

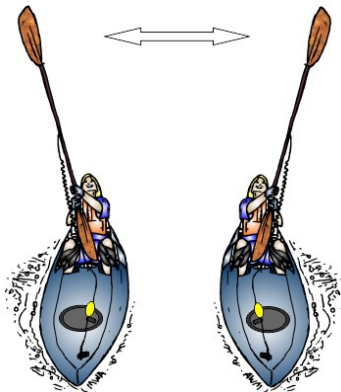
Instructions for Safety Squad Kayakers

The Kayak Safety Squad has two main responsibilities:

- To be a communication relay between swimmers who need assistance and the safety squad vessels around the course.
- To provide a visual representation of the course for swimmers by forming two STRAIGHT lines on either side of the pack of swimmers. The westernmost line (standing on start beach, on LEFT) should be in line with the yellow marks, the easternmost line (standing on start beach, on RIGHT) should be spaced about 50 yards apart from the line of course markers, leaving a large central lane through which swimmers will pass.

The Kayak Safety Squad Captain will assign you to a position on the course and will check in all Squad members on the morning of the Swim. Plan to arrive at **6:00 am** so you have enough time to be ready and on the beach for the **6:30 am** Safety Briefing. After a review of assignments and protocol, **all Safety Squad Kayakers will take to the water at 6:45 am and be in position by 7:00am.**

As you make your way across the course, and during the event, keep an eye out for swimmers who need assistance.



If emergency assistance is needed, blow your whistle, raise your paddle over your head vertically (see image) and a rescue boat will assist you.

Kayaks are not rescue boats and you should not attempt to provide assistance.

If a swimmer is tired and wants to leave the race, this is also the way to get the attention of a safety boat to provide assistance.

If you are given a radio, use Channel 72 to communicate the need for assistance to your Captain.

In the case of a medical emergency, the Massachusetts Environmental Police will coordinate the rescue and stabilization of the swimmer.

A tired swimmer may hold on to the **BOW** of your kayak. **DO NOT** allow the swimmer to hang onto the side of your kayak – it will capsize! If you capsize, clear yourself from your kayak and hang onto it. A safety vessel will assist you.

It is very important that you **DO NOT CROSS THE FINISH LINE** with the swimmers. Please paddle off to the right of the finish boat, *Baykeeper*, and then haul your kayak onto the beach.

Once the last swimmer has finished, kayakers will be permitted to paddle back to the New Bedford Start Line in a single wave. **Paddlers must return together in a group, per MEP direction.** Returning kayakers will depart the beach no later than at 9:45am, escorted by Massachusetts Environmental Police vessel. **No kayakers will be allowed to paddle back across the channel after this escorted wave.**

Remove kayakers from beach as soon as possible and **no later than 10:30am.** We highly recommend taking the free shuttle back to retrieve your car, then return for your kayak. A volunteer will wait with all kayakers.

In the event of a sudden storm or emergency, follow the instructions from the Safety Agencies.

If you have questions please ask your Safety Squad Captain or BBC Event Staff.

THANK YOU for helping us to have a safe Swim!