

Leashes – your personal lifeline

A leash is not an optional extra it's your lifeline

- It is not a question of “should I wear a leash or not”
- The question is “what leash setup do I need today”

Wave paddling:-

Straight leashes are preferred by Surf style SUP paddlers in the sea and waves

- A straight leash will not recoil the board back at the rider in the water
- There are no underwater obstructions in the surf for the leash to get snagged on
- For coastal cruising a coiled leash is preferred as it sits on the board without any drag
- **DO NOT use a straight leash on rivers, streams or lakes as snagging is possible**

Rivers, streams, lakes and costal cruising:-

Coiled leashes are recommended in most cases for rivers, streams, lakes and costal cruising SUP board are much heavier than traditional surfboards and therefore require much stronger leashes than traditional surfboard leashes

- **We recommend using a 10 ft x 9mm dual core line with rotating stand-off attachments at both ends with a 40 mm wide triple Velcro secure attachment for the board and a 50 mm wide padded dual ankle / calf cuff leg attachment. Anything less than this could fail when you need it most**
- A coiled leash will sit on the board without dragging in the water
- A coiled leash is unlikely to snag on surface or underwater hazards

Quick Release Waist Belt to a coiled leash

- **QRWB** are recommended on
 - Fast flowing rivers, streams, and tidal rivers
 - Anywhere where you may need to quickly release yourself from the leash and or board due to snagging hazards and or extreme flow situations.

The question is: which leash set up ?

- **Ankle Leash**

- Tethering your leash to your ankle is the most common leash attachment
- Partly due to the surfing fraternity and will suit most surfing as well as flat water cruising.
- Partly due to the freedom of leg movement when swimming for the board
- No hazards for the leash to snag on

- **Knee/calf Leash**

- Tethering your leash to your calf/knee is becoming a popular leash attachment,
- A lot of racers prefer this placement as it gives them slightly better access to release themselves from their leash at the end of the race
- Some find this more comfortable to wear

- **Quick Release Waist belt / coiled leash**

- Tethering your coiled leash to a quick release waist belt is a must when paddling on fast flowing rivers, streams and tidal rivers, anywhere where you may need to release yourself from the leash and or board such as: trees, underwater rocks, roots, branches, mooring buoys, moored boats, jetties, piers, docks etc.
- When using the correct Quick Release Waist Belt and coiled leash combination, in the unlikely situation your leash snags on an obstacle (*with a coiled leash, this is very unlike to happen*).
- You will be able to separate yourself from the board in one swift action without letting the board adrift
- This gives you the option to disentangle the leash from the obstruction and then re-mount your board.
- In exceptional circumstances you also have the option to let the board go and swim to safety or another paddler

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WEAR IT