**Upper Hamble Canoe Club (UHCC) Boat Safety Checklist**

# This checklist is based on the club boat checklist and should be used by anyone paddling their own boat on any kind of trip.

# DO NOT USE A FAULTY BOAT\*\*

* Check the bung screws in and out, and is attached to the boat (i.e. even when unscrewed). Spare bungs are available online from any reputable kayak dealer.

* Check all external screws / bolts are tight.
* Check handles and broach/security loops are solid and firmly attached.
* Check seat adjusters work. Straps and buckles should adjust easily.
* Check airbags and valves: don’t fully inflate the airbags until getting on the water as heat causes the air to expand and may rupture the bag. Do not pull airbags by the valve or pipe!
* Check footplate adjustments and wingnuts and tighten through bolts.
* Have your name and phone number written in permanent marker inside the boat in case of accident, unless you are borrowing a club boat, in which case it will be marked with the club name on the outside.
* Check ratchets if fitted.
* Check skeg function if fitted.

**WHITEWATER-SPECIFIC CHECKS**

* Always use a full footplate (not footpegs\*) on white water. Ensure the footplate has no gaps around it when adjusted for you. If there is a gap, ensure foam pad is fitted or volume adjusters set correctly so there is no entrapment hazard.

\* boats with foot pegs are not suitable for whitewater (WW)
\*\*boats that have splits or cracks that have been plastic welded should not be used on WW.

* Check that there is some form of airbag / buoyancy in the bow behind the footplate. (a sealed bottle, wine bag or ball pit balls are options for this). This makes rescuing the boat a lot easier if you take a swim.
* Check foam pillars are present and secure.
* Be sure to secure anything you are carrying in the boat so that it does not float off downstream in the event of a capsize.