

CCC Policy on Leading Trips

It is club policy that, wherever possible, club trips should be lead by a person holding at least a BCU 4 Star relevant to the type of paddling being undertaken. BCU policy on this is laid out in their terms of reference document:

<http://www.canoe-england.org.uk/media/pdf/BCU%20TERMS%20OF%20REFERENCE%20V3-5.pdf>

It is best to view the document to understand it. This policy is based on the principles outlined in that document. The ratio of paddlers to leaders is always difficult to assess as it is dependent on the competence of the group and the leader. The following ratios should not be exceeded on club trips:

1 leader to 10 paddlers (12 if paddling open boats tandem)

In moderate white water or advanced conditions it will be necessary to reduce this ratio and the leader is expected to make this clear, in advance, or in light of conditions encountered on the day. There will never be less than 3 paddlers on a club organised trip.

If anyone without the necessary formal qualifications is planning to run a club trip then the equivalent experience is needed:

1. They should expect to be able to paddle the water concerned without experiencing any significant difficulty and normally be able to recover themselves without assistance.
2. They should have a current first aid qualification or have someone else on the trip who has this.
3. They should be at least at the standard of the CST or FSRT.
4. They should be reasonably familiar with the planned trip location or have a good knowledge of the expected hazards.
5. They must be prepared to say "We are not doing this" if they are in any way unsure of the conditions when they get to the water or a particular part of their planned trip.

Examples of acceptable Leader:

In addition to the notes below, the leader would have the ability to judge a paddlers competence on the water and explain to a paddler what they could or could not do under their leadership.

A trip down the rapids at Symonds Yat.

This would require a confident paddler, who would be unlikely to capsize in this type of water and in the event that they did capsize, they would expect to roll. This level of individual would be considered suitable to take other paddlers on the rapids in medium to low water. If the plan is to simply paddle straight through and not "play" on the rapid then the ability to roll would not be deemed essential.

A trip up the Dart Estuary e.g. Dartmouth to Totnes with the tide

This would require a confident paddler, who would be unlikely to capsize in the expected conditions. It is essential that they have a knowledge of alternative egress points in the event of experiencing difficulty with a group member or the conditions.