



Great Lakes Sea Kayaking Association

RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

It is the strategy of The Great Lakes Sea Kayaking Association (GLSKA) to develop, implement and monitor an effective Risk Management and Safety Program. The program includes the identification, assessment and effective control of risks inherent to participating in the sport of sea kayaking. It is the responsibility of each member, volunteer, paid instructor/contractor and participant to practise risk management and safety on a continual basis.

The Risk Management and Safety Program will experience continual changes as new risks are identified and improved risk control techniques are developed. GLSKA will communicate issues and concerns, regarding risk management and safety, to members on an ongoing basis.

A total commitment by GLSKA, its Board of Directors, and the membership, to the philosophy of the Risk Management and Safety Program, is necessary to the avoidance and reduction of risks.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Risk Management and Safety Strategy is to make GLSKA members aware of the inherent risks in the sport of sea kayaking, and then to control or minimize these risks, thus creating and maintaining a safe environment to paddle in.

Secondly, it establishes a complete written strategy for members and volunteers to refer to in their commitment to practising risk management. Having a written strategy also allows for continual monitoring by all members.

Finally risk management and safety strategies, and procedures, have become essential in order to obtain insurance.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Statement of Risk Management is considered, and has always been considered by GLSKA (its Board of Directors and its members) to be a vital objective of the association. To this end the following items have been in effect since GLSKA's inception:

- **Waiver** form (filled out by all members upon membership renewal as well as by any guests)
- **GLSKA Trip Classifications** (distributed to members annually)
- **GLSKA Trip Rules and Guidelines** (distributed to members annually and)
- **GLSKA Trip Organizers Guidelines** (available from the GLSKA web site)
- Canadian Coast Guard Safe Boating Guide safety requirements attached to GLSKA Trip Guidelines.

To further the Risk Management and Safety Strategy, the following steps have been taken:

1. A **Float Plan** form has been approved by the Board of Directors and is available to members (and others) on the GLSKA web-site. GLSKA Trip Organizers should use this form for all major GLSKA Trips. GLSKA encourages individual members to use this form for their own major trips.
2. An **Incident Report** form has been approved by the Board of Directors and is available for GLSKA Trip Organizers on the GLSKA web-site. In the event of a serious incident occurring on a GLSKA trip, the organizer should fill in this report and submit it to the Board of Directors.
3. A GLSKA Director is appointed to take responsibility of risk management and safety monitoring within GLSKA.