

# EXTREME WEATHER POLICY



## Cold Water

- When air temperature is 5°C or below, all paddlers must wear cold weather paddling gear such as neoprene, merino wool, fleece etc to reduce the risk of hypothermia. FGPC staff or program coaches may restrict paddlers from leaving the dock if proper attire is not worn.
- When air temperature is 1°C and below, or the wind chill drops the temperature below 1°C no boats will be allowed to leave the dock.
- If ice is present on the waterway, paddling may be restricted to clear areas provided the temperature is above 1°C. If snow or ice is present on the docks and deemed a safety hazard by FGPC staff, the docks will be closed. Information about hypothermia can be found [here](#).

## High Winds / Rough Seas

- If winds are at or above a sustained 35 km/hr (20 knots), paddling will be limited between the Johnson Street and Tillicum bridges. During the high season (15 March through 15 October), permission to train south of the Johnson Street Bridge in winds that exceed 35kmph may be granted by the club manager providing that FGPC's competitive OC coaching staff are present during training and participants are deemed capable of safely handling conditions by the head coach.
- If Environment Canada posts a weather or wind warning for Victoria Harbour, no watercraft will leave the dock without permission from the club manager or senior staff person and program coaches. Weather warnings can be found at [https://weather.gc.ca/warnings/report\\_e.html?bc43](https://weather.gc.ca/warnings/report_e.html?bc43)

## Electrical Storm / Thunder

No boats may go on the water during electrical storms. An electrical storm constitutes any form of thunder and/or lightning. If caught in an electrical storm, paddle to the closest landmass and beach the boat. Find shelter and remain there until the storm has passed. After the final thunderclap of an electrical storm, all crews must wait a minimum of 30 minutes before going out on the docks or water.

[http://weather.gc.ca/lightning/index\\_e.html](http://weather.gc.ca/lightning/index_e.html)

## Limited Visibility / Fog

No boats are allowed out on the water when fog impedes visibility. Once fog has engulfed the Bay Street Bridge closedown will be considered. Once the Selkirk Trestle is engulfed by fog, no boats may leave the docks. If caught in fog, paddle as close to the shoreline and keep the shore in sight at all times. Use a whistle to warn others of your location.

**Fairway Gorge Paddling Club reserves the right to restrict on-water activity, including complete Facility/Dock closure, for factors listed in the FGPC safety policy and other extreme weather conditions for the safety of participants, coaches and staff. This can be done without notice and at FGPC's discretion.**