

Outdoor Education (Canoeing Moving Water)

SECONDARY - CURRICULAR 2023

- Consult [Risk Management](#).
- This activity page must be presented to the activity provider prior to the activity taking place. The activity provider must meet the minimum requirements listed on this page. For more information on planning trips using outside providers, consult [Outside Activity Providers](#).
- Class I and Class II River Classifications Only.
- In both, Class I and Class II rivers there is no evidence of rapids with moderate, irregular waves, large waves or strainers, strong eddies or powerful currents (ref: International Scale of River Difficulty).
- Consult [Outdoor Education \(General Procedures\)](#)
- If Canoeing Moving Water is part of a canoe tripping experience, also consult [Outdoor Education \(Canoe Tripping\)](#).
- Consult [Outdoor Education \(Swimming - Leisure\)](#) if leisure swimming is included as an associated activity that takes place at a Designated or Non-Designated Swim area (for example, at camps or municipal swim areas) when not on a watercraft or land-based trip
- Consult [Outdoor Education \(Swimming - Instructional\)](#) if the any associated activity (for example, a swim test) is to take place at a Designated Swim Area at a waterfront.
- Consult [Swimming](#) if any associated activity (for example, a swim test) is to take place in a pool.

Equipment

- Determine that all equipment is safe for use (for example, no sharp corners, cracks, or splinters). Students must be encouraged to report equipment problems to the teacher.

- Durable, resilient canoes (for example, royalet construction or double layer polyethylene tandem canoes) must be used.
- Paddles and canoes must be checked for cracks, splinters and leaks.
- Canoes must be equipped with 1 paddle per person and flotation devices.
- Properly fitted (as per manufacturer's guidelines) and properly worn white water helmets (for example, Protec, Shred, Wildwater) must be worn by all participants.
- Correctly fitting properly fastened and Canadian- approved personal flotation device (P.F.D.)/life jacket with whistle attached must be worn and properly secured at all times while on the water.
- The equipment must comply with the Minimum Safety Equipment Requirements in [Transport Canada's Safe Boating Guide](#).
- Wrap kit with bailer must include:
 - 2 carabiners
 - 2 – 18 in prusik loops
 - 23m (75') static spectra rope
 - 23m (75') of 3/8 in floating rope

Refer to the [First Aid](#) section for first aid equipment requirements.

Clothing/Footwear/Jewellery

- Determine that all necessary clothing and footwear are included prior to departing on the excursion. Clothing (in layers where appropriate) and footwear appropriate for the activity, location and environmental conditions must be worn. Wetsuits or dry suits as required. Rain gear and/or a dry change of clothing kept in a watertight bag/container must be accessible.
- When long hair poses a safety risk it must be secured. Devices (for example, hair pins, elastics and barrettes) used to tie back long hair must not present a safety concern.

- Students must not participate when the length of fingernails poses a safety risk to themselves or others.

Facilities

- Class I or Class II river classifications only.
- River difficulty must be read and classified by a qualified instructor or trip guide on the day of the activity.
- Check with local authorities for current information regarding route safety.
- Determine that all facilities are safe for use. Students must be encouraged to report facility problems to the teacher.

Environmental Considerations

- When environmental conditions may pose a risk to student safety (for example, thunderstorms [lightning] or student(s) with asthma, triggered by air quality), teachers must take into consideration their school board/school's protocols and procedures related to:
 - environmental conditions (consult [Weather](#)); and
 - insects (for example, mosquitoes and ticks [consult the school/school board's protocols and/or regional Public Health Department's website]).
- Students must receive instruction on safety procedures related to environmental conditions and be made aware of ways to protect themselves (for example, sun burn, heat stroke).
- At all times the school board's weather and insect procedures are the minimum standards. In situations where a higher standard of care is presented (for example, outside activity providers, facility/program coordinators), the higher standard of care must be followed.
- Teacher and instructor must:

- be aware of and respond to changing weather and water conditions prior to and during the trip; and
- cancel, postpone or alter the excursion if conditions put students' safety at an elevated level of risk (for example, wind, temperature, lightning storms, fog).
- If hazardous weather suddenly approaches, leave the water immediately.
- Daylight canoeing only except under emergency situations.
- Navigation lights (for example, waterproof flashlight) are required if operating at night or in restricted visibility.

Special Rules/Instructions

- Be aware of students whose medical condition (for example, asthma, anaphylaxis, casts, previous concussion, orthopaedic device) may affect participation. Consult [Medical Conditions](#).
- Students must not participate in the activity until they receive information on concussion prevention specific to the activity, inherent risks of the activity (for example, outline possible risks and ways to minimize the risks), and procedures and rules for safe play. Students must receive instruction on the importance of reporting symptoms related to a suspected concussion.
- Refer to school board policies and procedures (i.e., transportation, excursion/field trip) for communication with parents/guardians, the location of an off-site activity, means of transportation, supervision ratios, and parent/guardian permission.
- Parents/guardians must be informed that all students will wear a correctly fitting and Canadian-approved PFD/lifejacket, with whistle attached, when near, in or on the water.
- Activities must be modified according to the age, ability level, language, and experience of students, number of participants, and the facility available.
- Previous training, fitness level, and the length of time and intensity of physical activity must be taken into consideration.
- Activities must be based on skills that are taught.

- Skills must be taught in proper progression.
- A proper warm-up and cool-down must be included.
- When a student displays hesitation (verbally or non-verbally) with participating, the teacher must determine the reason(s) for doubt. If the teacher believes that a potential hesitancy during the skill could put the student at risk, the student must be directed toward a more basic skill, or be permitted to select a role within the activity at their comfort level, including the choice to not participate.
- Prior to participation, the teacher must reference and apply their school board's policy on equity and inclusion as it affects student participation and makes appropriate accommodations/modifications to provide a safe learning environment. Consult the Intent subsection within the [About section](#).
- Adequate liquid replacement (personal water bottles, water fountains) must be accessible for students before, during, and after physical activity to prevent dehydration.

Canoeing Skills

- Prior to canoeing in moving water, a prerequisite test must occur in a pool, shallow water, or sheltered bay for which students must demonstrate to the instructor competence in canoeing skills, as follow:
 - Proper entry/exit from canoe
 - Synchronized strokes
 - Positioning of paddlers
 - Packing the canoe
 - Maneuvers using the following basic strokes:
 - Forward and reverse strokes
 - J-stroke, stern draw and pry strokes
 - Draw and pry strokes, cross-bow draw stroke
 - Landing
 - Eddy out
 - Peel out

- S-turn
- Front ferry
- Back ferry
- Portaging, lifts and carries
- Paddling forward in a straight line
- Sideslip
- Pivots 360 degrees in both directions
- Circles in both directions, to an approximate radius of 10 metres
- Stop

Water Safety Assessment

- Prior to a canoeing in moving water, a prerequisite test must occur in a pool, shallow water, or sheltered bay for which students must demonstrate to the instructor competence in water safety as follow:
 - Swimming in currents wearing a PFD/lifejacket
 - Retrieving a swamped canoe
 - Self rescue (that is, feet first, on back, swim to shore)
 - Line toss and rescue
 - Communication in an emergency situation
 - River reading (for example, downstream V, curling waves, hydraulics, standing waves, eddies, pillows, sweepers and strainers)
 - River difficulty analysis

Supervision

- All activities must be supervised.

- The level of supervision must be commensurate with the inherent risk of the activity. The level of risk is related to the number of participants, the skill level of the participants, the type of equipment used, and environmental conditions.
- On-site supervision is required.
- At least one supervisor must have detailed knowledge of the area.

Refer to the [**Swim Test**](#) section for the swim test supervision ratios.

Supervision Ratios for Instructional Time

- Tandem boats: 1 supervisor per 10 students
- Solo canoes: 1 supervisor per 5 students

Refer to the definition of [**Instructional Time**](#).

Qualifications

Refer to the [**Swim Test**](#) section for the swim test aquatic instructor qualification requirements.

Instructor Qualifications

- A trip guide or instructor must have one of the following current certifications:
 - ORCKA Moving Water Instructor 2
 - ORCKA River Running Instructor 2
 - ORCKA Moving Water/River Running Instructor 1 or 2
 - Paddle Canada Advanced Moving Water (both tandem & solo)
 - equivalent to any of the above

Lifeguard Qualifications

- A lifeguard must be 18 years of age or older and possess a current (the date on the certificate must not be older than two years) lifeguard certificate issued by one of the following organizations:

- Lifesaving Society – National Lifeguard – Pool/Waterfront
- Equivalent certificate approved by Minister of Health and Long Term Care
- A student may not act as a lifeguard if they are participating in the activity.

Refer to the [Swim Test](#) section for the swim test lifeguard qualification requirements.

First Aid

A fully stocked first aid kit must be readily accessible. (Consult [Sample First Aid Kit](#))

- A working communication device (for example, satellite or cell phone, or satellite GPS messenger) suitable for the activities/locations must be available. This device must be maintained, waterproofed, protected and dedicated for emergency communications only. The phone number for the device, and phone numbers for emergency services and school contact people (for example, the principal) must be included with the phone.
- At least one teacher, trip guide, instructor, or supervisor must have a minimum of a current (not more than three years prior to the day on which the holder is on duty) first aid certificate (standard or higher) issued by one of the following agencies: St. John Ambulance; Canadian Red Cross; Lifesaving Society; Canadian Ski Patrol; or an organization whose certificate is deemed equivalent by the medical officer of health in the local health unit.
- Follow the school's first aid emergency response (consult [First Aid Plan and First Aid Emergency Response](#)) and the school board's concussion protocol (consult [Concussions](#)).
- An emergency action plan and response to deal with evacuations and lock downs must be followed and communicated to students.

Swim Test

Swim Test for Watercraft

- Prior to the activity, students must successfully complete the following swim test in its entirety, without any stops, in sequence, with or without a personal flotation device (P.F.D.):
 - Rolling entry (backwards or forward) into deep water at 2.75m (9') minimum depth
 - Tread water for 1 minute
 - Swim 50m (164') continuously any stroke
- The test must be administered by a certified aquatic instructor or a certified lifeguard (the test is based on the Lifesaving Society's Swim to Survive™ Standard).
- The swim test must be completed within the school year in which the activity is taking place.
- In lieu of completing the swim test, students may provide proof of Bronze Star certification or higher.
- Results of the swim test must be documented and communicated as per school board policy (for example, to the student, teacher, principal, parents/guardians, trip guide(s), lifeguards, aquatic instructor, and outside provider [if applicable]).
- All Teachers, Trip Guides, and Volunteers must be aware of the students who require a P.F.D./Lifejacket to complete the swim test.

Clothing/Footwear/Jewellery for the Swim Test

- Appropriate swimwear must be worn.

Aquatic Instructor Qualifications for the Swim Test for Watercraft

- An aquatic instructor must possess both an aquatic instructor certificate and a lifeguard certificate that are dated not more than two years prior to the date on which they are required to instruct and lifeguard. If the aquatic instructor does not hold a lifeguard certificate, a certified lifeguard must also be on the dock/shore during the swim test.
- Aquatic Instructor Certificates for Waterfronts:
 - Lifesaving Society - Instructor Certificate
 - YMCA - Instructor Certificate
- Verified copies of certification must be available in the swimming area.

Lifeguard Qualifications for the Swim Test for Watercraft

- A lifeguard must be 18 years of age or older and possess a current (the date on the certificate must not be older than two years) lifeguard certificate issued by one of the following organizations:
 - Lifesaving Society – National Lifeguard – Pool/Waterfront
 - Equivalent certificate approved by Minister of Health and Long Term Care
- A student may not act as a lifeguard if they are participating in the activity.
- Lifeguard certification is the only acceptable standard in a recreational camp waterfront scenario.
- Verified copies of certification must be available in the swimming area.

Supervision Ratios for the Swim Test for Watercraft

- There must be a minimum of 2 certified aquatic instructors or lifeguards at the waterfront or in the water.
- Supervision ratio is 2 certified aquatic instructors or lifeguards per 1 to 25 students.
- For every additional 25 students, an additional certified aquatic instructor or lifeguard is required.

Definitions

- **Class I:**
 - Easy. Fast moving water with riffles and small waves. There are few obstructions and all are obvious and easily missed with some training. Risk to swimmers is slight; self-rescue is easy.
- **Class II:**
 - Novice. Straightforward rapids with wide, clear channels which are evident without scouting. Occasional maneuvering may be required, but rocks and medium sized waves are easily missed by trained paddlers. Swimmers are seldom at risk of injury and group assistance, while helpful, is seldom needed.
- **In-charge Person:**

- Some activities refer to an “In-Charge” person. While the teacher is in-charge and responsible for the overall safety and well-being of students under their care, sometimes there are other personnel who must be identified as “In-Charge” related to specific situations (for example, a pool lifeguard). In activities where an “In-Charge” person is designated, that person, in consultation with the teacher, must make final decisions regarding safety of the students

- **Instructional Time:**

- Instructional time is defined as time during which there are organized activities or instructions. Examples of instructional time are lessons, events, practice, and games.

- **Instructor:**

- An individual who provides instruction on skills and possesses the required certifications. This role could be fulfilled by a teacher, parent/guardian/volunteer or an employee of an outside provider.

- **Lifeguard, Assistant Lifeguard and Aquatic Instructor:**

- Refer to the Qualification section.

- **Outside Activity Provider:**

- An outside facility contracted by the school/board to provide activity services.

- **Parent/guardian/volunteer:**

- An adult who has been approved by the principal and has been instructed on responsibilities (for example, monitoring [supervision]).

- **Personal Flotation Device (PFD):**

- According to [Canadian Red Cross](#), “A Canadian approved PFD is designed to keep you afloat in the water. PFDs were designed for use in recreational boating and are generally smaller, less bulky and more comfortable than lifejackets. They have less flotation than lifejackets, and have limited turning capacity, but are available in a variety of styles and colours.”

- **Supervision:**

- The vigilant overseeing of an activity for regulation or direction. Activities, facilities, and equipment have inherent risks, but the more effectively they are supervised, the safer they become.
- The Ontario Physical Activity Safety Standards in Education designate three categories of supervision, Constant visual supervision, On-site supervision, and In-the-area supervision. The categories take into consideration the risk level of the activity, the participants' skill level and the participants' maturity. The three levels of supervision described are not hierarchical but represent the type of supervision that an activity requires and the type of supervision that is inherently possible.

- **Supervisor:**

- A supervisor is a teacher, parent/guardian/volunteer, or trip guide. This term is used only in relation to supervision ratios.

- **Teacher:**

- A person with a current certification from the Ontario College of Teachers, under contract by the school/board. This person is legally responsible for the students.

- **Trip Guide:**

- An individual who has the required certifications and/or knowledge/skills of the route and activity. This role could be fulfilled by a teacher, a parent/guardian/volunteer or an employee of an outside provider, and must be approved by the school/board.

- **Types of Supervision:**

- **Constant Visual Supervision:**

- Constant visual supervision means that the teacher is physically present, watching the activity in question. Only one activity requiring "Constant visual" supervision may take place while other activities are going on.

- Curricular example: During a track and field session, some students are involved in high jump, some are practising relay passing on the track while a third group is distance running around the school. For high jump, the teacher is at the high jump area and is observing the activity.
- Intramural example: During a school outdoor special events day, some students are involved in parachute games, some in relay games, and others in a team scavenger hunt around the school. For parachute, the intramural supervisor is at the event and is observing activity.

○ **In-the-area Supervision:**

- In-the-area supervision means that the teacher could be in the gymnasium while another activity is taking place in an area adjacent to the gymnasium. In-the-area supervision requires the teacher to be readily accessible.
- In-the-area supervision occurs:
 - in activities in which students may be out of sight for periods of time and the location of the teacher is not nearby (for example, alpine skiing, cross-country running). At least one of the following criteria must be in place:
 - The teacher is circulating
 - The location of teacher has been communicated to students and volunteers
 - in single activities and those that may be combined (for example, other in- the- area activities such as badminton, table tennis, handball – wall) with the following criteria in place:
 - The teacher must be circulating between the activities and readily accessible
 - The teacher informs students of the location of the activities
- Curricular example: During a track and field session, some students are involved in high jump, some are practising relay passing on the track while a third group is distance running around the school. For distance running, the students are running around the school and at

times may be out of sight.

- Intramural example: During a school outdoor special events day, some students are involved in parachute games, some in relay games, and others in a team scavenger hunt around the school. For a scavenger hunt, the students are running around the school grounds and at times may be out of sight.

- **On-site Supervision:**

- On-site supervision entails teacher presence but not necessarily constantly viewing one specific activity. Momentary presence in adjoining rooms (for example, equipment room) to the gym is considered part of “on-site supervision”.
- Curricular example: During a track and field session, some students are involved in high jump, some are practising relay passing on the track while a third group is distance running around the school. For a relay, the students are practising on the track and can be seen by the teacher who is with the high jumpers.
- Intramural example: During a school outdoor special events day, some students are involved in parachute games, some in relay games, and others in a team scavenger hunt around the school. For relay games, the students are participating on the playground and can be seen by the intramural supervisor.

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