Outdoor UW Paddle Craft Rentals Safety Rules and Regulations

1. Anyone renting a paddle craft must wear a life jacket at all times, regardless of swimming ability.
2. No more than 2 people permitted in tandem kayak or canoe at any time. No more than 1 person permitted on standup paddleboard (SUP) or solo kayak at any time.
3. Renters should abide by the following guidelines 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.
4. All paddle craft must remain on Lake Mendota.
5. All paddle craft 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 paddle craft will be rented when the water temperature is below 60°F.
7. All renters are charged for one-hour minimum and one-hour increments thereafter.
8. No swimming is allowed from any paddle craft.
9. Dogs or animals are not permitted on or in watercrafts.
10. 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 paddle craft with their parent/guardian.
11. Outdoor UW will assess additional fees to renters who negligently damage equipment or who return to the boathouse after stated rental end time/after sunset.
12. Outdoor UW reserves the right to refuse rentals at staff discretion (safety reasons, intoxication, etc.).
13. Outdoor UW reserves the right to deny rental service to individuals who have failed to follow these rules or who do not follow safety (flag) restrictions below.

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.

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