

Canoe Care

Canoe Care

Basic parts of the canoe: wai, iako, ama, hull

- Treat every canoe with respect. Club canoes, especially, should be given respect, as they are a shared resource.
- Do not sit on a canoe when it is not in the water. Do not walk over a canoe. When assembling and disassembling a canoe, be gentle.
- Each time a canoe is assembled, check the hull and the ama carefully for cracks. Press the canoe walls for signs of weakness. Tip the canoe back and forth and listen carefully for water in the hull and ama.
- When the canoe is on the beach always point the nose of the canoe toward the ocean.
- Never sit or lean on the canoe when it is not in the water.
- Inspect the following before venturing out on the canoe:
 - o Plugs
 - o Iakos, especially the points where the iakos touch the canoe. Inspect them for signs of stress/cracks
- Do not drag or drop the canoe. Set the canoe down gently.
- Place the canoe gently in the water
- Periodically wet the ropes at the ama, and wai.
- If it has ratchets inspect them.
- Check any rubbers and replace if they are cracked or worn.
- After you finish paddling, rinse the canoe off thoroughly with fresh water. Rinse the underbelly and the topside of the hull and ama; Tie down the canoe.
- If during the use of the canoe there has been a hit, accident, damage, report it to a board member.

Canoe/Paddler Safety

Before the canoes go into the water, make sure the inside of the canoe is free of debris, etc. Also insure that the ama is attached and secure. Loading the canoes into the water is done in slow motion. This is the only place where we do not race, and there is NO RUSH. We do not get style points for getting the canoe into the water at a speed other than a crawl.

After all the canoes are in the water, make sure that the canoe is in deep enough water so that when everyone gets in, the canoe is still floating, not semi-parked in the sand. We do not load the canoes into the water, drag them up on the sand, then load people in, and then shove the canoe into the water, dragging it through the sand and rocks and creating stress on the canoe frame and fiberglass.

When the paddle is over, steersman approaching the shoreline is to slow the canoe down, and does a 180-degree turn so that the bow of the canoe is turned into the current, swell, or wind. Once near the appropriate parking area, the steersman jumps out of the canoe's left side and steady's the canoe, protects the ama, and yells out, "#6 is out". This lets the other team members know that the canoe is in position for everyone else to get out of the canoe.

This call is not made until number six (the steersman) is out of the boat, standing in the water, and protecting the ama. After all other team members exit the canoe on the LEFT side ONLY, the steersman will assign, or someone may volunteer to protect the ama and steady the boat during the exodus.

If you guys think that this "protect the ama thing" is being overblown, check out the cover of Pacific Paddler (Oct. 2011) Magazine. In three feet of water, the canoe is huli'ing, and the team is being thrown overboard. Guess what, if you are thrown out of the canoe on a "huli", in three feet of water, you could be injured if your head hits a rock or some other obstruction under the water. Since paddlers are sitting above the center of gravity in the boat, the canoe has great leverage over the people when it flips, so you will be thrown into the water. This does not feel good.

Practice does not end until the canoes are properly parked, cleaned, and tied down. The canoe comes first before members exit the area to prepare for the team cheer.

If you are a team member, and you see a canoe being handled improperly, SPEAK UP. No human is immune to making mistake, so we all have the responsibility to insure that our canoes are handled with the utmost of care at all times, so that we can all continue to enjoy years of fun while respecting our assets, and the tradition of outrigger canoeing.

Other Stuff

When do you think is the most common time a canoe Hulis?

When the canoe is not moving

What is the most common reason a canoe hulis?

Inattention

When a canoe is sitting idle what should seat 1 , 2or3 (dependent on the canoe structure) and Seat 4 be doing?

1- Making sure the canoe is heading into the wind (unless the steersman does not prefer help)

2 or 3 - Resting an arm on the iako (seat 2 or 3 is dependent on how close the iako is to the seat)

4- Resting an arm on the iako

Proper Bailing

Always bail on the left. Scoop forward and out.

The bailer is put within the rubbers... not tied. You don't want to be figuring out someone's knots when you have huli'd

Tie Downs

Ties downs are also not knotted. Proper tie-down will be demonstrated.

Halau responsibilities.

We have been given the privilege of using the Wailua Park as our halau. It comes with responsibilities we share with Puuwai:

Trash and leaves need to be picked up and removed every time you are at the halau.

At this time we have someone collecting and disposing of the trash every Monday and doing periodic raking. During the times when we do not, we are responsible for removing the garbage.

We cannot have any "permanent" structure on the premises.