

## **Scouting rules with regard to water activities.**

### **The Barrwood reservoir has been classed as C under POR rule 9.44.b**

All users of the reservoir must take cognisance of POR rule

#### **9.42. Water Activities – General**

- a. Members taking part in any water activity (those which take place on or in the water) must be able to demonstrate to a suitable person their ability to swim 50 metres in clothing and equipment appropriate to the activity (where a buoyancy aid or life jacket is worn for the activity this may be used for the demonstration) and keep afloat for five minutes. Anyone unable to meet these requirements is classified as a non-swimmer and must follow Rule 9.42(b).
- b. A non-swimmer may take part in water activities, at the discretion of the person in charge, only if certain precautions are taken;
  - any non-swimmer must wear a lifejacket or buoyancy aid of approved design and be in the charge of an adult (this does not apply for swimming, paddling or activities near water).
  - there must be no more than one non-swimmer in any craft, unless a one-to-one ratio is maintained (one competent adult to one non-swimmer).
  - in the case of single-handed craft this should only be on C or B1 Waters (see Rule 9.44 (b)) with supervision on a one-to-one basis (one competent adult to one non-swimmer).
  - Where non-swimmers are taking part in swimming activities (as defined in Rule 9.50) they must be under the direct supervision of an adult in the water. This must not exceed two nonswimmers to one adult.

#### **9.45. Activities on Class C Waters**

All water activities on Class C waters (excluding swimming – see Rules 9.48-9.52, SCUBA and motorised activities) **must be approved by the relevant Commissioner and the standards contained in the factsheet [FS120623 Class C Waters](#)** followed.

#### **9.43. Life Jackets and Buoyancy Aids**

- a. All members taking part in water activities (excluding scuba diving, snorkelling, surfing, swimming and paddling (as defined in rule 9.49)) must wear an EC approved buoyancy aid or lifejacket appropriate to the activity, weather conditions, size of the participant. This does not apply when below decks. Further guidance can be found in [FS120603 Water Safety \(incorporating Lifejackets and Buoyancy Aids\)](#).

- b. The person in charge of any water activity must ensure that the lifejackets and buoyancy aids being used are fit for purpose and suitable for the activity on each occasion that it is used.**

Excerpt from [FS120623 Class C Waters](#)

## **Activities on Class C Waters**

All water activities taking place in or on Class C waters must be operated under these guidelines, with the exception of swimming, SCUBA and motorised water activities (as defined in [POR Rule 9.45](#)).

This allows for a variety of activities on waters classified as Class C - kayak practice in swimming pools, traditional rafting or canoeing at the local campsite - without the requirement for the leader of the activity to hold an activity permit. **It is required that those in charge of the activity have the appropriate skills and knowledge of the activity taking place and a knowledge of and ability to conduct appropriate risk assessments.**

**The District Commissioner is responsible for approving all activities.** This will usually be by means of an informal system agreed between the District Commissioner and each Group Scout Leader. Activities organised at a County, Region or Country level will need the approval of the County, Region or Chief Commissioner, as appropriate. There are additional requirements for those activities which fall within the scope of the Association's adventurous activity permit scheme see [POR Rule 9.7](#)).

### **When delivering activities on or in Class C waters it is required that:**

- Participants have received (basic) instruction and appropriate briefing.
- Suitable equipment is used.
- The activity is appropriate to the ages of the participants.
- All participants have been briefed.
- **There is appropriate supervision by a person who has sufficient skill/knowledge of the water activity.**