



Junior Code of Conduct

Reviewed : 1st June 2026

1. Purpose

Kingston Kayak Club wants all young paddlers to enjoy paddlesport, develop their skills, make friends and feel safe.

Canoeing and kayaking are fun, but they also involve risk. For sessions to run safely, young paddlers must listen to coaches, follow instructions and behave responsibly both on and off the water.

This Code of Conduct applies to all junior paddlers taking part in Kingston Kayak Club activities, including pool sessions, outdoor sessions, training, competitions, trips, events and club activities.

2. As a Junior Paddler, You Should

As a young paddler, you are expected to:

- listen carefully to coaches, instructors, pool controllers, session leaders and other adults responsible for the activity;
- follow instructions straight away, especially safety instructions;
- stop and listen when a coach or instructor is speaking;
- ask questions if you do not understand an instruction;
- behave safely on and around the water;
- respect coaches, volunteers, other paddlers, parents, spectators and members of the public;
- treat others as you would like to be treated;
- help create a friendly environment where everyone feels welcome;
- respect people's differences;
- show fair play and good sportsmanship;
- encourage other paddlers and avoid putting people down;
- look after yourself and others;
- tell a coach, parent, welfare officer or trusted adult if you are worried about yourself or someone else;
- tell a coach or responsible adult if you are leaving the venue;
- be organised and on time where possible;
- bring the right kit for the session;
- take care of club equipment, boats, paddles, helmets, buoyancy aids and buildings;
- take responsibility for your own belongings.

3. Listening and Safety

Listening is not optional during club sessions.

When a coach, instructor, pool controller or session leader gives an instruction, young paddlers must listen and follow it.

This is especially important:

- near water;
- when getting on or off the water;
- during rescue practice;
- during games or competitions;
- when using club equipment;
- when a session is busy;
- when younger or less experienced paddlers are present.

Ignoring instructions, messing about, distracting others or refusing to listen can put people at risk and may mean the session has to stop.

4. Behaviour That Is Not Acceptable

Junior paddlers must not:

- ignore coaches, instructors, pool controllers or session leaders;
- deliberately distract others when instructions are being given;
- repeatedly talk over a coach or instructor;
- mess about in a way that affects safety or disrupts the session;
- deliberately splash, push, grab, capsize or interfere with another paddler unless it is part of a coached activity;
- bully, intimidate, threaten or upset another person;
- use offensive, abusive, racist, sexist, homophobic, transphobic or discriminatory language;
- swear at coaches, volunteers or other paddlers;
- damage club equipment or another person's belongings;
- misuse boats, paddles, helmets, buoyancy aids or other equipment;
- leave the session or venue without telling a responsible adult;
- use phones or devices in a way that distracts from the session or upsets others;
- post unkind, disrespectful or harmful comments, images or videos online;
- smoke, vape, drink alcohol or use drugs while taking part in club activities or representing the club.

This list is not exhaustive. Coaches and club officials may deal with any behaviour that affects safety, welfare, respect or the smooth running of the club.

5. Respect for Coaches and Volunteers

Kingston Kayak Club coaches, instructors, officials and helpers are volunteers. They give their time to help young paddlers learn, improve and enjoy paddlesport.

Junior paddlers are expected to respect this by:

- listening when coaches speak;
- following instructions;
- not arguing during sessions;
- not deliberately wasting coaching time;
- helping the group stay focused;
- saying thank you where appropriate;
- understanding that coaches are responsible for keeping everyone safe.

A young paddler who repeatedly refuses to listen or behave appropriately may be asked to sit out, leave the water or miss future sessions.

6. If Something Is Wrong

Young paddlers should speak up if:

- they feel unsafe;
- they are being bullied or treated unfairly;
- they see someone else being bullied or treated unfairly;
- they are worried about another paddler;
- they do not understand an instruction;
- they feel uncomfortable about something that has happened.

They can speak to:

- a parent or carer;
- a coach;
- a club welfare officer;
- a committee member;
- another trusted adult.

No young paddler will be in trouble for raising a genuine concern.

7. What May Happen If This Code Is Not Followed

If a junior paddler does not follow this Code, the club may take action depending on what has happened.

This may include:

- a reminder from the coach or session leader;
- being asked to stop the behaviour;
- being moved to a different place in the group;
- sitting out for part of the session;
- being removed from the water;
- parents or carers being spoken to;
- a behaviour agreement being put in place;
- missing one or more sessions;
- referral to the club committee or welfare officer;
- disciplinary action under the club's procedures.

The aim will usually be to help the young paddler understand the issue, improve their behaviour and continue taking part safely.

However, where behaviour creates a safety risk, causes distress to others, or places an unreasonable burden on coaches and volunteers, the club may take firmer action.

8. Parent and Carer Support

Parents and carers are expected to support the Junior Code of Conduct.

Where a young paddler is repeatedly not listening, disrupting sessions or behaving unsafely, the club may ask parents or carers to help address the behaviour.

This may include:

- discussing the issue with the young paddler at home;
- agreeing expectations before future sessions;
- remaining present during sessions if needed;
- supporting a behaviour agreement;
- collecting the young paddler early if they are removed from a session.

The club wants young paddlers to succeed, but coaches cannot safely run sessions if they are repeatedly having to manage avoidable poor behaviour.

9. Final Statement

Kingston Kayak Club wants every junior paddler to have fun, improve their skills and feel part of the club.

Good behaviour helps everyone enjoy paddling safely.

Young paddlers are expected to:

Listen. Respect others. Stay safe. Look after the club. Have fun.