

Plast Canada

HUMAN-POWERED WATERCRAFT POLICY

This policy applies whenever Plast Canada Scouts are engaged in the use of human-powered watercraft. Human-powered watercraft are defined by Transport Canada as including, but not limited to sailboats, paddleboards, watercycles, canoes, kayaks, and rowboats.

Definitions

Camp Director	See Plast Canada - Camp Director Requirements and Plast Canada - Staffing for Camps Policy for definition and requirements.
Leader	<p>A position assigned by the Camp Director. An individual must meet ALL the following requirements to be assigned the role of leader.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Be at least 18 years of age on the day of engaging in the use of human-powered watercraft.● Not a member of yunatstvo (UPU).● Have a current Standard First Aid with CPR-C certificate or higher.● Capable of managing their assigned group alone in case it becomes necessary for the group to split up or in the event other leaders become incapacitated.● If participating in an overnight trip, must have previous overnight camping experience within the last 5 years.
Expert Leader	<p>A position assigned by the Camp Director. An individual must meet the following requirements to be assigned the role of expert leader.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Meet the requirements of being a leader.● Previous experience as a leader within the last 5 years (minimum of 10 cumulative days).● Similar-setting experience with the specific human-powered watercraft within the last 5 years (minimum of 10 cumulative days).● Similar-setting trip experience within the last 5 years (minimum of 10 cumulative days).● At least one of the following certifications:<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Wilderness Water Rescue.● ORCKA, Paddle Canada, or equivalent intermediate-level or higher certification related to the specific human-powered watercraft (e.g. ORCKA Basic Level 2, Paddle Canada Level 2).● Swiftwater Rescue Technician.● Whitewater Rescue Technician.● Canadian Lifesaving Society Bronze Cross or higher.● Canadian Red Cross Assistant Lifeguard certificate or higher.

Trip	When a group of people, which includes Plast Canada Scouts, are away from the main camp.
Backcountry Trip	A trip where the group remains within 8-hours total travel-time, under their own power, to reach an access point where emergency medical services may be obtained.
Extended Backcountry Trip	A trip where the group would need 8 or more hours total travel-time, under their own power, to reach an access point where emergency medical services may be obtained.

Minimum Requirements

- **ALL** persons must always wear an approved and correctly sized personal floatation device (PFD) or lifejacket while using a human-powered watercraft.
- **ALL** persons who plan on engaging in the use of a human-powered watercraft must have passed the swim test as defined in the Plast Canada - Swimming Policy within the same calendar year prior to using the watercraft.
- **ALL** persons must follow Transport Canada, Coast Guard, or similar, relevant regulations when using human-powered watercraft.
- During usage of a human-powered watercraft within the water, all persons must remain within the watercraft. Entering the water, for any reason, requires following the Plast Canada - Swimming Policy.
- During usage of human-powered watercraft, supervision must be conducted by no fewer than two leaders at a ratio of one leader to eight non-leaders, or better. A minimum of one of those leaders must be an expert leader.
- Extended backcountry trips require the group to have at least one leader with a Wilderness First Aid with CPR certificate.
- Plast Canada strongly discourages operating a human-powered watercraft in hours of darkness.
 - If operating during hours of darkness, a working, watertight flashlight must be present in each watercraft.
- Plast Canada strongly discourages operating a human-powered watercraft during dangerous weather conditions which include, but are not limited to, heavy rain, heavy wind, and thunderstorms.

- Groups using human-powered watercraft (such as sea kayaking) in locations where there are tides, currents, or maritime traffic shall contract a qualified, third-party company to facilitate safe and proper activities.
- **ALL** persons encountering Class I or higher whitewater shall receive training before going downriver where they will encounter rapids.
- **Expert leaders** are responsible for ensuring that **EACH** human-powered watercraft is outfitted with the proper equipment as defined by Transport Canada. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - A sound-signaling device.
 - A bailing device.
 - A buoyant heaving line, not less than 15 meters in length, that is contained in a throw bag.
 - A working, watertight flashlight, if operating during hours of darkness.
 - A marine emergency first aid kit; minimum one per group.
- **Expert leaders** are responsible for ensuring that **ALL** persons receive basic training related to the relevant human-powered watercraft on the topics of proper usage and safety.
 - At a minimum, before a craft controlled by non-leaders embarks on a trip that covers an extended distance or lasts longer than four hours, each person should either receive a minimum of three hours training and supervised practice or demonstrate proficiency in maneuvering the craft effectively over a 100-meter course and recovering from a capsized.
- **Expert leaders** are responsible for ensuring that all other leaders undergo any relevant pre-trip training and/or trip familiarization related to their area of expertise.

Group size and leader qualifications may need to be adjusted by the Camp Director from the minimum requirements of this policy to provide appropriate supervision, group management, emergency response capability, as well as effective instruction. Considerations may include the technical aspects of the activity, staff training and competency, remoteness of the activity location, environmental factors, and the participant profile.

References

[Canadian Red Cross - Assistant Lifeguard Course](#)
[Ontario Lifesaving Society - Bronze Cross](#)
[Lifesaving Society - Training Programs](#)
[Paddle Canada - Canada Vessel Regulations for Guided Excursions](#)
[Plast Canada - Camp Director Requirements](#)
[Plast Canada - Staffing for Camps Policy](#)
[Plast Canada - Swimming Policy](#)

[Scouts Canada - Watercraft Standards](#)
[Transport Canada - Operating a human-powered craft](#)

Forms

Administration

Policy Title:	HUMAN-POWERED WATERCRAFT POLICY		
Policy #:		Policy Date:	1 March 2014
Total Pages:	4; Revision supervised by K. Haras	Revised Date:	1 March 2023
Approved by:	Katrusia Dolishna/Director Plast Policies	Reviewed Date:	30 March 2023
Total Pages:	4	Revised Date:	25 March 2024
Approved by:		Reviewed Date:	