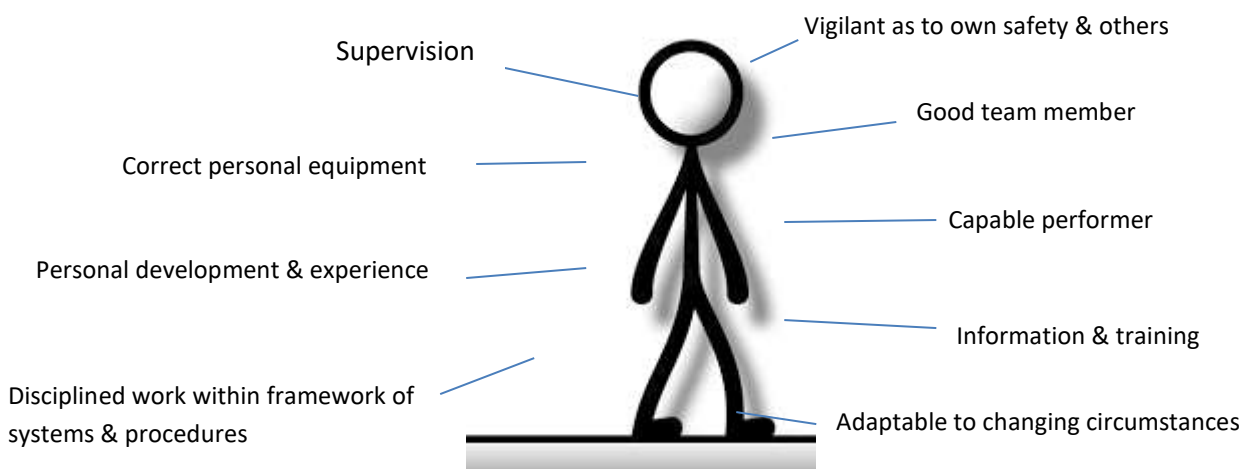


HCC supports the concept of the 'safe person' and expects all members to take on the principles and individual responsibilities detailed below

The "safe person" concept



Qualities of a "safe person"

In paddlesport we work and play in an inherently dangerous place. People go there for adventure and it's not always possible or desirable to take all the dangers away from the environment. The alternative is to direct our efforts into making the person (participant, coach, client or student) safe.

This approach is called the 'safe person' concept. It must be clearly understood that all leaders of whatever level, have the authority, as well as the duty, to take immediate action in the interest of safety. This is a fundamental part of the safe person concept.

The safety of an individual paddling white water, or of a group, is reliant to a large degree on the self-discipline, knowledge and skills of the individual person(s). A safe person has a number of important qualities some of which are shown in the illustration below.

The safe person concept therefore relies on a number of personal attributes, together with the right support from paddling colleagues or other coaches, allowing for flexibility of response in order to react to unforeseen or changing circumstances. In the end decisions will be made based on underpinning knowledge, skills and experience applied in the precise circumstances faced at the time.

We all have a responsibility for our own safety and the safety of other paddling colleagues.