

# Whitewater Skills Checklist

## Class II Boater “The Neophyte”

- Competence rowing/paddling flat water
- Can float in “defensive swimmers position”
- Can “read” obstacles
- Understands the danger of strainers and man-made objects
- Understands the danger of foot entrapments and how to avoid
- Do not boat alone
- No drinking
- Wears PFD and helmet
- Proper dress for water and weather
- Wears shoes that protect feet and grip to wet rock
- River signals: eddy out, stop, go, are you okay?

## Class III Boater “The Participant”

- Can ferry and catch eddies
- “Pulls” away from dangers
- Can swim towards boat or shore
- Can recognize wrap potential
- Scans for and can recognize dangers
- Understands hydraulics and river morphology
- Scouting etiquette
- Has flipped their boat back over
- Wears PPE and understands PRE
- Can tie bowline, water knot, and figure eight on a bight
- Can tie boat to trees/rocks on shore
- Tie anchor to tree and/or boat
- Experienced and accurate with throw bag
- Understands their equipment
- Able to repair raft
- First aid knowledge

## Class IV Boater “The Example”

- Sets example for other boaters
- Can “read” the river and use features
- Can “push” aggressive moves
- Can quickly recognize dangers
- Physically fit and strong swimmer
- Understand how wraps/flips occur and how to avoid them
- Can stay in boat order with proper spacing
- Aware of downstream safety
- Expert with a throw bag
- Can re-flip and get back in boat
- Competent team member in rescue
- Master of their equipment
- Brings group safety and first aid gear

## Class V Boater “The Leader”

- Able to set example and speak up when necessary
- Great communicator
- Non judgemental of other boaters
- Is in complete control and can catch all eddies in Class IV rapids
- Can use any equipment
- Is keenly aware of group safety
- Is aware of location and amount of group safety and first aid gear
- Can determine boat order for group
- Can make good decisions about running rapids
- Can give good advice to other boaters about rapids
- Calm in stressful situations
- Can quickly reflip and get back in boat
- Proficient in all swiftwater rescue situations