

## Safety on the Water – Rafting (>12yrs)

All Scouts participating in regular water activities must complete a Swim / Water Confidence Test.

### RAFTING

Rafting can be interpreted as the construction of an open craft using spars and floats (i.e. barrells, canadians canoes, surfboards etc...).

Rafting can be a simple and fun way to get on the water.

NO SCOUT may undertake rafting activities unless they have taken a swim test.

Scouts/Ventures/Rovers should be able to swim at least 50m. in shirt, shorts and footwear suitable for boating and thereafter remain afloat for 2 minutes.

Cubs should be able to swim at least 20m in shirt, shorts and footwear suitable for boating and thereafter remain afloat for 2 minutes.

Beavers should be able to swim at least 10m in shirt, shorts and footwear suitable for boating and thereafter remain afloat for 2 minutes.

- The Scouter-in-Charge must be familiar with the activity area.
- The should check currents, tide, depth, other water users, other hazards.
- All Scouts on the water should wear a suitable PFD and helmet. Beavers, cubs, scouts, Ventures & Rover scouts should wear lifejackets with permanent bouyancy and crotch straps (100newtons). In the case of Scouts, Ventures & Rovers a review / assement can be carried out with a view to relaxing the wearing of a lifejacket to a bouyancy aid. This should be documented by the scout/scouter in charge prior to going afloat.
- Scouts should wear appropriate clothing and footwear.
- Adequate rescue cover should be available (i.e. kayaks, punt, person on shore).
- Scouts must always be supervised by a competent person.
- Stay in the safe water-activity ratios (1:6).
- Use the Buddy System.
- Ensure there is safe access in and out of the water.
- Check current weather conditions and forecast.
- Wetsuits should be worn between 31<sup>st</sup> October – 1<sup>st</sup> April.

**SCOUT:** The term Scout refers to members of all sections of the movement, including Scouters. The terms 'boats' and 'boating' refers to oars, power, sail etc. not windsurfing or canoeing, except where otherwise made clear. These guidelines are intended to facilitate Scouts and scouters going afloat safely

*Note- Please check the website regularly as these Guidelines are continuously reviewed*

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