

Use of Personal Floatation Devices and Swim Test Implementation

August 27, 2010

Policy:

- a. To go afloat all students faculty and staff must pass the swim test or have equivalent certification, as noted below.
- b. Sailing Dinghies: Everyone will wear a personal floatation device (PFD) at all times, as well as pass the College swim test.
- c. Kayaks or other small watercraft, as per USCG Law, must carry a PFD for each person on board.
- d. Swim tests will be administered at the Aquatics Center and certified by Andre Barbins or an O'Brien Center Lifeguard. The swim test will consist of a 75 yard continuous swim followed with 3 minutes of treading water - with no rest interval in between.
- e. Visitors and guests using any watercraft will be required to 1) sign waiver of liability form, and 2) wear a PFD at all times. Visitors and Guests have the option of taking the swim test. Visitors cards will be made available.
- f. The Windsurfing Club has existing rules that include use of PFD's or floatation harnesses, swim tests, and other safety measures to further progress within the club.

Check-out of Watercraft

* Those passing the test will be marked as such in the One Card system. During Orientation, Kelly Schroeder will mark 'passed' in the system for new students who pass the swim test. Throughout the semester, Rick Loheed will also enter passed into the system for the remaining new students, returning students and any faculty/staff who pass the swim test.

* Waterfront staff will "swipe" the One Card thru a card reader to identify those who have passed the swim test and allow them to check out watercraft.

* As per Maryland Law, those under the age of 13 must wear a PFD at all times in any watercraft.

Swim Test Implementation (Fall 2010)

- a. During fall orientation 2010, all new students (physically able) will take the swim test in the Aquatics Center.
- b. People holding valid Red Cross Lifesaving & U.S. Sailing Level 1 Instructors certificates and SMCM Varsity Swim Team members will be marked passed.
- c. Those new students unable to take the test during orientation will be given opportunities during pool hours similar to returning students.
- d. Returning students, faculty, and staff:
 1. Grace Period: Before September 30, 2010: returning students, faculty, and staff will be able to use all watercraft without having passed the swim test.
 2. Beginning on October 1, 2010, all students, faculty and staff must have passed the swim test to use kayaks and all other small watercraft.