

# Ocean River Paddling Club

## Safety/Weather Policies

### Paddler Responsibility

Paddlers are expected to be aware of potential weather changes that can result in rough or dangerous conditions. Weather Forecasts are important to determine upcoming conditions. Make sure that you look at multiple forecasts to make a truly informed decision. There are many websites where current and predicted weather conditions can be found. The top two marked with an asterisk are crucial to making a decision. The others are also excellent resources.

\* [Environment Canada \(Victoria Harbour\)](#) - Wind, temperature, special weather alerts

\* [SailFlow \(Victoria Harbour\)](#) - Wind, temperature  
[Big Wave Dave](#), [Windy.com](#), [SMUS Weather Charts](#)

There are three major weather conditions to look at (Environment Canada is most useful here):

#### Wind Speed, Temperature (with and without wind chill) and Special Weather Alerts

#### ORPC Policy states that:

1. Paddling is **restricted** to between Johnson Street and Tillicum Bridges if sustained winds reach 35km/h (18.8knots);
2. Docks **closed** if sustained winds exceed 40km/h (21.5knots); local conditions may require exceptions at the discretion of the coach on site.
3. Docks are **closed** or paddling is restricted If sustained winds are less than 35km/h but gusts exceed 50 km/h at the discretion of the coach on site.
4. Docks **closed** if there is ice on the waterway
5. Docks **closed** if the air temperature is 1°C or lower (or wind chill is less than -1°C)
6. Docks **closed** if Environment Canada has issued a wind and/or weather warning

### Small Boat Safety Policies

- ❑ Small boat users will adhere to the ORPC weather policy as posted.
- ❑ It is recommended that small boat users always go out with a buddy during the winter months or when paddling beyond the Harbour.
- ❑ It is recommended that small boat users take a phone or means of communication with them.
- ❑ Small boat users **MUST STAY** between Johnson St and Tillicum Bridges after dusk.
- ❑ All small boat users **MUST** have a PFD aboard their vessel.
- ❑ All small boat users **MUST** wear a PFD on their body during the winter months
- ❑ All small boat users **MUST** have lights fore and aft on their canoes after dusk.

#### Wind chill calculations and dock status

	Closed	Restricted	Open		
Air Temp °C	0	2	4	6	8
5 (km/h)	-1.59	0.68	2.95	5.22	7.49
10	-3.31	-0.93	1.46	3.85	6.24
15	-4.42	-1.95	0.52	2.98	5.45
20	-5.24	-2.72	-0.19	2.33	4.85
25	-5.91	-3.34	-0.77	1.8	4.37
30	-6.47	-3.86	-1.25	1.36	3.97
35	-6.96	-4.32	-1.67	0.97	3.61
40	-7.4	-4.72	-2.05	0.63	3.3
45	-7.79	-5.09	-2.38	0.32	3.02
50	-8.14	-5.42	-2.69	0.04	2.76
55	-8.47	-5.72	-2.97	-0.2 2	2.53