



# ADEQUATE BUOYANCY AND SAFETY AT NATIONAL REGATTAS

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Team Leaders and paddlers are reminded that, should the weather conditions on the regatta course be inclement, it may become necessary to introduce the mandatory wearing of Buoyancy Aids/Life Jackets for some or all paddlers. In such circumstances, competitors will not be allowed to go afloat without Buoyancy Aids/Life Jackets that conform to the standard of the ICF (International Canoe Federation) or EN393 & EN395. Whenever buoyancy aids are compulsory, for defined classes of paddlers (or all), an Orange flag will be displayed on the flag pole by the Finish Tower.

Furthermore, BC Sprint Racing Competition Rules and the Terms and Conditions of Participation at national regattas require that all kayaks and canoes must remain buoyant when filled with water as detailed in BC Canoe Sprint and Marathon Handbook. Team Leaders should ensure that paddlers always bring Buoyancy Aids/Life Jackets and have the correct buoyancy fitted in their boats.

Particular attention is drawn to safety requirements, especially the need for adequate buoyancy in all boats. Additional buoyancy must be securely fitted and visible in all boats to be allowed on the water. The Safety Rules in the Terms and Conditions of Participation in BC Canoe Sprint and Marathon Handbook states; *“Boats must have sufficient buoyancy to float level with the water while supporting the crew when capsized. Boats inherent buoyancy must be supplemented by additional and visible fixed flotation material or by the provision of sealed bulk heads”*. Buoyancy will be checked, both systematic and random inspections. If a boat is found to have insufficient buoyancy it will be turned back. Competitors can be disqualified or incur penalty points, if found to have paddled in a boat with insufficient buoyancy.

In the event of an electric storm, paddlers will be required to leave the course immediately, using the Finish Tower side of the lake. A tannoy announcement will be made and the umpire boats will ring a bell. Racing will not recommence until it is deemed safe by the Competition Committee.

The Competition Committee may at their discretion, cancel or postpone racing in the event of unsuitable weather condition. No refund of race fees will be made if, all or part of the competition is cancelled for whatever reason.

## **Epilepsy**

For information and guidance on canoeing and epilepsy go to the British Canoeing link:  
<http://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/about-canoeing/safety-guidance/canoeing-with-epilepsy>

## **Weil's Disease/Leptospirosis**

If anyone capsizes and you think you may have an infection or flu-like symptoms go to your doctor and tell them you are a canoeist and there may be a risk of Weil's Disease/Leptospirosis that must be swiftly diagnosed and treated. Please report any cases to British Canoeing by telephoning 03000 119 500 or via this link: <http://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/about-canoeing/safety-guidance/incident-reporting>

