

Guest Paddlers, Steerpersons, Drummers and Coaches

1. All paddlers on Lake Sumter and Eastport must possess a valid blue or green Villages Resident ID, including a white Lifestyle Preview Plan ID.
2. Unless permitted by VRD for a special occasion, guests without a valid Villages Resident ID, or a white Villages Lifestyle Preview Plan ID, are permitted on Lake Miona only. All guest paddlers on Lake Miona must have a valid Villages Guest ID.
3. A guest paddler is a person who has been invited by a team member to paddle with a team, or a person who has a valid Resident ID and wants to try paddling to determine their interest in joining the team/Club.
4. Before getting on a boat, all guests must;
 - Sign all waivers, including GMDBC, VRD and USDBF insurance waivers.
 - Be provided with a personal flotation device and given basic safety instruction.
5. Guests may only go on the boats three times in any given calendar year before they must join GMDBC. Individuals must meet the requirements for membership as outlined in the GMDBC Bylaws.
6. Team Captains shall ensure team compliance with the restrictions on boat usage on all Club practice venues and that all team members and guests have signed all required waivers.
7. In the event of a planned GMDBC event or VRD activity permitting guests on boats, (eg Family Paddle Day) all guest paddlers must sign all GMDBC, VRD, USDBF and any other waivers deemed necessary.
8. Dragon boat events sanctioned by The Villages Recreation Department will follow VRD guidelines.
9. Children must be at least 14 years old and are allowed on Lake Miona only, other than a VRD sanctioned event such a Camp Villages. Waivers are to be signed by the responsible adult.

Paddling Safety on ALL Practice Venues used by GMDBC

Safety for all paddlers is our number 1 priority.

1. The Steerperson is the safety officer on the boat and their command supersedes any other.
2. All paddlers must have personal identification with an emergency contact on their person while on the boat.
3. The Steerperson must have a cell phone available while on the boat in the event of a medical emergency.
4. All paddlers must WEAR an approved PFD at all times while on the boat. It cannot be on the floor of the boat.
5. Boats are not permitted on the water when there are whitecaps and should end practice if lake conditions change.
6. Boats are not permitted on the water if lightening is seen or thunder is heard. Teams must return to the dock if thunder is heard while practicing and should not return to the water until 30 minutes after the last thunder was audible.
7. Fog conditions:
 - Lake Miona - If the shoreline opposite the loading dock cannot be seen, the boats should not be on the water.
 - Lake Sumter - If the lighthouse cannot be seen from the loading dock, boats are not permitted on the water. If the lighthouse is visible from the loading dock, but the bridge is not visible, boats are permitted on the water only to the lighthouse, but are not permitted beyond the lighthouse if the bridge is not visible from the loading dock.