All solo paddlers and group leaders must be fully conversant with the Paddling Code before navigating on the Tideway. The steersman is Master of the Vessel and is legally responsible for the navigation, safety and behaviour of their boat / group.

Always carry out a thorough Risk Assessment before going afloat – see the Paddling Code for further details.

**Col Regs / starboard side rule applies**

When paddling in either direction, and regardless of the stream direction, paddled boats should stay as close to the Starboard (right-hand) bank as is safe.

As far as possible, don’t stop, turn, cross or overtake in the **Fairway** within 75m of any bridges.

Large motor vessels have right of way and always allow them space to use the **Fairway** / deep water.

All boats in the **Fairway** have Right of Way and overtaking boats must give way. Never cross in front of a boat in the **Fairway**.

Generally, when water levels and width allows, paddlers should pass inside under piers or moorings. However, paddlers must never go inside Embankment, Waterloo or Bankside piers and should employ a Dynamic Risk Assessment when navigating Westminster Pier and HMS Belfast – if in doubt go outside.

Where a passenger service is alongside a pier, it is recommended that paddlers allow them to depart before proceeding.

**SUP RESTRICTIONS**

**Above Chelsea Bridge:**
- At least one person must carry a VHF radio (ch.14).
- Do not paddle 3 hours before and 2 hours after high water at London Bridge, due to large freight vessel movements.
- Unless they hold a TSK L1, SUPs must hold a TSK L2 and must paddle as a group of at least 3 boats.
- No paddling 11.00hrs – 18.00hrs.
- At night, paddlers must hold a TSK L1 and paddle as a group of at least 3 boats.
- No solo paddling at night.
- Solo paddlers must have a TSK L2.
- A minimum of TSK L1 and paddle as a group of at least 3 boats.
- No solo paddling at night.

**Between Westminster and Tower Bridges:**
- SUPs require a minimum of TSK L2.
- Do not paddle 3 hours before and 2 hours after high water at London Bridge.
- Commercial groups may paddle in this area without a TSK endorsement, provided they meet the requirements set out on page 43 of the Paddling code (First Edition, 2017).

**Chelsea Bridge to Tower Bridge:**
- No paddling at night.
- Do not paddle 11.00hrs – 18.00hrs between Good Friday and September 30th.
- No soloing.

**NOTE:** Commercial groups may paddle in this area without a TSK endorsement, provided they meet the requirements set out on page 43 of the Paddling code (First Edition, 2017).

**SUP is not permitted below Tower Bridge.**

Paddlers are strongly advised to inform London VTS (Vessel Traffic Services) when navigating below Chelsea Bridge and must inform VTS when navigating below Westminster Bridge.

To contact London VTS:
- Call 020 8855 0315 or use VHF ch.14

A listening watch should be kept on ch.14 at all times when navigating through Central London.

Keep a Good Lookout:
Including behind you and always assume that others cannot see you – if in doubt, stop and shout.

Dynamic Risk Assessment:
- Starboard line when inbound (Col Regs)
- Starboard rule applies regardless of stream direction.
- Starboard line when outbound (Col Regs)

PLA Strongly encourage small boats to transit this section before 10.00am on weekend mornings.

Commuter services run less frequently at weekends above Chelsea Bridge but sightseeing trips still operate from around 10.00am.

**HEART OF LONDON**

This is by far the busiest part of the Tideway, especially in the summer months.

Expect very high traffic and a lot of rough water.

**SUP is not permitted below Tower Bridge.**