

**Outrigger Santa Cruz**  
***Accredited Steersperson's Training Instructions***  
(Rev. July, 2021)

The Board invests the Accredited Steersperson (AS) with responsibility for property, behavior and safety of all paddlers. Steerspeople are responsible for implementing policy and regulations while operating an OC6. The Board expects the AS to model the behavior expected of other paddlers in all respects on shore and in the canoe.

The Board approves the Accredited Steersperson and may revoke their approval at any time.

The path to becoming an Accredited Steersperson is as follows:

- *Get a mentor.* You will need to find an Accredited Steersperson(s) willing to help you. At this time you commence with the studies of steering at your own pace. You will find our website to be a deep resource with book suggestions videos and previously taped club seminars. OSC periodically provides lectures and workshops that can help in your growth. Leaders of the group you paddle with (Recreational, Mom's, Pirates, Racers) and on-water mentoring with multiple recognized steerpeople, can introduce the mechanical art of steering leading you towards your assessment. During this time, you may practice in seat 6 with a current AS in seat 5 enabling you to perform all duties of a AS in good to moderate conditions. The regular AS retains the responsibility for the safety of the canoe and crew and may elect to keep the PS in seat 5. Keeping a logbook is suggested, recording time spent steering, conditions and questions that may arise in your performance and control of the OC6. These are and can be reviewed in club workshops, seminars and with mentors.
- *When ready,* with the completion of an online open book test, conducting a successful huli recovery in a reasonable amount of time, and supervised paddles, *ask at least two leaders/mentors if they consider you ready to apply for accreditation.* If they are in agreement, you will apply via email to the BOD (*addressed to Head Coach and President*) for approval as an AS.
- *The Board will ask three (3) current seasoned AS's of their choice to evaluate your skills during an open water paddle, providing feedback.* If the Board is unable to approve the application at this point in time, the BOD will provide a written path for improvement to the PS.
- Upon accreditation, your name is added to current list with date and name of Head Coach and/or President.

- **Re-Accreditation** – The Board, Head Coach and/or President, at any time may ask any accredited steersperson to retest on the water with above guidelines, or take the open book test or both. An updated list will be kept with date and by whom the AS received re-accreditation by.

**Skills** – These are acquired by teaching and practice under the supervision of experienced accredited steerspeople. Evaluated by operation. Are there any physical differences that would effect/compromise the ability to perform any of the tasks and responsibilities in the examples below?

- Demonstrate club's pre-launch safety check.
- Able to recognize loose or improper rigging and make appropriate adjustments.
- Park an OC6 at a launch ramp.
- Beach land/launch an OC6.
- Strong, competent paddler with extensive experience in all seats.
- Paddle without rest for extended periods of time.
- Are they physically fit.
- Possess steering competence.
- Hold a canoe in position or turn it in place.
- Maintain a straight line in calm or windy conditions.
- Execute a 90 or 180 degree turn around a buoy.
- Back up in a straight line to a target.
- Execute a successful huli recovery.

**Knowledge** – this material is acquired by reading, lecture or demonstration and is evaluated by oral or written questioning. Some examples are:

- Does the candidate understand roles for each seat in the canoe and how they can help the steersperson?
- Does the candidate understand ocean conditions, their risks and consequences, how to read them, sources of information about them, especially local conditions?
- Does the candidate show knowledge of maritime law as applicable in the Santa Cruz Harbor and Monterey Bay?
- Does the candidate show knowledge of OSC safety guidelines and incident reporting?
- Does the candidate have familiarity with the Club By-laws and Code of Conduct?

**Abilities** – these are largely self developed and are evaluated by undocumented observation. By nature they are more subjective but no less important than the skills and knowledge listed above. Some examples are:

- Does the candidate have a personality that will be able to command and control a crew?
- Does the candidate demonstrate decisiveness?
- Does the candidate demonstrate good judgment concerning risk and abilities?
- Does the candidate demonstrate willingness to help other club members improve?
- Does the candidate demonstrate knowledge and responsibility concerning club assets and rules?

- Does the candidate demonstrate calmness in crisis?
- Does the candidate demonstrate leadership both on and off the water?
- Would the candidate be able to conduct a critique in a non-emotional, non-blaming manner?
- Can the candidate anticipate and deal with situations positively, effectively and quickly?

**Study Resources available to use:**

OSC website steersperson's study guide link: <https://outriggersantacruz.org/safety-steering/>

Steering class videos: (same link)

*Outrigger Canoeing 'The Art and Skill of Steering'* by Steve West/Kanu Culture Publications