

I confirm that I am authorised to provide consent *in loco parentis* and/or on behalf of the above-named commissioning organisation for the individuals named on this Group Consent Form to:

- attend The Pirate Castle and participate in paddlesport / Pirate Activity Days and / or canal boating activities using the equipment and facilities provided by The Pirate Castle for such activities.

I also confirm / agree that:

- I have immediate access to parental / legal guardian consents and medical information for each named participant;
- paddlesport and other such outdoor education activities carried out at The Pirate Castle are assumed risk sports,
- the participants, parents/guardians and the above-named organisation are fully aware of the potential risks inherent in such activities and have read/understood the advice given on water quality (see below);
- The Pirate Castle has no responsibility for the security or safety of participants', group leaders' and/or support workers' personal property whilst on the premises and/or engaging in activities;
- All participants will follow the instructions/decisions made by The Pirate Castle staff, instructors and/or support volunteers at all times;
- all individuals within the group are expected to act responsibly at all times, so as to not endanger or restrict the safety, learning and/or enjoyment of other participants;
- all relevant medical/support needs information has been indicated on this form and that any required medication will be handed to the Lead Instructor upon arrival for the activity.

By signing below I confirm that all the information supplied is correct and that I am responsible for keeping The Pirate Castle staff updated with any changes.

We will process the personal data you provide to us in accordance with our data privacy policy which is set out at <https://www.thepiratecastle.org/policies-guidelines>.

Please note that the MINIMUM AGE for all paddlesport activities is strictly 8 years.

Signed (On behalf of the above organisation)

Print Name

Date

Further Information

Kit List for paddlesport – please ensure that ALL participants bring the following:

- A Towel
- A complete change of clothes including footwear (warm clothes if it cold!)
- Leggings or jogging bottoms (**not jeans**)
- A neck strap for glasses (if worn)
- Sun cream (in the event of hot weather)
- Hat (sunhat or warm hat depending on the weather)
- Medication (asthmatics should give inhaler to the instructor at the beginning of the session)

Water quality and Weils disease

It is a common misconception that the canals and rivers around London are dirty and full of potential health risks due to water-borne contaminants. In fact, most recreational users (canoeists, kayakers, sailors, canal boat cruisers etc.) will use these stretches of water for many years without experiencing any complaints. However, it is important to understand that waterways/bodies of water can never be sterile environments and that, on rare occasions, people may become unwell due to water-borne contaminants or bacteria.

The Pirate Castle's instructor team will always endeavour to avoid contaminated areas. We will **never** practice any skills, play games or splash about in areas identified as contaminated. Visible contaminants can be easily avoided whilst on the water, however as unseen bacteria and microscopic contaminants may be present it is important that all participants take precautionary measures to reduce the risk of becoming unwell following water exposure.

Outlined below is guidance for minimising the risk of contracting Weil's disease. Following these steps will equally reduce the risk of potentially contracting other water-borne illnesses.

To reduce the risk of becoming ill on water-based activities:

- Cover ALL scratches / cuts / sores / skin affected by eczema with waterproof plasters
- Have a shower, or at the very least wash your face and hands after each activity session and particularly before eating, drinking or touching your face
- Avoid capsizing boats or splashing other participants/waterway users unless specifically advised by the instructor team i.e. during wet games
- Don't put wet ropes or other objects in your mouth
- Don't go in the water without suitable footwear

Weil's disease or Leptospirosis is a VERY RARE illness. It is carried in the urine of infected animals, particularly rats. The main danger is that because it is so rare, doctors may not recognise it immediately. If you suffer from 'flu-like symptoms, jaundice or conjunctivitis after you have been participating in water-based activities, you are advised to go straight to your doctor. Tell them you've participated in water sports and insist that they check for Weil's disease and prescribe a suitable course of treatment.

**ALWAYS SEE YOUR DOCTOR IF YOU FEEL UNWELL AFTER WATER SPORTS
& STATE THAT YOU HAVE BEEN PARTICIPATING IN CANAL-BASED ACTIVITIES**