

Safety kayakers and SUP rescuers

Safety kayakers and SUP rescuers must be qualified in Foundation Safety & Rescue/Paddlesport Safety and Rescue and First Aid as minimum qualifications, and are responsible for the following:

Pre-session:

- Ensuring their boats and kit are cleaned prior to using them at Compton Verney, so as not to transfer organisms from one water body to another
- Wearing clothing suitable for the role including buoyancy aid
- Checking throwlines/rest-tube, whistles and radios and any other safety equipment that they will be carrying and recording that they have done so on checklist
- Inflating and checking sighting buoys, ensuring that they are secured at all times to not blow away on land or on the water
- Attaching sighting buoys to black position buoys which are already installed in the lake
- Carrying out visual safety check of water for hazards such as tree debris, litter, blue-green algae or other pollution
- Ensuring they have had and understood a pre-session safety briefing and are clear about what their duties are. This briefing may take place over the radio when on the water
- Ensuring they have read and understood Normal Operating Procedure, Emergency Action Plan and Risk Assessment
- Ensuring they understand how to operate radios and communicate in case of concerns or emergencies

During session:

- Monitoring swimmers for signs of difficulty, distress or cold, paying particular attention to those using tow floats who may be more vulnerable (children, anxious swimmers and those swimming without wetsuits will all be required to use tow floats).
- Remaining on the outside of the swim course so all swimmers are in view in front, unless responding to someone in need of assistance.
- Ensuring that all swimmers are behaving in an orderly manner
- Focussing their supervision on areas which are within their field of vision but not that of other personnel (see zones on map). It is important not to become distracted by incidents outside of your zone, unless called to assist or cover sight lines.
- Helping clear swimmers from the lake at the end of each 1 hour session, by communicating to them from 5-10 minutes beforehand that it is time to get out. Kayak A to position themselves by buoy no.2, 5 minutes before the end of the session to prevent any swimmers going onto the long course unless they have been informed that particular swimmers are staying in for the next session. Faster swimmers may be permitted through on advice from lifeguard/manager.
- Supporting swimmers where necessary and ensuring they are able to continue safely to the exit point, or assist them in doing so
- Ensuring that they communicate with other safety personnel if they need to deal with any incident which will distract them from their duty of watching other swimmers. They must not leave their duty unless someone else can cover them
- Working with other safety staff to effect rescue of injured/ill swimmer(s) according to their qualifications
- Assisting lifeguard with delivery of first aid if required (and qualified to do so)
- Working with other safety personnel to clear the lake in case of emergency

- Ensuring that when they wish to take a comfort break that there is at least one other kayaker on the water
- If the water temperature is below 10 degrees the session manager will give an additional briefing on symptoms of cold water shock/hypothermia and swimmers must check in with staff after each lap. On water staff to talk to swimmers as they pass, asking questions to check cognitive function.

After session:

- Removing sighting buoys from the lake, deflating and returning them to session manager
- Removing the thermometer and return to the session manager
- Returning radios and any safety equipment belonging to Do3
- Reporting any incidents, issues or concerns to the session manager

Please note:

- Staff may not use mobile phones when on safety duty except if required to call for emergency assistance
- Staff must present a positive image of Do3 at all times in their behaviour and language
- Staff must wear clothing suitable for their role and the weather conditions, and present a smart image
- Fluorescent jackets will be provided for safety personnel which must be worn at all times when they are on duty
- Radio channels are to be kept clear in case of an emergency rather than being used for general chat and please remember that swimmers can overhear what is being said over the radio.