



CAPSIZE PROCEDURES

PERSONAL ACTION

Boats are fibreglass and won't sink.

They float just below the surface and can be used as a life preserver to support panicking or injured paddlers (using bailers can lessen the load and help raise the boats)

1. Let your body go with the boats roll. If you are on the high side try to throw yourself clear of your partner, and let your paddle go. If you come up under the boat rise until you can catch a breath in the air pocket, then duck down and come up beside the boat.
2. As soon as you surface, check your buddy is present i.e.: {the person sitting next to you} the closest pair to the drummer and sweep form a trio.
3. STAY WITH THE BOAT- DO NOT SWIM TO SHORE
4. Unless instructed to by the Rescue Crew DO NOT SWIM FOR YOUR PADDLES, the Rescue Crew will collect these. Keep calm and quiet.
5. Avoid scrambling at the sides of boat as this will keep it spinning. Spread evenly around the sides of the boat and hold on to the [gunwale] top edge. Don't swim over the top as this may cause it to roll. If the boat is upside down, gently roll it to an upright position.

CREW ACTION

6. Sweep takes control (if not in a position to do so the Crew Captain takes command). Call for silence, and "number off" starting with caller then number 1 to number 20.
7. Buddies advise the sweep of injured/distressed/poor swimmer or missing paddler by raising the paddle or hand. Place any distressed paddler in the middle of the boat (with support if necessary)
8. If a person is missing the sweep directs a confident swimmer to search while 2 paddlers watch the searcher.
9. Move around the rear to spread along the sides of the boat, staying 4-5th seat back. Avoid pressing down on the gunwales as this drives the boat further into the water, huddle together for warmth.

ARRIVAL OF THE RESCUE CRAFT

10. The Rescue Craft will approach the Dragon Boat from the leeward side (away from the wind) and tie up to the Dragon Boat without hitting the paddlers. Keep well clear as this can be difficult in rough conditions.
11. Crew must keep quiet so the sweep and Rescue Crew can communicate clearly.
12. The Rescue Crew will identify the sweep and ask for a status report; number in the boat, any missing, distressed, injured people. Paddlers in distress will be taken first.
13. Missing Paddler- the Rescue Crew will take over the search with 2 paddlers keeping watch, the Rescue Boat Driver or the kayaks will start directing/ferrying the rest of crew to shore.