

Membership policy

If you're interested in whitewater, you are welcome to join the club! Members who wish to participate on club river trips take responsibility for communicating their level of paddling prowess, aspire to develop their river safety skills and be a good person on and off the river.

Responsibilities and expectations of members:

- **First year beginners:** have, or commit to develop in the first season, basic river safety skills, including understanding and following river signals, swimming in grade 2 water, avoiding entrapment, and receiving throw bags.
- **Safety focus:** attend courses / training / practice that make you a safer paddler such as river rescue, first aid etc so we can look after each other on the water.
- **Attending club trips:** be honest with yourself and others about your paddling ability. Where a trip leader makes a call about who can paddle given the skill mix on the river on the day, abide by their decision.
- **Abide by our Code of conduct:** treat fellow paddlers and the general public with respect and courtesy.
- **Younger paddlers/rafters:** just like first year beginners, younger paddlers and rafters are responsible for developing their river safety skills. Members who are parents/guardians take responsibility for paddlers under the age of 18.

Benefits of membership:

- **Trip list.** Regular events from September to June, on our local Hurunui and further afield.
- **Gear hire.** A wide selection of boats and equipment at reasonable prices. The club also owns rafts which are available for club trips.
- **Instruction.** Two beginner's courses at the start of the season, with a basic and intermediate safety course run annually.
- **Rolling.** A fortnightly rolling at Wharenui Pool, with volunteer instructors generally available if required.
- **Advocacy.** The club is affiliated with Whitewater New Zealand, and submits on relevant environmental issues and maintains positive relationships with landowners to ensure ongoing river access.

Note to beginners:

You are strongly encouraged to attend one of beginner's courses in October / November. You will learn the basic skills and have a group to paddlers to progress with. While experienced members of the club are always willing to help, it is preferred that this development occurs early in the season, to allow more time for personal boating later.

We all have a swim every now and then, however if you go on a trip expecting a swim, please speak to the trip leader **prior** to the weekend, to ensure there is appropriate cover for the trip.

You will not be able to hire club kayaks and paddles unless you are competent on grade two rivers, or have participated on the beginner's course.

Version1.

Approved by the WWCC committee 16/10/2017