

Small Boats

This is a guide for all Single Waka paddlers- if you need to know more just ask

Minimum requirements:

- Techniques for paddling forward, turning, reversing, and stopping the waka
- An ability to use bracing strokes in choppy/rough seas
- Capability to re-enter the waka after huli or during a race
- Fitness and competence to swim 50m unaided or wearing a PFD
- Demonstrates understanding of this guide
- Be a strong paddler - you must be reasonably (3 months) experienced and strong
- Be able to retrieve and manage the waka
- If you are being taught, respectfully listen to your instructors directions (happy face)

All paddlers must be signed off, as singles or doubles paddlers as noted above, and have practiced capsizing and getting into the waka prior to taking a TWP single or double out on their own.

Topics you must know

1. Weather
2. Equipment Required
3. Retrieving the waka
4. Pre Paddle Check
5. Paddling -launching, underway, retrieving and
6. Emergencies
7. Hazards

1 Weather

Wind Guidelines for TWP small waka (OC1, V1 and OC2):

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Tip 1. Learn to read the weather! this will keep you safe in the short term and can pick the awesome days as you improve

If you are new/ learning any wind approaching **10 -15 knots (18 – 25 km/h)** should be approached with caution. Please check the suggested routes for various wind directions and strengths. A rule of thumb is to go into the wind first and then downwind. Never start downwind.

Current weather :

<https://www.lpc.co.nz/lpc/weather-forecast/>

Forecast:

<https://www.windy.com/-43.600/172.720?-43.756,172.897,10>

<https://www.metservice.com/towns-cities/regions/christchurch/locations/eastern-suburbs>

Do not go out if:

- Easterly or North Easterly greater than 25 knots (46 km/h)
- Southerly or South Westerly greater than 15 knots (28 km/h)
- Northerly or Nor Westerly gusting greater than 20 knots (37 km/h)

NOTE: This upper limit is for experienced paddlers only!

2. Equipment required:

- Life Jacket
- Bailer (if not self-bailing)
- Spare Paddle
- Leg Leash (for singles only) Be cautious of the type of leg leash you use. It is advised to practise a huli using a leg leash in sheltered calm water prior to become confident in its use.
- Communication device (phone in a dry bag,experts: Radio (Ch 16 for emergency), EPIRB)
- Waka (Don't forget this)

3. Retrieving the waka

1. Book the waka : <https://www.tewakapounamu.com/book-waka>
2. Its a good idea to tell someone you are going out, where you are going and should return by. What to do if you don't come back by a certain time (call the coastguard).
3. We will show you where the key to the container is. Remove it from the container or racking

TIP. Treat the waka as if it is made of glass at all times - the most likely time for damage is off the water.

Tip Protect the fin! Place the waka gently on the grass or pad only - not on the concrete or stones- Fin last !

4. Equipment checks:

- Condition of the rigging and strapping
- Inspected hull for holes and damage (additionally look for signs of stress fractures)
- Bungs are in and tightened
- The rudder is working
- The ama, bulkheads and hulls are empty of water

5. Paddling -launching, underway, retrieving and emergencies

1. Protect the fin.
2. Walk into at least mid thigh- put the waka in parallel to the shore - paddle a few strokes- take a **gentle** turn out into the water - you don't want to hit the fin on the ramp
3. Secure your leg rope
4. Paddle away

5. If you are going hit something : Stop the waka by planting the blade into the water - or turn it away from it.
6. You will be taught bracing , balance , retrieving from a huli- DON'T stand on or use the ama to recover from a huli
7. Huli-ing- yes, your leg leash will get in the way - yes, we know that - you need to deal with it! Get back on the waka and then take it off and re-attach it.
8. Stay close to shore where you can swim the waka back if you get stuck until you are confident and can easily rescue yourself.
9. When you have finished - approach the boat ramp and protect the nose of the waka -stop at least 3 metres before and get off at least a meter or 2 before the shore.
10. Protect the fin and waka at retrieval
11. Wash the waka down thoroughly
12. Only put the waka on the grass, pad by the wash down point or in the racks - be gentle and take your time.

In an emergency e.g you can't get back on the waka, you are being pushed out to sea or it breaks (this is very rare)

1. Don't panic
2. If you have fallen off can't get back on the waka- swim it to shore if possible
3. If you don't think thats possible call someone at this point (phone, signal to another vessel or person on shore, radio coastguard)
4. In most occasions stay with the waka its big, can be easily seen, and can be used to assist flotation.
5. If you have to part with the waka (e.g. you can swim to shore but the waka is taking you out to sea), do that - we'd rather get you back than the waka. Only swim if you know you can make it back to shore

If you damage the waka - **notify the club**- we need to know about it asap so it doesn't compromise the safety of others. If you can, koha the fixer of the waka dinner, beer or wine. Even the most experienced damage waka occasionally

Hazards

For the new single paddlers that rock to the west of naval point has no doubt been claiming rudders since they have been invented . Don't paddle where the red bits on the map are. Do get out there and enjoy the singles if you have been qualified. Please for letting us know if there is potentially damage-it happens to the best of them .

