



Lane Cove River Kayakers On-Water Code of Conduct

At Lane Cove River Kayakers, we pride ourselves on fostering a culture of respect, inclusivity, and camaraderie among all members. Our club is more than just a place to paddle; it's a community where everyone, regardless of skill level or competitive nature, should feel valued and supported. We encourage every member to embrace these principles:

- **Mutual Respect:** Treat fellow paddlers and the broader river community with respect at all times. Recognise each person's right to enjoy kayaking and the natural environment.
- **Inclusivity:** We strive to be an inclusive club where everyone feels welcome. We celebrate diversity in our membership and seek to accommodate all members in our activities.
- **Encouragement and Support:** Offer encouragement and support to your fellow paddlers. Applaud their successes, offer constructive advice when asked, and provide assistance when needed.
- **Integrity:** Conduct yourself with integrity both on and off the water. Be honest in your dealings and take responsibility for your actions.

By embodying these values, we not only enhance our own experiences but also contribute positively to the broader community. By following these guidelines, all members of Lane Cove River Kayakers will contribute to a safe and enjoyable environment for everyone.

On Water Code of Conduct

1. Right of Way and Overtaking

- **Right of Way:**
 - The paddler ahead always has right of way.
- **Overtaking with special consideration to tagged paddler with orange flag**
 - Overtaking should be done to the left where possible and safe.
 - Boats should pass paddlers tagged with an orange flag with at least two metres distance
 - ✓ "Two boats Two Metres". Paddles should not be able to clash.
 - The overtaking paddler must verbally indicate their intention when approaching a tagged paddler with an orange flag by calling out e.g. 'on your left/right'.
 - The paddler being passed must hold their course as the overtaking paddlers pass.
- **Yielding:**
 - Veer right to avoid an oncoming kayak.



2. Group Paddling with special consideration to tagged paddlers with orange flag

- **Formation:** Paddlers often like to maintain a wash ride formation when passing.
 - **Allow plenty of space** when paddling in formation, considering the dimension and pace of the pack and the wash left to deal with.
 - **Wash ride packs must disperse** if the group cannot hold appropriate distance to a tagged paddler with an orange flag.

3. Safety

- **Life Jackets:** Wearing a life jacket compliant with NSW Maritime laws is mandatory.
- **Skill Limits:** Paddle within your abilities. Avoid water conditions or routes that exceed your skill level. If you cannot complete the 12km course within 80 minutes, you must select a shorter distance.
- **Equipment Check:** Regularly inspect your boat and gear for any potential issues before setting out.
- **Kayak lights:** In dark time trials, affix a low lumen white light to the bow (front) and a low lumen red light at the very end of the stern (rear). Lights are so you can be seen, not so you can see. ([see webpage for instructions](#))

4. Respect for All Users

- **Consideration:** The river is a shared resource. Be considerate of other recreational paddlers, rowers, and wildlife.

5. Handling Emergencies

- **Know Emergency Procedures:** Familiarise yourself with [the club's emergency protocols](#). Carrying a whistle and waterproof communication device is recommended particularly in winter.
- **Assistance:**
 - Help fellow paddlers in need, ensuring you do not compromise your own safety. Always stop and assist capsized paddlers if you can do so safely.
 - In the dark: If a paddler is capsized and you are ahead of the capsized paddler, do not reverse if there are other paddlers behind you. The upcoming paddlers must stop and assist the capsized paddler.

6. Feedback and Continual Improvement

- **Receptiveness:** Be open to feedback regarding your on-water behaviour.
- **Participation:** Engage with committee members to discuss any safety or behaviour concerns identified on the water.