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TOWN OF LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA
TOWN COMMISSION
WORKSHOP MINUTES

Jarvis Hall
4505 Ocean Drive
Tuesday, January 25, 2011
5:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER, MAYOR ROSEANN MINNET

Mayor Roseann Minnet called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Present were Vice Mayor Stuart Dodd, Commissioner Birute Ann Clotney, Commissioner Scot Sasser, Commissioner Chris Vincent. Also present were Town Manager Connie Hoffmann, Town Attorney Susan L. Trevarthen, Town Clerk June White, and Deputy Clerk Nekisha Smith.

2. ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:

a. Beach Recreational Activities

Mayor Minnet allowed comments from the public.

Jason Wilson, Owner of Alley-Oop, thanked the Commission for holding the workshop. He explained that South Florida and the Town were prime locations for skimboarding and the activity in Lauderdale-By-The-Sea was the reason he relocated and opened his business within the Town. Mr. Wilson encouraged the Commission to embrace the beach culture because promotion of beach culture could result in an increase in tourism and revenues for the Town. Mr. Wilson suggested that each application for beach activity permits be considered on a case by case basis. He added that his company was willing to enter into a revenue sharing agreement with the Town if Alley-Oop were permitted to hold skimboarding camps on the beach. Mr. Wilson urged the Commission to consider his proposal or else his business ran the risk of closing.

Brian Kuszmar said that the Town was a great location for kayaking; however, there were no access points available along the beach. Mr. Kuszmar suggested the Town designate a specific location for kayaking. He explained that he was concerned with kitesurfing and saw the activity as a danger to the bathers. Mr. Kuszmar said there was no valid reason to ban skimboarding.

Tom Ralph, Chairman of the Surf Rider Foundation for Broward County, thanked the Commission for holding the workshop. He explained that all beach activities needed to work together in a safe manner and suggested the Town install an additional shower in El Prado Park. Mr. Ralph said public bathrooms were also needed which could increase

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beach usage. He reminded the Commission that each beach recreational activity used their own etiquette. He submitted his comments and a copy of beach activity etiquette to the Town Clerk (hereto attached as part of these minutes).

Lea Townsend explained that there were numerous positive results that came from allowing various beach uses. She said that the monthly beach clean-ups were mostly attended by the recreational users.

Frank Herrmann questioned why the Town would object to allowing water sports. He said that he was in favor of allowing beach uses, including kitesurfing, as long as they did not become a danger to bathers. Mr. Herrmann suggested the Town implement as little regulation as possible and then adjust them when necessary.

Darla Cheshier explained that her children grew up on the beach and had respect for the earth. She said that sometimes there were too many regulations in place. She was concerned with losing watersports in Town.

Marvin Convissar was concerned with kitesurfing and explained that the sport could become dangerous to beach goers. He explained that the police informed several instructors of the rules; however, they were ignored. He urged the Commission to do something to protect the people.

Renee O'Neal said she enjoyed the activities on the beach and encouraged the Commission to support them. She was concerned with how far the Commission was willing to go to impose regulations in Town.

Mark Brown explained that most kite surfers did not know the current laws and suggested additional signage to make everyone aware of the rules. He believed that it was unfair that the Town did not allow beach chair and umbrella rental companies on the beach. He recommended allowing the rental companies as long as they had a permit and followed the rules implemented. He questioned where the Commission would draw the line and how they would micromanage recreational uses. Mr. Brown recommended installing volleyball nets on the beach which could attract more tourists and someday allow for tournaments to be held on the beach.

Charles Leachman explained that watersports were very important to the Town. He was not in favor of allowing private companies on public property. Mr. Leachman was concerned that the businesses and condominiums were now running the Town. He suggested opening all activities to the public and restricting what needed to be regulated.

Rick Iossi, Director of the Florida Kitesurfing Association, understood the concern from residents regarding kitesurfing. He recalled that in South Florida the only areas that banned kitesurfing were lifeguarded areas and certain parks. Mr. Iossi explained that as with any beach activity, accidents occur and some individuals did not follow the rules. He said that fatalities were rare and most accidents occurred to the user rather

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than bystanders. Mr. lossi explained that kitesurfing was a great activity to attract tourist.

Mayor Minnet clarified that the purpose of the workshop was to discuss recreational beach uses. She said that the Commission had no intention of banning any activities at that point.

Chris Ruben said he preferred that children enjoy activities on the beach rather than get into trouble somewhere else. He pointed out that the equipment used for the beach activities had advanced over the years to allow for additional safety. Mr. Ruben encouraged the activities and said they were good for the Town.

David Devins was concerned with kitesurfers who gave lessons on the beach. He said that he witnessed dangerous situations in the past. He suggested designating a specific area in Town to allow for lessons. Mr. Devins added that the walking of dogs on the beach was still an issue regardless of the rules that are currently in place. He said that additional enforcement was needed.

Mike LeBrach pointed out that the only complaints made tonight were regarding lessons given on the beach. He preferred that kitesurfers learn at another beach and then come to the Town to enjoy the activity. Mr. LeBrach said that he did not want to go to another beach to enjoy kitesurfing and that banning the activity was not the answer.

Mayor Minnet closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

Vice Mayor Dodd thanked staff for the material provided in the backup. He reassured the residents that he was in full support of all beach recreational uses and that his only concern was kitesurfing lessons. He pointed out that the recently approved fishing ordinance made it legal to launch kayaks from the beach. Vice Mayor Dodd referenced the minutes from May 26, 2008 where he was in favor of self-policing, and a \$75 permit fee for kitesurfing. He said he was also in favor of designating two (2) areas for the activity, Pine Avenue and Palm Avenue. Vice Mayor reiterated that he was not in support of allowing kitesurfing lessons on the beach. He added that he was in favor of allowing umbrella and chair rental companies as long as there was room for competition.

Commissioner Vincent welcomed Alley-Oop to Town and hoped an agreement could be reached to allow the company to hold skimboarding camps on the beach. He explained that he was in favor of all recreational beach uses as long as changes could be made later on.

Commissioner Clotey clarified that the monthly beach cleanups were attended by many people other than recreational users, in contrast to a previous statement made. She said she was concerned with allowing kite surfing lessons on the beach. Commissioner Clotey said she would support kitesurfing lessons if the public were

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willing to designate a portion of the beach for the use. She added that she also favored a permitting process and that she had no problems with all other beach uses.

Commissioner Sasser reminded everyone that the Town was a beach community. He said he was in favor of allowing businesses to apply for a permit; however recreational uses should be open to all. Commissioner Sasser wanted to settle any problems that hindered Alley-Oop from moving forward with holding skimboard camps on the beach.

Mayor Minnet explained that she was in favor of recreational uses on both a commercial and residential level. She questioned whether the Town could legally prohibit kitesurfing lessons on the beach. Attorney Trevarthen explained that there were existing park regulations in the Code that required a permit to conduct commercial activities. She said that additional language specific to the sport could be drafted to address the safety implications.

Mayor Minnet recommended staff move forward with the proposal received by Alley-Oop. She suggested that staff analyze the effectiveness of the current rules before any changes were considered. Commissioner Sasser questioned whether there was anything that needed to be addressed before Alley-Oop could continue with their plans. Town Manager Hoffmann explained that she needed clear direction from the Commission that she should execute an agreement with the company or if the Commission wanted the agreement to come back to a future Commission meeting for approval. There was Commission consensus to move forward with the agreement as soon as possible. Commissioner Vincent suggested charging a minimal fee to Alley-Oop so as not to diminish the company's profits. Town Manager Hoffmann explained that perhaps there could be a different arrangement with a business located within Town versus a business that came from outside of Town. The Town Manager said a fee structure could be created to phase in the revenue percentage requested by the Town.

Vice Mayor Dodd was in favor to giving the Town Manager direction to allow all recreational beach uses except kitesurfing lessons. Commissioner Clotey questioned whether they could give preferential treatment to a business located within Town versus a business that was not. Attorney Trevarthen explained that the regulation needed to have a rational basis, such as safety. She said that there were options that could be explored; however, the regulation needed to be based upon facts. Commissioner Clotey explained that she was in favor of giving Alley-Oop a break on the revenue sharing fee for a certain period of time. She did want to see some type of fee come to the Town for their use of public property.

Mayor Minnet asked that staff put something together that would work for the businesses. She reiterated that she was not in favor of allowing kitesurfing lessons on the beach.

Town Manager Hoffmann clarified that Commission direction was to disallow kitesurfing lessons on the beach. She pointed out that enforcement was difficult and asked that the kitesurfers in the audience inform those individuals giving kitesurfing lessons of the

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rules. Mayor Minnet reminded everyone to please call the police if something was happening on the beach that should not be happening, such as dog walking on the beach. She encouraged residents to contact the Commission and Town Hall with any questions or concerns they had.

3. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Commission, Mayor Minnet adjourned the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Mayor Roseann Minnet

ATTEST:

Town Clerk, June White, CMC

Date



SURFRIDER
FOUNDATION

Broward County Chapter

- When beach access may impede upon sensitive ecological coastal resources, beach access may be managed or restricted if necessary to protect the sensitive ecological coastal resource. Not all beach and coastal areas are appropriate for heavy recreational use or significant human presence. Sensitive ecological areas warrant restrictions and buffers to reduce negative impacts to beach ecosystems.

- There exists a cultural value of active visitation to the beach as part of traditional, historical and/or customary practices.

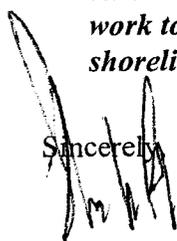
- Coastal views from offshore to the inland coastline and from inland areas to the ocean view should be highly-valued. The public coastal viewshed should be preserved in relation to all public viewing corridors, including from offshore, ocean-based vantage points and views of surfers, fishers, boaters, kayakers, and others from nearshore waters.

- Preferably, the world's beach resources would always be open and free to all persons. However, if parking or beach fees are collected, the recovered funds should be used for purposes which are directly related to coastal access, recreation, management, restoration, conservation, and preservation efforts in the general vicinity of where the fees are collected.

- Wherever appropriate, public facilities, including parking areas, showers, bathrooms, changing areas and other amenities, should be made available in a manner that mitigates the adverse impacts, environmental, social or otherwise of public access.

- Surfrider Foundation advocates for development setback requirements that take into account the rate of sea level rise, so as to allow any new structures to withstand damage from hurricanes or flood events without the use of shoreline armoring or other ecologically destructive development. Coastal development policies should work towards managed landward retreat of existing structures from eroding shorelines. Any access improvements should also contemplate sea level rise.

Sincerely,


Thomas H. Ralph - Chairman
Surfrider Foundation Broward County
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ETIQUETTE: Why You Need to Be a Responsible Kiteboarder

By Paul Lang

Originally Published in the August 2008 Issue of The Kiteboarder Magazine

It's time to face a simple truth about kiteboarding: it's growing, and local beaches everywhere are getting crowded. A few years ago, when it was rare to see more than 20 kiteboarders on the water together, there was almost always enough room for everyone to do their own thing and not bother anyone else. Now, that just simply isn't the case. In some areas, 40 or 50 kites might be a mellow day. It is no longer unheard of to have over 100 kites in the sky at one single beach.



With the escalating crowds have come increasing problems. Many people who have been kiting since the beginning feel they are entitled to do whatever they want. Riders who started on bow kites two years ago are so overconfident in their skills that they feel they can tackle any conditions out there. Many riders are so focused on landing a new move or riding one more wave that they either don't notice or care that they cut other riders off.

Some riders like to jump near shore or in a crowd of kites because they feel they can handle it. All of these examples are very bad for our sport and are causing tempers to wear thin. It has progressed to the point that the general feeling at some beaches is downright unfriendly.

Kiteboarding as a whole is still almost completely free of any outside regulations, and if we want to keep it that way, we all are all going to have to learn how to play nice. It's time for everyone involved in this sport to seriously WAKE UP! If we want to keep local access and control over our own sport, we have to be able to rely on ourselves to enforce a reasonable code of conduct. Serious regulations are coming if we don't do something about it now.



To sum it up, as long you are courteous and use some common sense, you can help keep kiteboarding kiteboarder controlled.

Don't be a donkey – please encourage others to follow these guidelines.

• Getting into Kiteboarding

If you think this sport is for you, take a lesson. Don't learn on your own. If you have friends that want to try kiteboarding, tell them to take a lesson. Kiteboarding is a sport that should require lessons. Yes, they are expensive and you may have to travel for them. Look at them as insurance.

Kiteboarding lessons are much cheaper than a trip to the emergency room or a destroyed kite. New kites are much more likely to stick with the sport if their first experience was a controlled and positive one. All current kiteboarders need to insist that new kites take lessons.

• Choosing a Site to Launch

If you are kiting in an area for the first time, do your research ahead of time to find out where you should ride. Show up at a known riding spot or local shop and talk to the local riders. Some areas have restrictions on where you can and cannot kite.

Simply launching wherever you want can put access at risk for an entire area. If you think you have discovered an epic spot with no one out, take the time to find out why it's deserted – there probably is a very good reason.

• Setting Up

Good kiteboarding etiquette starts before you get on the water. When you arrive at a spot where kites have already set up, take a minute and watch how everyone else lays out their gear and launches their kites. Go with the flow and do what everyone else does. Don't inflate your kite on top of someone else's lines.

Set your lines up the same direction as everyone else (i.e. upwind or downwind) so you don't take up more than your fair share of beach space. Don't be the guy who has to be different.



• Helping Others

If someone asks you to launch their kite, don't hesitate to help. Too many kites act like they don't want to be bothered with launching and landing kites. Go out of your way to help others. When another rider comes in and taps his or her head, drop what you are doing and catch their kite. It only takes a minute – you'll still have plenty of time to ride.

This should be a general rule for all kites: help others. Answer questions that come from new or potential kites. Launch and land kites. Help kites in trouble without hesitation.

• Right of Way

In case you don't already know them, here are the rules for when two riders meet:

- When two riders are on opposite tacks, the rider with their right hand forward has right of way over the rider with their left hand forward.
- When two riders are on the same tack, the rider further downwind has right of way over the rider further upwind.

- When one rider passes another, the rider being passed has the right of way.

When riding in surf, you must also add the following rules that apply in the surf zone:

- The kiter, windsurfer, or surfer nearest to the peak has the wave, and all others should back off.
- Never ride through a pack of surfers or spray them.
- When leaving the beach, yield to any kiter, windsurfer, or surfer who is on a wave.
- Only ride in the surf if you are surfing waves. Work your way back upwind outside of the waves.

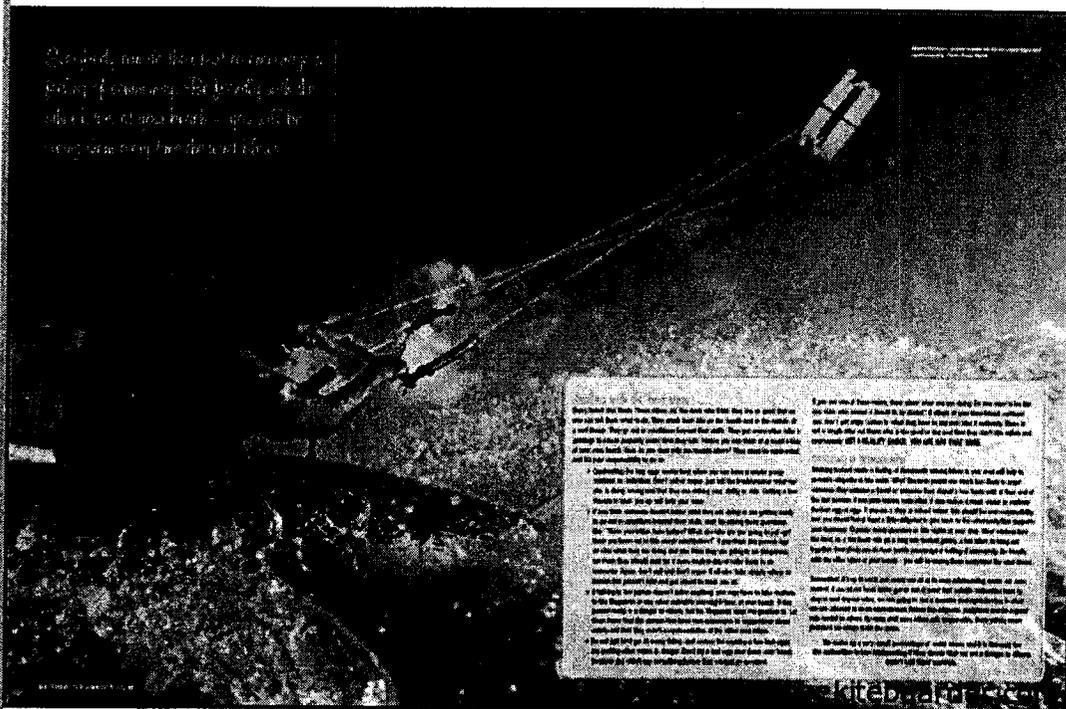
When you meet another kiter, be courteous and position your kite in a way that allows the other rider to cross your path easily. If you are further upwind, hold your kite high. If you are downwind, bring your kite low. It's as simple as this: Don't be a dick.

There are a lot of waves out there; the ocean is not going to run out. Be the courteous rider on the water and everyone will be much nicer back on the beach.

• Giving Others Room

Why do kiteboarders tangle with each other? The simple answer is because they get too close. Honestly, there is no good reason for two riders to tangle lines. Every time it happens, one or both of the riders is being irresponsible and both riders' lives are being put in danger. Be aware of what is around you at all times.

Look behind you before you turn. If another rider is in front of you, don't ride all the way to the beach, forcing them to the sand. Don't follow closely behind another rider. Give people room!



• Being a Beginner

There is nothing wrong with being a beginner. At one time, everyone on the water was one. If you just started kiteboarding, do yourself and everyone else a favor. Stick with conditions and locations that are within your skill level. I know it's tempting to want to go shred head-high surf or throw kite loops in 30 knots, but you need to be realistic about your limitations.

Going out in conditions that are over your head is not going to make you a better rider. You'll just end up struggling during your entire session and will be in the way of riders who are experienced enough to be out. If you want to progress your skills, stick with conditions you feel comfortable in. Take baby steps. Jumping from flat water and 15 knots of wind to six-foot shore pound in 25 knots is only going to end badly.

If you are at a spot where all levels of kites ride, launch downwind of the main crowd until you are comfortable riding upwind. This will keep you separated from the more advanced riders, and everyone will be happier.

• Being the Local Pro

If you are the rider that others look up to at your local beach, you must act as a good role model. Every area has their rider or riders that everyone else aspires to ride like. If you are one of these kites, others will imitate what you do. If you jump next to shore and in crowds, so will everyone else.

If you show no respect for surfers or other beachgoers, every other kiter in your area will do the same. If you ride and jump safely, show others respect, and take the time to help others, everyone will copy you. When you become the rider that everyone else looks up to, you have a responsibility to be a good role model and that responsibility must be taken seriously.



• Dealing with the Bad Eggs

Every beach has them. These riders are the ones who think they are so good that no one can tell them what to do. They crash their kite on the beach and in the middle of a surf lineup. They go out in conditions beyond their skills. They put every other rider's privilege to kite in jeopardy every time they kite.

I know you can think of at least a few at your own beach. How do you deal with the trouble kites? They must be confronted, and it's your responsibility to do so.

- Confronting the bad eggs works best when you can have a whole group confront an individual. Don't yell or argue, just tell the troublemaker what he/she is doing wrong and that they are risking your ability to ride. Getting a few friends to back you up will help your case.
- If you think someone doesn't know what they are doing or are getting ready to go out in conditions beyond their skills, start by asking them questions like, "Have you ridden here before? What size kite are you going to put up? Have you been out in this much wind before?" If you think this person has no clue what they are doing and you think they are going to be dangerous, tell them they should wait for a more mellow day or refer them to an instructor. Again, don't yell and don't argue. If all else fails, simply refuse to launch this person's kite and get others to back you up.
- If talking to the person doesn't solve anything, you may have to take matters to the lifeguards or any other authority you might have at your beach. If this person really is a danger to others, tell the lifeguards what the problem is. Let them know that this person has been non-responsive to suggestions about safety and that they aren't a representative of the other area kites.
- Do not just let it go. At every riding spot across the country, a few bad eggs are putting other riders in danger. Don't let a bad egg shut down your beach because you didn't say something before they caused an accident.

If you are one of these riders, think about what you are doing. Do you want to be the one rider who causes a beach to be closed? If others at your local beach confront you, don't get angry. Listen to what they have to say and take it seriously. There is not a single rider out there who is too good or too cool that they can't ride safely and courteously. **GET A REALITY CHECK.** You are not that good.

- **Creating a Community**

Working toward create a feeling of community among kites in your area will help to promote etiquette on the water. Why? Because people are much less likely to anger someone they consider a friend or someone they shared a few beers with at then end of the last session. If everyone knows each other, it also makes it much easier to confront the bad egg or eggs.

If you are a shop or school owner, this should be your responsibility and you should feel at least a little obligated to give back to the community that supports your business. Organize movie premiers or kite nights at your shop. Most kiteboarders like beer, so a few beers can go a long way toward getting a few kites to hang out together. Everybody can do their part to encourage a feeling of community.



Be friendly with the other kites at your beach – you will be seeing them every time the wind blows. Remember, it's up to each and every one of us to keep kiteboarding under our own control. If we let our local spots get so out of hand that outside authorities have to step in and impose rules, we are going to see a massive and rapid decline in what we are allowed to do as kiteboarders. Follow the etiquette guidelines and be a good role model to others. As more and more kites ride responsibly, there will be more pressure on others to do the same.

We make up a very small percentage of water users and it is too easy for the authorities to ban kiteboarding if they decide that we are a danger to others.

Don't let that happen.

Surfing Etiquette

Like

104 people like this.

Surfing Etiquette

Surfing Etiquette is the most important thing to learn before you set foot in the surf. These rules are not so much "rules" as they are a proper code of conduct designed to keep everyone in the water safe and happy. People who repeatedly break these rules are often given the stink-eye, a stern talking to, yelled at with obscenities, or just flat out beat up.

Don't worry, if you accidentally drop in on someone they aren't going to beat you up. However, there are rules of the road out there and this is the real world. If you're constantly stealing waves or not being respectful, you're going to have a run in.

With the growing popularity of surfing, the number of people in the water is on the rise and unfortunately surfing etiquette is gradually eroding away. The ocean is a dangerous place, and without proper thought to safety it can become deadly.

New surfers should memorize these rules, and even veterans should take a refresher course now and then.

Rule #1: Right of Way

The surfer closest to the peak of the wave has the right of way. This means if you're paddling for a right, and a surfer on your left is also paddling for it, you must yield to him or her. There are a couple variations to this rule:

If someone is up riding a wave, don't attempt a late takeoff between the curl/whitewater and the surfer. If the surfer who's riding the wave wants to make a cutback she'll run right into you.

Just because the whitewater catches up to a surfer riding a wave doesn't give you permission to take off down the line. Many talented surfers can outrun the section and get back to the face of the wave.

A-Frames or Split Peaks: If two surfers are on either side of the peak, they each have the right of way to take off on their respective sides. It's not generally accepted to take off behind the peak unless there's nobody on the other side. These surfers should split the peak and go opposite ways.

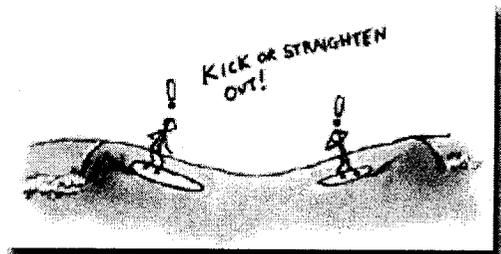
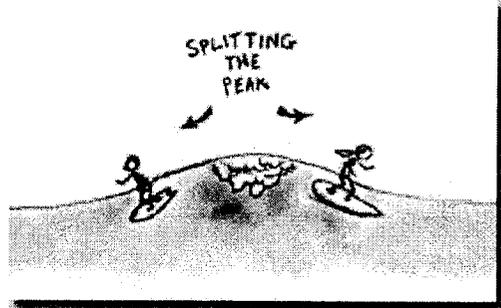
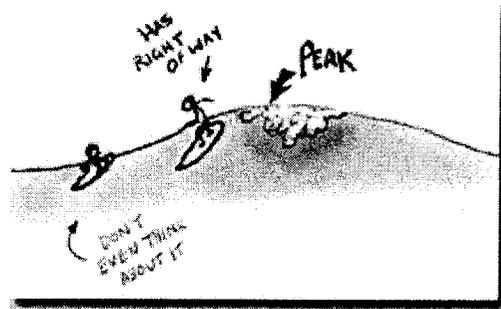
If a surfer riding a wave gets closed out with an impossible section or wipes out, the next surfer down the line can take off. If you're a very new beginner I'd hold off on doing this anyway until you have a bit more experience.

If a wave is breaking towards itself (a closeout) and two surfers are taking off at each other, yes both have the right of way but this is a perilous situation and it's advisable to kick out early to avoid a collision.

Rule #2: Don't Drop In

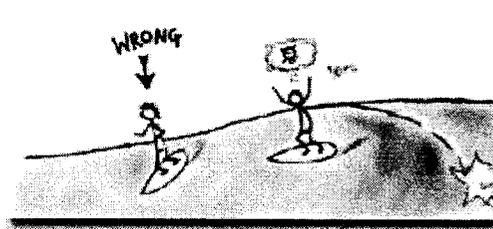
This is related to Rule #1. This is probably the most important part of surfing etiquette. Dropping in means that someone with the right of way is either about to take off on a wave or is already riding

a wave, and you also take off on the same wave in front of him or her. This blocks his ride down the line, and is extremely annoying, not to mention dangerous. If you are tempted to drop in remember this: no matter how good the wave is, if you drop in on someone you'll feel like crap, the other surfer will be pissed, and the wave will be ruined for everyone.

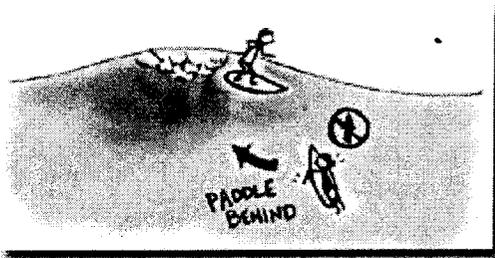


Rule #3: Paddling Rules:

Some common sense surfing etiquette rules that people don't seem to realize are important. Don't paddle straight through the heart of the lineup where people are surfing. Paddle out through the channel where the waves aren't breaking and people aren't surfing. Sometimes at spread out beach breaks this is hard, but usually there is a less crowded area to paddle through.



When paddling back out, do NOT paddle in front of someone riding a wave unless you're well, well in front of him. You must paddle behind those who are up and riding and take the whitewater hit or duckdive. You'll appreciate this the next time you're up on a wave.



Sometimes you'll just end up in a bad spot and won't be able to paddle behind a surfer. It's your responsibility to speed paddle to get over the wave and out of his or her way. If you don't do this, he or she might just run you over!

Rule #4: Don't Ditch Your Board

This is important, especially when it gets crowded. Always try to maintain control and contact with your board. Surfboards are large, heavy, and hard. If you let your board go flying around, it is going to eventually clock someone in the head. This means if you're paddling out and a wall of whitewater is coming, you don't have permission to just throw your board away and dive under. If you throw your board and there is someone paddling out behind you, there is going to be carnage. This is a hard rule for beginners, but if you manage to avoid picking up the habit of throwing your board you will be a MUCH better surfer.

Rule #5: Don't Snake

"Snaking" is when a surfer paddles around another surfer in order position himself to get the right of way for a wave. He is effectively making a big "S" around a fellow surfer. While not immediately hazardous to your health, this is incredibly annoying. You can't cut the lineup. Patiently wait your turn. Wave hogs don't get respect in the water. Also, being a local doesn't give you permission to ruthlessly snake visitors who are being polite. If they're not being polite, well...

Rule #6: Beginners: don't paddle out to the middle of a packed lineup.

This is kind of open to interpretation, but it still stands: if you're a beginner you should try to avoid paddling out into the middle of a pack of experienced veterans. Try to go out to a less crowded beginner break. You'll know you're in the wrong spot if you get the stink-eye!

Rule #7: Don't be a wave hog.

Just because you can catch all the waves doesn't mean you should. This generally applies to longboarders, kayakers, or stand up paddlers. Since it's easier to catch waves on these watercraft, it becomes tempting to catch them all, leaving nothing for shortboarders on the inside. Give a wave, get a wave.

Rule #8: Respect the beach

Don't litter. Simple as that. Pick up your trash, and try to pick up a few pieces of trash before you leave even if it's not yours.

Rule #9: Drive responsibly

The locals who live in the residential areas near the beach deserve your respect. Don't speed or drive recklessly.

Rule #10: If you mess up

Nobody really mentions this in surfing etiquette lists, but if you mess up and accidentally drop in or mess up someone's wave, a quick apology is appreciated, and goes a long way to reducing tension in crowded lineups. You don't have to grovel at their feet (well, unless you did something horrible). Honestly, if you drop in on someone and then ignore them, it's pretty stupid.
* * *

This might seem like a lot of stuff to remember, but in time it will become second nature. Most surfing etiquette rules are common sense anyway.

Have fun in the water!

Stand up paddling is the fastest growing water sport in the world, and no doubt, you will have many hours of paddling the beautiful oceans, rivers, harbors, lakes, and perhaps riding waves. Please remember the following four points, and share them with others, as you grow with the sport: **RESPONSIBILITY, SAFETY, ETIQUETTE, ALOHA SPIRIT.**

RESPONSIBILITY: Whether this is your first time on a stand up paddleboard or if you have been doing it for years, we ask that you please take a moment to consider the personal responsibility that you have. It starts by making sure your boards are securely tightened to your vehicle with properly installed racks. Please take an extra moment to double check every time you transport your boards, as those not properly fastened can fly off your vehicle and may cause accident or injury. Be safe and always double check.

SAFETY: Safety for others and you is something that needs to be top priority EVERY time you enter the water. ALWAYS be aware of the conditions of the ocean (currents, swell, crowds, etc.). If you are new to this sport, please take time to learn your technique in places that have calm, flat, water. Even if you have a strong surfing background, please remember that this is a new sport that requires different balance and muscle groups than you are familiar with. So, do like we all did and put your pride to the side and take the time to learn this incredible sport the RIGHT way!

ETIQUETTE: Okay, so now you have mastered flat water paddling and are ready to start surfing! This is where things get insanely fun! However, that does NOT mean you should paddle straight into a crowded lineup at your favorite surf spot. Even if you are an established surfer there, you will quickly wear out your welcome if you do not demonstrate proper etiquette.

Start slowly by going places that offer easy, small, mushy waves where there are FEW people, if any, around you. You are going to fall off a lot while learning. (No shame, we ALL did!) When you do fall, your board may become a projectile toward others. So again, please be aware of your surroundings and do whatever it takes to surf AWAY from other people. Once you start to master surfing waves, remember that a bigger board is in no way a license to be a "wave hog".

ALOHA SPIRIT: Sharing waves and making friends is not only the right thing to do, but will make every session enjoyable. Isn't that why we all got started in the first place? FUN and STOKE! We have an amazing opportunity to grow this wonderful sport in a positive direction. Let's all do our part and share the Spirit of Aloha every time we hit the water.

Welcome to the sport and enjoy your time on the water.

) JUST BECAUSE YOU CAN, DOESN'T MEAN YOU SHOULD

Most SUP surfers have no problem getting their wave count. "If you are out there doing laps and not letting others get set waves, you are out of line," explains Keaulana. "Stop hording and start enjoying."

2) GET OUT OF DENIAL

If you think the #1 rule (above) doesn't apply to you it probably does. "First sign of a kook is denial," says Keaulana. "Denial is the byproduct of the ego, the bigger the ego the bigger the denial. The bigger the denial the bigger the kook."

3) SEARCH

These boards let you surf places you might not have otherwise surfed so take advantage of that. Search out new frontiers. "Dave (Parmentar) uses the aviation analogy. The birth of aviation meant we could expand our frontiers in a peaceful manner or bomb the shit out of people," says Keaulana. "Let's not repeat history. Don't bomb the shit out of people. When the opportunity arises, when a new swell lights up an out of the way spot, attack those new frontiers."

4) KNOW YOUR ABILITY/MASTER YOUR EQUIPMENT

Most surfers who try standup surfing consider themselves fairly advanced. But putting a paddle in your hands is a foreign experience. Believe it. It is not easy. "Go out on your own for a few weeks," says Keaulana. "Even if you think you are Kelly Slater, you will be humbled. The paddle and the board should be an extension of your body. Until they are, stay out of the way."

5) SIT IN THE CHANNEL

After catching a wave, instead of paddling back out, kick back in the channel for five minutes. The other surfers will appreciate it. "You are already sticking out like a sore thumb out there," says Keaulana. "Chilling on the inside for a few sets will keep the swelling down."

6) COMMUNICATE

Call out approaching sets. Use your vertical position as a benefit to others. "Not only do I do that, says Keaulana. "Over here (Makaha) I see sharks, whales. I let others know who and what is sharing their home with us. You call out a big tiger (shark) and people are real happy you're standing up and seeing things."