch must be carried.
- Paddler has at least 1 form of telecommunications equipment, e.g. Cell Phone or VHF in submersible rated dry bag.
- Safety Knife attached to the paddler.
- Paddler has at least 1 means of signaling location when in distress; this may be an appropriate Flare Pack or 406 megahertz EPIRB. These must be stored above deck and within easy reach of the paddler.
- Do not attach a Gaff to your Kayak.
- Check weather and tides.

The following should be considered as highly recommended.

- Water proof First Aid Kit be carried.
- Roll of Duct Tape be carried.
- Food, Fluids and Sun Screen be used and taken.
- Anchoring System, either Grapnel or Sea Anchor.
- Bright coloured Spray Jacket and Clothing be worn.
- Compass be carried.
- Navigation Light be fitted.
- Dry Bag or Suitable Air Tight container be carried.

Recommended Practices

- Under no circumstances should a hatch which accesses the hull be opened while on the Water, unless internal bulkheads and a system of bailing are fitted.
- That only Kayak specific clothing be worn. This does not include waders, especially neoprene type waders.
- That Paddlers adopt and use a Buddy Up system.
- Use a Reporting System when paddling solo.
- That Gumboots or similar Boat Boots, or any other footwear that may restrict your ability to swim, should not be worn.
- Don't paddle under the influence of Drugs or Alcohol.
- That a Spray Jacket be carried at all times.
- Don't use line over 15kgs and be prepared to cut away anchor or fishing lines.
- Don't paddle outside of your capabilities, distance and conditions.
- Place electronics in a dry bag when transversing the surf zone.
- Take your Kayak to a controlled environment and practice entry & exit, also practice good surf technique.
- Join the Coast Guard.
- Check your landing zone when approaching a beach.

The Safety Officers Check List

- Flare Pack stored on deck and easily accessible.
- EPIRB carried on person or easily accessible on deck.
- Flares and EPIRB within expiry dates.
- Bunges and Hatches etc all fitted and air tight.
- Flush Mount Rod Holders at butt end sealed.
- No signs of excessive chafing or wear on underside of Kayak.
- No sharp objects or projections protruding out from side of Kayak.
- Paddle is in good condition.

Flare Pack should contain

- Minimum contents - 1xSmoke and 1xPin Point
- Recommended - 1xSmoke Can, 2xPin Point, 1xSea Mark Dye Pack, 1xMini Flare 8 Shot, 1xDivers Rescue Sausage.