

OCSG Safety Policy

Canoe sailing is an adventure sport with inherent risks. The OCSG does not usually provide a rescue boat or guided trips. The development of risk awareness and self reliance is important. Though many experienced OCSG members sail on their own at times, most activities are undertaken with others.

Most sailing canoe mishaps can be avoided by sailing within your personal limits. Members should take responsibility for learning how to deal with incidents such as:

- capsize
- falling overboard
- losing control of their boat
- medical emergencies

Strategies for dealing with this kind of mishap are likely to involve:

- Wearing appropriate personal buoyancy and appropriate clothing
- Outfitting your boat with side buoyancy, end buoyancy, reefing, decks and outriggers as appropriate
- Learning self rescue techniques
- Receiving assistance from pre arranged rescue partner(s)
- Carrying emergency equipment and a reliable means of summoning assistance

The OCSG provides addition safety advice on their website: <http://www.ocsg.org.uk>

Please report any untoward incidents to a member of the committee.

Additional Safety Information

If you are one hour late a search will be arranged. If you are 2 hours late the emergency services will be contacted.

Make yourself aware of the weather forecast.

Keep an “eye out” for other sailors who may be in distress, but do not *rely* on others spotting that you are in distress (unless they are your prearranged rescue partner).

OCSG Participation Statement

Canoe sailing is an “assumed risk” activity. That means that we assume (in the sense of expect) that there will be risks and we assume (in the sense of accept) those risks in what we do. Participants should be aware of and accept these risks, and be responsible for their own actions and involvement.

None of the above should be taken as limiting participants' duty of care.

