

San Diego Canoe and Kayak Team - Policies and Procedures

POLICY: Wet Weather Policy EFFECTIVE DATE: DRAFT 2/25/20

I. Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to ensure the safety of members and establish consistency regarding water contact following rain or other inclement weather. According to the California Department of Environmental Health (“DEH”), run-off from urban areas into bodies of water can contain large amounts of bacteria from animal waste, soil and decomposing vegetation. This is especially true near storm drains, creeks, rivers and lagoon outlets. Avoiding contact with the water for a period of time is advised by the DEH.

II. Water Contact Following Rain

The DEH recommends that swimmers and surfers avoid water contact for 72 hours following a rainfall equal to or greater than 0.20 inch. Because paddlers are in watercraft and not typically swimming in the water, paddlers should avoid entering the oceans and bays for 48 hours following a rainfall equal to or greater than 0.20 inch in San Diego County (or within such other coastal county where the venue is located.) If a paddler is likely to come into direct contact with the water due to skill level or the nature of the watercraft, the paddler should then follow the swimmer and surfer advisory of 72 hours.

III. General Rain Advisories

When there has been a rainfall equal to or greater than 0.20 inch in San Diego County, a General Advisory will be posted at www.sdbeachinfo.com. Signage is not posted for General Advisories. Members are encouraged to consult the website when in doubt.

IV. Land Workouts

On days within the 48-hour period following rain, scheduled practices will still be held unless otherwise notified. Practice will consist of a land workout. For paddlers for whom water contact is likely, the coach will extend land workouts for another 24 hours.

V. Wound protection

Given the fluctuating water quality in bays and oceans, it is always recommended that any open cuts, scrapes or wounds be protected with waterproof dressing before entering the water, or if necessary, avoid water contact until healed. Please consult a coach with any questions.

VI. Other Advisories

Members are also advised to heed the other types of advisories signposted by the DEH. In the event of any of these advisories being in effect at our venue or venues, SDCKT will notify members of any alterations to the schedule.

Bacterial Exceedance Advisories:

Bacterial Exceedance Advisories are issued when monitoring (laboratory analysis) reveals ocean or bay water quality does not meet State health standards due to high bacterial levels. DEH advises beach users to avoid water contact at beaches posted with these white advisory signs.

Precautionary Advisories:

Precautionary advisories are issued when dredging or other excavation occurs in the vicinity of coastal areas, especially coastal outlets such as lagoons and rivers, which can potentially lead to elevated bacterial levels. DEH advises beach users to avoid water contact at beaches posted with white advisory signs.

Outfall Warning Signs:

Outfall warning signs are posted adjacent to storm drains, rivers, creeks, lagoons and other sources of runoff leading to the ocean. Beach users are advised to avoid contact with runoff and recreational waters within at least 75 feet from where runoff enters ocean and bay waters.