



S.U.P. Surf Etiquette

Note: The first 6 points are relevant to all surf craft

- 1st of all and most importantly, know your ability and don't paddle out at breaks that could put yourself and others in danger.
- If you are beginning, learn the basic rules of surfing. The most important rule being "right of way". The surfer up and riding the un-broken wave closest to the white water (critical point) always has right of way. Ask friends, staff at a surf shop or surf school. They will fill you in on what need to know.
- Evaluate the conditions from the car park. Don't wait until you are in a line up to find that the sets are closing out the beach which could put yourself and other in danger.
- You should always indentify the safest and easiest way to paddle out. This could be on the outside of a point break or through the channel at a beach break.
- Paddle out and position yourself to the outside of the line-up, sit on your board and again evaluate conditions. Things may look different once you are in the water, usually wave size. If you think you are out of your depth find the safest way back to the beach.
- Always try to find a surf break that you can have to yourself, or at least not so crowded. The best thing about SUP is you have access to breaks that are often out of reach from regular surfers.
- From the minute you enter the water until the minute you leave, make yourself aware of all the other surfers around you. Put yourself in a safe spot so you can't endanger others. Don't assume others will know what you are going to do next.
- If there are only a few people out at a break, paddle out and give respect. Sit on the outside of the line-up and only paddle for the waves that are not being surfed. As you get accepted by the others in the water you should be able to paddle for your share of the set waves. Try calling out set waves to the other surfers in the water, they will be stoked!
- If you are paddle surfing with a friend or friends, keep count of the number of waves you are getting. It is very easy for 3 stand up paddlers to take every set wave which will put out a negative vibe with other regular surfers
- Don't be a wave hog! On days when the waves are inconsistent it is very easy to catch the one set wave every ten minutes and get back out before the next set comes through. As tempting as it may be it won't leave a good impression with other surfers.
- Try to sit or kneel on your board when waiting for waves. This will ease tension in the line-up and show respect to others.
- * If others surfers go home and have forgotten you were in the water then you have done everything right. The only impression you want to leave is the one of you hitting the lip, not hitting someone else or dropping in on a local surfer.