

COMC Waterfront Policies

The following standards relate to swimming and boating activities on the Camp Olave waterfront.

Standard 1: Camp Olave Management Committee (COMC) will ensure that all waterfront activities are conducted in a safe manner.

Procedures:

The Waterfront Staff have sole and final authority on the waterfront and may use their discretion to cancel an activity if conditions for the activity are not appropriate.

- Camp Olave waterfront staff strictly adheres to all of the policies and rules in the current edition of Girl Guides of Canada Safe Guide.
- All necessary lifesaving equipment is maintained in good working order.
- The Waterfront Staff ensure that emergency equipment is located readily at hand and uses a daily checklist (signed and dated).
- Waterfront staff wear a visible Lifeguard shirt or bright mesh vest while on duty.
- No one may enter the water for any activity, including wading, except when Waterfront Staff are on duty.
- No one may enter the water after dark.
- All swimmers, including Guiders, will swim only within the designated swim area.
- Anyone engaged in an unsafe waterfront activity will be removed from the activity.
- For standards related to boating activities, see Policy 4.
- Girls on the beach are the responsibility of the Guider and not the Waterfront Staff.
- Each camp should bring a first aid kit to the beach.

Standard 2: All Guiders are informed of the waterfront standards, rules, and beach front etiquette in effect at Camp Olave.

- **The Waterfront Staff have sole and final authority for the safety of the waterfront.**
- The Waterfront Rules and Regulations are posted at each site (most current) and on the side of the boathouse. All Guiders and adult staff will ensure that they are followed.
- According to the appropriate ratio of the group, one or two Guiders accompanying each group will sign to indicate understanding of the Waterfront Rules and to accept responsibility as Watcher(s) for the session.
- Qualifications and role of Watcher(s) as defined in the current Safe Guide.



Procedures:

Standard 3: In the event of a waterfront emergency, the Waterfront Staff has sole and final authority. Depending on the nature of the emergency, all or some of the following procedures will be undertaken, at the discretion of the Waterfront Staff.

- When the emergency signal sounds, all swimmers and boaters move quickly and quietly to the beach.
- The Watcher(s) provides assistance to the Waterfront Staff (for example, call 9-1-1 on instruction, direct other campers from the beach, assist in getting First Aid equipment, etc.)
- The Waterfront Staff are responsible for providing written documentation of the incident, to be filed no later than the end of her work shift with the Staff Supervisor or her designate. Upon receipt of the report, the Staff Supervisor communicates the incident to the COMC Chair, or designate. Any further action to be taken relative to the incident is handled by the Waterfront Staff, Staff Supervisor and relevant site Guiders as necessary.

Standard 4: All Camp Olave boating activities are conducted in accordance with the regulations outlined in the current Girl Guides of Canada Safe Guide.

Procedures:

- Each individual involved in boating activities must pass the required Boating or Swim Test as outlined in Safe Guide and wear a properly fitted personal flotation device (PFD).
- Sparks and Embers may participate in boating activities if:
 - They have a supervisor in each canoe. A supervisor is anyone 16 years of age or older who has successfully completed the Boating or Swim Test as outlined in Safe Guide.
- Priority for boating activities is:
 1. Pathfinders and Rangers
 2. Guides
 3. Embers
 4. Sparks

Standard 5: Guiders who take their girls onto the beach for any activity other than swimming or canoeing (supervised by Waterfront Staff) will follow Safe Guide ratio standards. These Guiders are responsible for the girls' safety.



Standard 6: Camp Olave Management Committee hires female waterfront staff in accordance with Safe Guide requirements for an “Established Waterfront”.

Procedures:

- The Camp Olave waterfront staff is hired by the COMC Personnel Coordinator, with the assistance of the Staff Supervisor.
- The Staff Supervisor is responsible for the supervision and evaluation of the waterfront staff, with the support of the COMC Personnel Coordinator.
- In seasons when no lifeguards are on staff, Guiders wishing to supply their own life saving personnel for swimming or canoeing in the designated area must adhere to the Safe Guide requirements for an “Established Waterfront”. Proof must be presented to Camp Olave caretaker that permission has been granted by the Water Activity Assessor. Their waterfront staff must read and sign to confirm understanding of, and agreeing to adhere to, all Camp Olave Waterfront Standards. Access will be provided to necessary lifesaving equipment prior to entering the water to ensure that it is readily available. The Responsible Guider is responsible for girls while participating in an activity where they have arranged their own life saving personnel. Any damage to the equipment must be promptly reported to the Caretakers.

Standard 7: Family campers enter the water at their own risk. No life guarding services are available. The designated swimming area is open to family campers when not in use by Guiding groups.

