Outdoor UW Paddlecraft Rentals Safety Rules and Regulations

1. Anyone using paddlecraft must wear a life jacket at all times, regardless of swimming ability.
2. No more than 2 adults are permitted in tandem kayak or canoe at any time. No more than 1 person are permitted on Standup Paddleboard or solo kayak at any time.
3. All paddlecraft renters should abide by the following suggestions to ensure the safest possible boating.
   - Keep your weight low - do not stand up in kayaks or canoes.
   - Once situated in the canoe/kayak, avoid changing positions.
   - Begin by heading into the wind; return with the wind.
   - When there is an off-shore wind, stay close to shore.
   - If your canoe/kayak tips over, stay calm and stay with the boat until help arrives.
   - Keep kayak hatches closed while on the water. Kayaks will sink if hatches are open and filled with water. Canoes will sink if filled with water.
   - Be aware that the UW Lifesaving Station cannot see boats near shore or on the far side of Picnic point. If you cannot see UW Lifesaving, they cannot see you.
   - Ask staff for paddling instructions and advice if you don’t understand something.
4. All rental paddlecraft must remain on Lake Mendota.
5. All paddlecraft must be returned 15 minutes prior to sunset. Staff will tell you the exact time you must be back if paddling at the end of the day.
6. No watercraft will be rented when the water temperature is below 60°F.
7. Swimming from paddlecrafts is highly discouraged! Renters are responsible for their own safety and the for the safety/loss of the equipment.
8. Outdoor UW reserves the right to refuse rentals at staff discretion (safety reasons, intoxication, flag rules, etc.)
9. Flags flown on our lakefront yardarm indicate the following:
   - Green: Unrestricted boating. Light weather.
   - Yellow: Restricted boating. Stay within ‘yellow line’ between Picnic Point to the northwest and Tenney Park Locks to the northeast.
   - Blue: Restricted boating. Heavy weather. No rentals.
   - Red: Lake is closed due to sunset or approaching storm. Return to shore immediately.
10. Warning Light/Flag Locations:
    - Flag pole adjacent to Boathouse
    - Sail tower adjacent to Helen C. White Library
    - End of Picnic Point (red light only)
    - UW Lifesaving Station
    - Tenney Park Locks
11. Minors (under age 18) must be accompanied by a parent/guardian unless part of a pre-approved youth group or camp. Minors under age 14 must be in the same paddlecraft with their parent/guardian.
12. Outdoor UW Rentals will assess additional fees to renters who negligently damage equipment or who return to the boathouse after stated rental end time/after sunset.
13. All renters are charged for one hour minimum and in hour increments thereafter.
14. Dogs or animals are not permitted on or in watercrafts.
Outdoor UW Off-Site Rentals Safety Rules and Regulations

1. All camping and snowshoe renters should abide by the following suggestions to ensure the safest experience possible:
   - Setup tent in sheltered area away from high winds and water pooling
   - Assemble poles and use zippers slowly to avoid tearing
   - Always use footprint and rainfly that come with the tent
   - Poles should not be used to fully support weight, but rather to stabilize
   - Use caution with sleeping pads as they are light and fragile
   - Avoid walking on rock or concrete with snowshoes
   - Trekking poles are a balance stabilizer and should not be used to support full body weight. Straps for poles should always be worn around wrist
   - Always check weather reports and surface conditions before using equipment in outdoors to ensure safety of equipment and individual
   - Traveling across frozen bodies of water is inherently risky and is at the risk of the renter – proceed with caution
   - Read manufacturer’s recommendations for use of each item
   - Keep all camping equipment a safe distance away from flames – sparks from fire can melt or ignite equipment causing damage

2. All camping equipment and snowshoes must be returned by 2:00 PM CST on the following day

3. Minors (under age 18) must be accompanied by a parent/guardian unless part of a pre-approved youth group or camp.

4. Outdoor UW will assess additional fees to renters who negligently damage equipment or who return to the service desk after stated rental end time.

5. All renters are charged for one day, additional day, and weekend rates. Longer durations require working with Outdoor UW to determine cost.

6. Dogs or animals are not permitted in the tents

7. Outdoor UW reserves the right to refuse rentals at staff discretion (safety reasons, intoxication, etc.)

8. Outdoor UW reserves the right to deny rental service to individuals who have failed to follow these rules