

Kayak Duties at Ardingly Reservoir

The Kayakers are key member of the safety team, responsible for the safety of the swimmers in the water by keeping a look out for any incident or potential issue and acting accordingly.

Please read the Emergency Action Plan on the website (a copy is also kept on the clipboard in the bag) and watch the safety video before your session.

There are two other members of the safety team: the Spotter and the Duty Manager at AAC who pilots the safety Launch. All of you will be in radio communication throughout the session.

Please arrive 10 minutes before your duty – the swimming session can only begin once the kayakers are in the water.

You will be given a life jacket, a radio and a red float to throw to any swimmer in difficulty.

DUTIES during the swimming session

To be diligent and alert at all times in case any of the swimmers in the water gets into difficulty. Swimmers are told to roll on their back raise their hand if this happens, but kayakers also need to be proactive and watch out for:

- Unexpected emergencies eg. health issues, panic attacks etc.
- Potential collisions with other reservoir users eg. rowers, paddleboarders, dinghies
- Swimmers straying off course due to poor sighting
- Sudden deterioration in the weather eg. approaching storm

If a swimmer raises their arm or attracts their attention then the kayaker should approach and see if any assistance is required.

If a swimmer is straying out of the swim area or another reservoir user is straying into the swim area then the kayaker should intervene and redirect the swimmer/vessel to keep them safely in the appropriate area.

In the situation is potentially serious then the kayaker should call an alert over the radio to the Spotter and/or Launch. They should stay by the swimmer and be prepared to help out during the emergency procedure as directed by the Launch or Spotter. You may be called over the radio by either the Spotter or the centre manager and directed to a potential issue/incident.

End of the session

Towards the end of the session, once there are fewer than 10 swimmers in the water, then one of the kayakers may be stood down, at the discretion of the Spotter. Only once ALL of the swimmers are safely back onshore can the remaining kayaker finish their duty. The kayaks are to be pulled up back onto the jetty, and the life jackets and radios returned to the activity centre.

If you notice anything of concern at all, or anything that could be improved upon please speak to either the Activity Centre Manager or Debbie Ware (if present, if not then email openwaterswim@midsussextriclub.com)

And finally, Thank you for your contribution!