

# OutriggerSports USA

The following *Canoe Use Guidelines and Safety Rules* must be followed by all persons using OSUSA equipment. Failure to follow all rules may result in the loss of club privileges and/or steering certification and forfeiture of paddling dues.

## Canoe Use Guidelines and Safety Rules\* *Safety is the #1 Priority.*

1. Only OSUSA-certified steerspersons are allowed to schedule practices on and steer OSUSA canoes.
2. Only persons who have signed waivers may use club equipment. No non-paddling passengers are allowed in the canoes.
3. The minimum number of crew to use an OSUSA canoe is 5 (4 paddlers and a steerer).
4. To use OSUSA canoes, there must be at least 4 experienced paddlers on board.
5. Unless otherwise authorized by the OSUSA Board, the maximum number of crew allowed on a club canoe is 6 (5 paddlers and a steersperson).
6. No more than two paddlers under the age of 18 are allowed on a canoe at any time.
7. Everyone on the canoe must wear a US Coast Guard-approved, adjusted, and fastened, personal flotation device (PFD) at all times, unless otherwise authorized by the OSUSA Board.
8. Always use the launcher to move the canoes into and out of the water.
9. Canoe rental sessions are 90 minutes. Canoe launching and re-docking must occur within this 90-minute timeframe.
10. Canoes must be returned on time and left ready for use by the next team.
11. At the end of practice all club equipment must be neatly stowed in the OSUSA dock locker.
12. An OSUSA-certified steersperson must be in control of the canoe at all times.
13. The steersperson is the captain of the canoe and all paddlers must follow his or her directions.
14. All paddlers must be on the lookout for dangerous situations at all times.
15. The steersperson must review capsize (huli) recovery procedures and safety rules with the crew before launching the canoe at each practice.
16. Steerspersons have the right to decline to take any paddlers who, in the steersperson's sole opinion, may not have the ability to perform their designated tasks.
17. When individual paddlers are changing position on the canoe, all other paddlers must lean left, regardless of whether this command is specifically given by the steersperson.
18. OSUSA canoes must not be taken north of the Hawthorne Bridge on the west side of the river, or north of the Broadway Bridge on the east side.
19. Night practices are to be held close to the shore.
20. Operating lights must be fastened to the canoe during all practices beginning before sunup or ending after sundown and during any other period of limited visibility.
21. The steersperson must wear the OSUSA-provided safety kit at all times while on the water.
22. One extra paddle and personal flotation device (PFD) must be in the canoe during every practice.
23. US Coast Guard Inland Navigation Rules must be followed.
24. All capsizings (hulis) must be reported to the OSUSA Safety Committee (Jason Van Cleve or Ron Kay) by e-mail or phone ASAP after the end of the practice during which the huli occurred.
25. All damage to club equipment must be reported to the OSUSA Equipment Committee (Ron Kay) by e-mail or phone ASAP after the end of the practice during which the damage occurred.
26. Canoes will not be beached at any location without the prior approval of a member of the OSUSA Safety Committee.
27. Contact 911, the US Coast Guard or the Multnomah County Sheriff's Department as soon as possible if anyone on an OSUSA canoe is injured or possibly has hypothermia as the result of a huli or other incident. All such incidents must also be reported to the OSUSA Safety Committee (Jason Van Cleve or Ron Kay) by e-mail or phone as soon as possible after the end of the practice during which the incident occurred.

\*Contact OSUSA scheduler for clarifications and exceptions.

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### **Acknowledgement of Receipt and Understanding and Agreement to Enforce OSUSA Canoe Use Guidelines and Safety Rules**

By signing, I acknowledge that I have received, read and understand these Canoe Use Guidelines and Safety Rules. Further, I agree that I will enforce and agree to be bound by these guidelines and rules whenever I am acting as steersperson of an OSUSA outrigger canoe.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Team Name (if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed