

SSRKC GRADING GUIDELINES

The table below sets out the grading guidelines for paddling activities undertaken by the club. It lists varied weather and paddling conditions that members may encounter during paddling events. The pre-requisites listed relate to skills and equipment and are intended as a guide to assist individual club members self assess their ability and their equipment's suitability before embarking on a paddling event.

Grade	Description	Weather /Water & Sea Conditions	Pre - Requisites
0.5	Paddling on flat, protected inland waters such as a basic skills instruction session or a club social paddle where there is a safe launching/ landing points.	Relatively smooth waters – up to gentle ripple/crests.	Open to all members and visitors. No previous skills or experience required. Vessel should be sea worthy and able to float if capsized. Approved Personal Flotation Device (PFD) to be worn.
1	Paddling in rivers, estuaries, dams and sheltered inland water. Distance covered up to 20km per day, with a cruising speed of up to 4km/hour. Safe launching/ landing points.	Potential for large wavelets, crests start to break, some white caps. Minor tide influence. Potential for winds to 10 knots.	Individuals must have completed basic skills assessment. Individuals must self assess their ability, and equipment, to participate at this level. Pre-requisites above apply for vessel. It should be well maintained with bulkheads or additional floatation to generate buoyancy and water tight hatches.

1.5	Paddling in sheltered inshore waters such as Pumicestone Passage, exposed lakes (Lake Catharaba), Broadwater, Southport. Distance covered up to 20km per day with a cruising speed of 4-5km/hour .	Swells up to 0.5m, with potential white caps, small surf. Potential for winds to 15 knots.	Pre-requisites above for individual skills. Pre-requisites above apply for vessel plus a spray skirt.
2	Paddling in protected ocean waters e.g. Whitsunday Islands, Morten Bay, and Southern areas of Bribie Is. Distances covered up to 25km per day with a sustained cruising speeds of 5-6km/hr. Distances can be increased if paddling is on a flowing river	Sea swells to 1m & surf to 0.5m with potential white caps and spray. Occasional challenging conditions. Potential winds to 20 knots.	Pre-requisites above apply for individual skills. Additional individual skills of competency in self rescue, assisted rescues, bracing, towing, entry & exit through small surf, beach launches and returns. Familiarity of tides, currents, weather patterns and navigation. Pre-requisites above apply for vessel. Vessel should be a well maintained Sea Kayak with at least two bulk heads, fitted deck lines, tow points, tow lines, pump, spray skirt, paddle leash.
2.5	Paddling in open ocean waters that are exposed to all the elements (wind, currents, waves etc). Advanced entry through waves and kayak surfing (if the need arises). Distance covered up to 30 km per day, maintaining a cruising speed of 5.5km/hour.	Swells up to 2m and surf to 1m. Challenging conditions due to waves, swell and wind. Potential for winds to 25 knots.	Prerequisites as above plus ability to apply several types of rescue techniques reliably and quickly, in more challenging conditions and cope with long open crossings or stretches where landings may not be possible. Tested skills in rough conditions. An advantage to be able to perform an Eskimo roll. Kayak and equipment pre-requisites as above.