



Paddlesports Committee

Final Report

2025-2026 Committee Charges

Next Cycle Recommendations

August 2026

Chair: Wendy Flynn, Connecticut

Vice Chair: Craig Watson, Ohio

NASBLA Paddlesports Committee Charter

Paddlesports Vision Statement

NASBLA's Paddlesports Committee provides a venue for a diverse group of stakeholders to engage with NASBLA members in productive dialogue to find actionable opportunities to partner and promote paddlesports while growing a culture of safety across the United States so that over time the incidence of accident and injuries declines even while participation increases. The Committee strives to develop recommendations and work products to the NASBLA membership based on the best data available and professional judgment of its diverse members.

Program recommendations will:

- *Advance the strategic plans of the National Recreational Boating Safety Program and NASBLA;*
- *Incorporate best practices and current research;*
- *Seek to mitigate risk factors, to grow a culture of paddling safety;*
- *Assure that the paddlesports community has the tools, information and messaging to reduce incidents, injuries and fatalities; and*
- *Connect the public, member organizations, and stakeholders with the products of the committee and others.*

Paddlesports Committee members are assembled into project teams, taking the lead on specific, assigned charges and monitoring activities.

2025-26 Paddlesports Committee Meeting

The Paddlesports Committee convened three times as a full committee (2 virtual and 1 in-person).

The Committee held its in-person meeting on March 12, 2026, in Lexington, KY in conjunction with the RBS workshop. The Paddlesports Committee roster is provided in Appendix A and a copy of the full meeting agenda is provided in *Appendix B: 2025 Paddlesports Committee In-Person Meeting Agenda*.

2025-2026 Committee Leadership:

Name	Position	State/ Agency	Email	Phone
Gwendolynn Flynn	Chair	CT	gwendolynn.flynn@ct.gov	860-463-6177
Craig Watson	Vice Chair	OH	craig.watson@dnr.ohio.gov	614-301-1280
Danny Rodriguez	Executive Board Liaison	AZ	jrodriguez@azgfd.gov	928-525-4380
Tom Dardis	USCG Liaison	USCG	thomas.j.dardis@uscg.mil	703-986-9205
Scott Szczepaniak	U. S. Coast Guard Southeast District (SC, GA, FL, PR, VI)	USCG	Scott.J.Szczepaniak@uscg.mil	843-327-9655
Jeff Moag	Charge 1 Lead	Associate	jeff@watersportsfoundation.com	
Phil Hagar	Charge 2 Lead	MD	philip.hager1@maryland.gov	301-832-4569
Kosette Seibert	Charge 3 Lead	AK	kosette.seibert@alaska.gov	907-952-9988
Virgil Chambers	Charge 4 Lead	Associate	vhchambers@aol.com	614-582-4112
Pam Dillon	Staff	NASBLA	pam@nasbla.org	860-908-7368

This report provides a summary of committee deliverables and work products for the 2025-2026 Committee year.

PADDLE 2025-26 Charge 1 Continued - Collaborate with Paddlesports Trade Coalition (PTC)

Collaborate with PTC to develop a recommended resource list for training paddlesports retailers, outfitters, and livery staff. Incorporate feedback received on training resource needs from PTC and other paddlesports industry partners.

Needs Statement: Paddlecraft activities continue to grow in popularity across the country. The Paddlesports Trade Coalition is a 501(c)6 national non-profit trade organization whose members include paddlesports brands, outfitters, retailers, and associates. In 2023, the PTC membership endorsed a project to create a knowledge base/training credential which retail shops and outfitters could voluntarily use to train new staff – many of which were not deeply versed in paddlesports or safe paddling. This charge was submitted in response to this stated desire in hopes that the Paddlesports Committee can provide a targeted approach, including resources, for training of paddlesports personnel.

PADDLE 2025-1 Collaborate with PTC:

Members: Jeff Moag - LEAD, Josh Hoffman, Lili Colby, Virgil Chambers

Measure of Effectiveness: After acceptance and implementation by PTC, the number of retail shops, outfitters or liveries which utilize a resource library or other targeted approach, to help orient and introduce staff to safe paddling concepts. If a credential is desired, the number of individuals completing the provided training.

I. Deliverable(s): Overview

Charge 1 was established to strengthen collaboration between NASBLA and the Paddlesports Trade Coalition (PTC), with the goal of expanding access to vetted paddlesports safety resources for retailers, outfitters, and livery operators. Over the 2025–26 cycle, the Charge 1 Team focused on developing a curated, industry-ready library of safety and training materials, establishing new partnerships, and preparing a high-impact presentation for the May 13, 2026 PTC webinar.

The Charge Team’s work focused on advancing a shared vision: *to make the promotion of paddlesports safety easy for the specialty retail and rental sectors to support their businesses and bottom line.*

Charge 1’s mission is to: *“Collaborate with the Paddlesports Trade Coalition to identify, refine, and promote vetted paddlesports safety and skills resources that support retailers, outfitters, and livery operators in training staff, educating customers, and strengthening a national culture of paddling safety.”*

This mission reflects the Committee’s shift away from developing a formal credential and toward producing a flexible, practical, and widely usable resource hub.

II. Key Activities & Accomplishments

A. Establishing Direction and Scope (Late Fall 2025)

The cycle began with onboarding new members and reviewing the evolution of Charge 1. The team reaffirmed that the paddlesports industry needs **entry-level safety materials** that can be used in retail and rental environments.

Members reviewed the 2024 retailer/outfitter survey, which highlighted needs in:

- Staff onboarding and foundational safety knowledge
- PFD fitting guidance
- Environmental awareness
- Customer communication
- Fishing kayak reentry
- Helmet selection for whitewater and certain other disciplines
- Awareness of paddlecraft weight capacity

The team agreed to build upon the microlearning team’s vetted video list and expand it into a retailer-focused resource hub.

B. Resource Review & Gap Identification (January–February 2026)

Charge 1 conducted a detailed review of existing NASBLA, ACA, and partner materials. Several gaps were identified, including:

- Simplified “Paddler’s Code” messaging
- Retail-friendly signage and handouts
- Helmet selection
- Awareness of paddlecraft weight capacity
- Re-entry techniques for rigged fishing kayaks

Members began outlining additions to the vetted resource list and exploring opportunities for collaboration with manufacturers and influencers to fill missing content areas.

C. Collaboration with ACA & Industry Partners

The team hosted ACA representative **Kelsey Bracewell**, who provided insight into:

- ACA’s [infographic series](#), [free online course](#), and [Smart Start materials](#)

- Customizable [signage](#) / Print-on-demand options for posters and displays/ Local hazard mapping paired with universal safety tips

This session confirmed that ACA materials will serve as a component of the Charge 1 toolkit.

III. Development of the Charge 1 Toolkit

The team began shaping a **downloadable, one-click toolkit** containing:

- Vetted microlearning videos
- ACA Smart Start and infographic materials
- NASBLA training resources, including the *Presenter's Guide for Paddlesports Safety*
- Retail-ready signage templates
- QR-linked resource pages for easy distribution

This toolkit will serve as the backbone of the May 13 PTC webinar and future outreach efforts.

IV. Preparation for the May 13 PTC Webinar

The Charge 1 Team produced a 10-minute PowerPoint presentation for inclusion in the PTC monthly webinar series conducted on May 13, 2026. Planning focused on format and content of the presentation, including:

- **10-minute format** emphasizing high-energy, concise messaging focused on **business value**: safety improves margins, reduces liability, and builds customer loyalty
- Use of a **consolidated QR code** rather than multiple individual links
- Inclusion of three primary resource categories:
 - NASBLA Presenter's Guide including video microlearning resources
 - ACA Smart Start & training materials
 - Future co-branded Paddler's Code of Conduct
- Alignment with seasonal timing: Safe Boating Week, Memorial Day, and Go Paddle Day

Lili Colby, Jeff Moag and Craig Watson presented during the May 13th webinar. The presentation was titled: [Paddling Safety and Your Bottom Line](#). (*The charge team's segment starts approximately at the 26:00 mark.*) Approximately 50 industry partners participated in the session.

V. Accomplishments:

Charge 1's work advanced NASBLA's national paddlesports safety mission by:

- Strengthened ties with the paddlesports industry
- Provided retailers and outfitters with vetted, ready-to-use safety materials
- Supported seasonal staff onboarding and customer education

- Positioned NASBLA as a collaborative, business-friendly partner
- Introduced strategic groundwork for a future co-branded **Paddler's Code of Conduct**

This charge directly supports NASBLA's long-term goal of reducing paddlesports accidents and injuries while participation continues to grow.

VI. Conclusion

The Charge 1 Team made significant progress in identifying and developing a national paddlesports safety resource hub tailored to the needs of retailers, outfitters, and livery operators. Through collaboration with ACA, PTC, and industry partners, the team is positioned to deliver high-value safety materials that support both industry growth and public safety. Charge 1's work demonstrates NASBLA's commitment to partnership, innovation, and practical solutions that strengthen paddlesports safety nationwide.

Next cycle recommendation

The committee recommends this charge be continued as follows:

Recommendation 1: Continue to "Collaborate with PTC" in 2026-27 to explore development of the Paddler's Code of Conduct or other initiatives in collaboration with the Paddlesports Trade Coalition and other paddlesports industry partners.

PADDLE 2025-26 Charge 2 Continued - Microlearning and Outreach

Part 2-1. Expand the Paddlesports Microlearning list of recommended safety videos for kayak, canoe, SUP, and other disciplines (pack raft, raft, etc.).

Part 2-2. Create a location on the NASBLA website and/or Paddlesports Dashboard to link to the list of recommended videos. Create protocols to maintain and update the list. ****NOTE:** NASBLA did not receive funding for the RBS Dashboards.

Needs Statement: Officers, educators and administrators need new and innovative strategies to help facilitate opportunities to engage the paddling community. Microlearning components can quickly give these professionals the information and tools they need to engage this growing boating community effectively. A needs assessment will identify gaps where additional resources may be needed.

Charge 2025-2: Micro-learning and Outreach.

Members: Phil Hagar - LEAD, Seth Snow, Josh Hoffman, Jim Emmons, Craig Watson

Measure of Effectiveness: Develop an inventory of currently available materials for state reference and use. To make the final list of recommended videos, each must comply/agree with the following:

- ANSI/NASBLA Basic Boating Knowledge and Human Propelled American National Standards.
- The NASBLA Seal of Safe Boating Standards
- USCG's Media Production Procedure
 - For practical purposes, the charge team determined videos should be less than 4 minutes in length to supplement classroom or on-water training and not be an instructional class on their own.

I. Deliverable(s): Purpose and Scope of Charge 2

Charge 2 for the 2025–2026 NASBLA Paddlesports Committee focused on **expanding and modernizing the national microlearning video library** for paddlesports safety. The charge directed the team to:

- Expand vetted microlearning content to **SUP, canoe, and inflatable craft**
- Maintain and update the **kayak** video list
- Establish a **permanent home** for the national video library on the NASBLA website
- Develop a **repeatable protocol** for ongoing review and updates
- Strengthen **industry outreach**, including PTC webinar integration and trade-media engagement

The cycle began with a clear priority: SUP safety. As noted in the December 9 meeting, the team identified a “significant increase in SUP-related deaths—from 11 to 26 in the most recent reporting year,” prompting consensus that **SUP content should be the primary focus** for 2026.

II. Establishing the National Microlearning Framework

A. Permanent Home for the Master Video List

A major early-cycle objective was determining where the national video list would reside. With the NASBLA dashboard grant not funded, the team reaffirmed that the master list must be hosted directly on the NASBLA website, with states linking to it rather than duplicating files.

YouTube will remain the hosting platform for original video sources.

B. NASBLA YouTube Channel Development

By January 2026, a placeholder NASBLA YouTube channel was created to organize playlists by vessel type and topic. The January 8 minutes note that the committee explored “how playlists and homepage sections could be used to organize videos by topic, vessel type, and instructional category.”

In February, Ron Sarver demonstrated the updated channel structure, including playlist organization and limitations on YouTube “sections.” The committee agreed to add SUP and canoe playlist placeholders and continue refining the layout.

III. SUP Video Review & Category Development

A. SUP as the 2026 Priority

The team confirmed SUP as the first category for expansion, with canoe and inflatables to follow. SUP-specific considerations included:

- Leash types and consistent leash wear
- Reboarding and falling-off procedures
- Terminology (nose/tail)
- PFD compatibility and proper orientation

B. Category Assignments

Members were assigned SUP topic areas, including:

- Safety Gear / Know Before You Go
- Proper PFD Wear
- Entering/Exiting/Launching

- Paddle Strokes
- Maintaining a Proper Lookout
- Conditions Awareness
- Rules of the Road

C. Refining SUP Categories

The January 8 meeting expanded the “Entering/Exiting/Launching” category to include **reboarding and falling-off procedures**, recognizing that falling is a normal part of SUP participation.

The April 16 meeting added a new “**Overview / Multi-Topic**” category for videos covering multiple skills in a single segment.

IV. PFD Messaging & Safety Standards

A. Waist-Pack PFD Orientation Issue

Across multiple meetings, the team addressed recurring safety concerns about **inflatable waist-pack PFDs worn on the back** in many videos.

The committee agreed:

- Instructional videos must model correct PFD wear
- The phrase “**strong swimmer**” should not appear in committee-endorsed materials
- Inherently buoyant PFDs should be promoted as the preferred standard for SUP

B. Alignment with National Standards

All videos must meet:

- ANSI/NASBLA Knowledge & Human-Propelled Standards
- NASBLA Seal of Safe Boating Practices
- USCG Media Production Guidelines
- The video is less than 4-minute microlearning length

V. Video Review Outcomes (December 2025 – April 2026)

Across five meetings, the committee reviewed dozens of SUP videos, assigning **Green (approved)**, **Yellow (conditional)**, or **Red (not recommended)** ratings.

Examples of Final Approved Dispositions - Green (Approved)

- *West Marine – Selecting a Paddle Sports Life Jacket*
Citation: “Clear explanation of fit... useful for instructors.”

- *Sharing Waterways with Powerboats (NSBC / Boat On Course)*
Citation: “Strong safety content... paddle-specific, Coast Guard-aligned.”
- *Learn to Stand Up Paddleboard in Under 5 Minutes*
Citation: “Very good instruction... practical, easy to follow.”

VI. Outreach & Industry Engagement

A. PTC Webinars and Trade Media

The team coordinated with Charge Team 1 and the Paddlesports Trade Coalition (PTC) to feature the microlearning list in a PTC-hosted webinar. A press release is planned once the master list is published.

VII. Summary of Charge 2 Outcomes (2026)

Completed:

- SUP designated as 2026 priority
- Master video list structure established
- NASBLA YouTube channel updated with playlist framework
- SUP categories expanded and refined
- Dozens of videos reviewed and rated
- PFD messaging standards clarified
- Outreach pathways identified (PTC, trade media)

In Progress:

- Canoe and inflatable categories
- Finalization of SUP playlist and master list
- Integration of approved videos into NASBLA website
- Coordination with Charge 1 on cross-category content

The recommended list of SUP videos is attached in the Appendix C. The full list of vetted kayak and SUP videos are posted at <https://www.youtube.com/@NASBLASafeBoating>

Next cycle recommendation:

We recommend this charge be continued to complete the following:

Recommendation 2-1: Continue Micro-learning charge in 2025-26 to expand the list of recommended safety videos to include canoe and other disciplines (pack raft, raft, etc.).

Recommendation 2-2: Monitor and maintain the curated list published at <https://www.youtube.com/@NASBLASafeBoating>. Create protocols to maintain and update the list.

PADDLE 2025-26 Charge 3 [National Paddlesports Committee Honors \(NPCH\)](#)

Part 3-1. Update the 2026 NPCH criteria to address findings from the 2025 process.

Part 3-2: Create a Standing Charge in the Paddlesports Committee to continue the NPCH process.

Needs Statement: Paddlecraft rental liveries are one of the prime outlets to engage entry level, non-motorized boaters in safety awareness and risk mitigation for increased safe participation. Developing best practices for state boating safety professionals to use offers an opportunity to engage retailers and livery operators and further boating safety messages for this hard-to-reach population.

Charge 2025-3: [National Paddlesports Committee Honors \(NPCH\)](#)

Members: Kosette Siebert – LEAD, Andrea White, Lili Colby, Seth Snow

Measure of Effectiveness: Implement the program for paddlesports manufacturers, retailers, and liveries to recognize efforts that help to create and promote a safe paddling culture. Position the program to grow the number of National Paddlesports Committee Honors (NPCH) awarded in the future.

I. Deliverables: Introduction and Purpose

The National Paddlesports Committee Honors (NPCH) program, established in 2023, recognizes paddling retailers, manufacturers, outfitters, and brands that demonstrate excellence in promoting paddlesports safety through their online presence, social media, and public engagement. The 2025–26 Charge 3 team was tasked with reviewing the inaugural cycle, refining program structure, and preparing the NPCH for long-term sustainability and growth.

Across numerous meetings, the team strengthened eligibility criteria, redesigned the nomination and application process, introduced a third-party nomination pathway, transitioned the program to a three-year recognition cycle, and prepared updated communication materials and website content. These changes were formally approved by the NASBLA Executive Board on February 1, 2026.

II. Review of the 2025 Inaugural Cycle

A. Program Reflection and Lessons Learned

The Charge Team reviewed the inaugural NPCH cycle, including rubrics, evaluation guides, and communication processes. Members emphasized that the program’s purpose is to **reward**

positive safety messaging, not penalize imperfect content. As noted, the award should highlight companies “that promote safety in their social media and online presence” .

The team identified several improvement areas:

- Clarifying notifications to distinguish nominators from honorees
- Strengthening follow-up with winners to encourage logo use
- Providing constructive feedback to non-recipients
- Streamlining scoring tools and workflows

III. Structural Revisions for the 2026 Cycle (January 2026)

A. Eligibility Clarification

The charge team unanimously agreed to narrow eligibility to **paddling retailers, manufacturers, outfitters, and brands**, excluding instructors, clubs, and nonprofit programs. This aligns NPCH with its original intent and reduces ineligible submissions.

The team designed a new nomination structure:

1. **Simple nomination form** (self-nomination or third-party nomination)
2. **Follow-up application** completed by the nominee

This ensures nominees consent and can supplement information before evaluation.

Questions 8–10 were consolidated on the NPCH application into a single optional narrative prompt with examples and no word limit. This reduces applicant burden while preserving flexibility.

SurveyMonkey logic will differentiate between self-nominations and third-party nominations, adjusting question wording accordingly.

IV. Executive Board Approval and Program Modernization (February 2026)

A. Board Approval of Major Program Changes

The Executive Board approved all requested updates on February 1, 2026, including:

- **Three-year recognition cycle**
- **Updated eligibility language**
- **Third-party nomination pathway**
- **Defined nomination window (January 15–July 15)**
- **Updated NPCH logo and terminology**

B. Logo Updates

A new NPCH logo reflects the three-year cycle (e.g., 2026–2028). A 2025–2027 version will be sent to prior honorees.

C. Communication to 2025 Honorees

Once Board approval was received, the team sent updated emails including a one-page sharing guide to 2025 honorees, informing them of the extended recognition period.

V. Outreach, Promotion, and Program Visibility (February–March 2026)

A. Public Launch and Communications

The committee prepared:

- NASBLA Weekly announcements
- PTC webinar slides (announced on March 11 and May 13)
- A one-page NPCH flyer with QR code
- Social-media-optimized graphics

B. Website Updates

Minor webpage edits were completed in early March, including removing outdated references and updating terminology. A new nomination survey link was posted

VI. Preparing for the 2026 Review Cycle

A. Application Review Planning

The application period closes July 15. The committee is poised to review 2026 applicants including:

- Reviewer assignments
- Use of standardized rubrics
- Potential recruitment of additional reviewers

A standardized, tactful declination letter is drafted to provide constructive feedback to non-selected applicants.

B. Long-Term Administration

The committee discussed creating a **standing charge** for ongoing NPCH administration, ensuring continuity beyond the 2025–26 cycle.

VII. Summary of Accomplishments (2025–26)

Completed:

- Comprehensive review of inaugural NPCH cycle
- Eligibility narrowed to commercial paddlesports entities
- Two-step nomination process created
- Third-party nomination pathway established
- Application form streamlined
- Survey logic redesigned
- Three-year recognition cycle adopted
- New NPCH logo developed
- Website language updated
- Outreach materials prepared (flyer, press, webinars)
- Executive Board approval secured

VIII. Conclusion

The 2025–26 NPCH Charge Team successfully transformed the National Paddlesports Committee Honors program into a clearer, more accessible, and more sustainable national recognition initiative. Through structural improvements, enhanced nomination pathways, clarified eligibility, and a shift to a three-year recognition cycle, the program is now positioned for long-term growth and increased industry engagement.

The committee will continue to complete needed actions from the July 15 nomination deadline and the subsequent review cycle.

Next cycle recommendation:

This charge should continue to address the following:

- **Recommendation 3-1:** Update the 2026 NPCH criteria to address findings from the 2025 process.
- **Recommendation 3-2:** Create a Standing Charge in the Paddlesports Committee to continue the NPCH process.

PADDLE 2025-26 Charge 4 Continued – Presenter’s Guide for Paddlesports Safety

Part 4-1. Update the Guide based on lessons learned from the August 2025 VA and PA beta tests.

Part 4-2. Support state efforts to implement the Guide.

Part 4-3. Consider options to roll out an on-water Train-the-Trainer option based on implementation of the Presenter’s Guide. Roll-out options to include consideration of partnerships with other organizations (e.g. NSBC, PTC, ACA, USPS/ABC, CG Auxiliary and/or others).

Needs Statement – With the growth of paddlesports activities and the increase in related incidents and fatalities, many state boating agencies are developing and engaging the often difficult to reach paddling demographic through short-duration events. Many state boating educators face challenges when organizing entry-level paddling events or participating in brief public outreach activities. A needs assessment was conducted in the 2023-24 committee cycle to help understand the issue.

Charge 2024-4: Paddling Course and Instructor Charge Proposal

Virgil Chambers – LEAD, Jim Greenhalgh, Craig Watson, Andrea White, Brian Phillips, Adam Spangler, Scott Szczepaniak, Roland McDevitt, Mindy Tucker

Measure of Effectiveness: The effectiveness of this charge will be based on the number of states that would implement (in whole or in part) the resulting products into their education program.

I. Deliverable(s): Overview of Charge 4 Purpose and Scope

Charge 4 for the 2025–2026 NASBLA Paddlesports Committee focused on **updating, implementing, and supporting the Presenter’s Guide to Paddlesports Safety – Kayak**, including exploration of **Trainer** options and state implementation pathways. The work centered on:

- Finalizing the Presenter’s Guide and conformity assessment
- Executing a phased national rollout
- Supporting early state adoption
- Developing training equivalencies and Trainer recommendations
- Preparing motions for Executive Board action
- Monitoring usage, feedback, and implementation challenges

The Guide is grounded in the American National Standards for human-propelled boating and is

intended for state boating educators teaching novice paddlers. As the Guide states, its goal is to “introduce new paddlers to the activity of kayaking... based on the applicable American National Standards for human-propelled boating”.

II. Completion of the Presenter’s Guide (January–February 2026)

A. Finalization and Verification

Across October through February, the Charge 4 team completed the final edits, integrated the Games Appendix, and prepared the conformity assessment. The committee confirmed the Guide met criteria for **first-party verification to the ABYC EDU-2 On-Water Recreational Boating Skills – Human-Propelled American National Standard**, with plans to pursue third-party verification when feasible.

B. Rollout Strategy

The team replaced an earlier “share widely” motion with a structured **three-phase rollout**, later approved by the Executive Board:

1. **Phase 1 – State Educator Release** via email (March 24)
2. **Phase 2 – Orientation Webinar** (conducted April 7)
3. **Phase 3 – Public Release** via NASBLA Weekly (April 22)

III. March–April 2026: Orientation Webinar and Implementation Support

The committee prepared a 7-page condensed overview and slide deck for the April 7 State Educators Orientation Webinar. Roles were assigned:

- Craig Watson (OH) – primary walkthrough
- Adam Spangler (PA) & Mindy Tucker (VA) – pilot program insights
- Andrea White (Associate) – training equivalencies and legal considerations
- Pam Dillon (staff) & Virgil Chambers (Charge Lead, Associate)– slide development and facilitation

The webinar successfully introduced the Guide, highlighted EDU-2 alignment, and addressed state questions. A [recorded version of the April 7th webinar](#) is posted for on-demand access.

IV. Motions to the Executive Board (March–May 2026)

Two motions, unanimously approved by both the Charge Team and full committee on March 12, were forwarded to the Executive Board on May 13.

Motion 1 – Training Options & Equivalencies (Approved)

States may use multiple pathways to qualify instructors delivering the Guide, including:

- **Self-certification**
- **ACA certifications** (Level 1 Instructor, Skills Assessment, Trip Leader, SmartStart Facilitator)
- **Training by Charge 4 committee members**
- **State-developed instructor qualification systems**

Motion 2 – NASBLA Train-the-Trainer Program (Tabled by the Executive Board for One Year)

The Board deferred development of a NASBLA-supported Trainer certification program until states have used the Guide for approximately one year.

IV. Early State Implementation (Spring 2026)

Virginia (DWR)

Virginia committed to using the Guide exclusively for 2026 and launched a state-run instructor certification process. Mindy Tucker developed laminated “instructor cheat kits” using Guide graphics.

Pennsylvania & Other States

Pilot insights from Pennsylvania and other early adopters were shared during the webinar and committee meetings.

V. Usage Reporting

States were encouraged to voluntarily report whether they used the Guide and the number of individuals trained. It is proposed that a Fall 2026 survey instrument be developed and distributed in the next committee cycle.

VI. Additional Committee Activities

Future Development (SUP / Canoe) - The committee agreed not to begin new versions until usage data for the kayak Guide is clearer.

VII. Summary of Charge 4 Outcomes (2026)

Completed:

- Presenter's Guide finalized, verified, and released
- Three-phase rollout executed
- State Educators Orientation Webinar delivered
- Training equivalencies established
- Motion 1 approved by Executive Board
- Early state implementation underway
- Usage reporting framework initiated

VIII. Recommended for 2026-27 Committee cycle:

The Committee recommends this charge be continued to address the following:

- **Recommendation 4-1:** Gather data regarding usage of the Presenter's Guide Motion 2 (NASBLA Trainer Program) tabled by the Executive Board for one year.
- **Recommendation 4-2:** Based on usage of the Kayak version, consider development of Presenter's Guide versions for SUP and/or Canoe.

List of Appendices:

Appendix A: Paddlesports Committee 2025-26 Membership Roster

Appendix B: March 12 In-Person meeting Agenda

Appendix C: SUP Video Resource List



PADDLESPORTS COMMITTEE
2025 - 2026
APPROVED COMMITTEE ROSTER

Committee Leaders & Staff	Agency / Organization	State
Gwendolynn Flynn - CHAIR	Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	CT
Craig Watson - VICE CHAIR	Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks & Watercraft	OH
Danny Rodriguez - EXECUTIVE BOARD LIAISON	Arizona Game & Fish Department	AZ
Tom Dardis - USCG LIAISON	Grants Management Branch (CG-BSX-22)	
Scott Szczepaniak - USCG LIAISON	USCG Southeast (formerly District 7)	
Pamela Dillon - NASBLA Staff	National Association of State Boating Law Administrators	

State Members	Agency	State
Adam Spangler	Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission	PA
Brian Phillips	Colorado Parks and Wildlife	CO
Chancy Cotton	Texas Parks and Wildlife	TX
Hunter Nikolai	Illinois Department of Natural Resources	IL
Jacob Vitak	North Carolina State Parks	NC
Josh Hoffman	Arizona Game & Fish Department	AZ
Kosette Seibert	Alaska Office of Boating Safety	AK
Mindy Tucker	Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR)	VA
Philip Hager	Maryland Natural Resources Police	MD
Seth Snow	Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency	TN

Associate Members	Agency / Organization
Andrea White	Cross Currents Leadership
James Greenhalgh	United States Power Squadrons, America's Boating Club
Jeffrey Moag	The Water Sports Foundation
Jim Emmons	The Water Sports Foundation
Lili Colby	Mustang Survival
Roland McDevitt	United States Coast Guard Auxiliary
Steven Treat	Grand River Dam Authority Police Department
Virgil Chambers	Chambers & Associates



NASBLA Paddlesports Committee Meeting – Meeting Room: The Drake

March 12, 2026, Meeting Agenda - **Lexington, KY**

Use this link to participate in the Paddlesports Committee meeting via TEAMS.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/26602899458717?p=FhxN8MQ5z1GkJ0tQAT>

Meeting ID: 266 028 994 587 17

Passcode: rE9Yu2Js

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Phone conference ID: 411 855 383#

Agenda Items

- | | | | |
|----------|--|--|--|
| 1 | 8 ET/ 7 CT/ 6 MT/
5 PT/ 4 AKT | Call to Order | Wendy Flynn, Chair |
| 2 | Meeting Attendance | Meeting Attendance/ Roll Call
Establishment of Quorum | Pam Dillon |
| 3 | | Welcome and Opening Remarks | Wendy Flynn, Chair
Craig Watson, V.
Chair

Danny Rodriguez,
Board Liaison |
| 4 | | For Approval - November 17, 2025
Meeting Minutes | Wendy Flynn |
| 5 | Chair/Staff | Basecamp
Travel Reimbursement
Timelines for Charge Completions | Wendy Flynn
Pam Dillon, NASBLA
Staff |

6	Charge Team - Reports and Work Sessions	Charge 2025-4: Paddling Course and Instructor Charge Proposal – Presenter’s Guide	Virgil Chambers - Lead
		Charge 2025-2: Micro-learning and Outreach Needs Assessment	Phil Hagar - Lead
	12:00 – 1:00 ET	LUNCH (Provided for those in Lexington)	
	Charge Team - Reports and Work Sessions <i>(continued)</i>	- Charge 2025-1 Collaborate with Paddlesports Trade Coalition (PTC) - Charge 2025-3: Paddlesports Honors (NPCH)	Jeff Moag - Lead Kosette Seibert - Lead
7		Review of Next Steps - Committee Report Review and Approval Process Questions or Concerns	Pam and All
8	Approx. 4:30 ET	Closing Comments/ Meeting Adjourned	All

Approved Paddlesports [Committee Roster](#) (posted on NASBLA website).

Approved Charges and Current Charge Teams - see next page.

Have questions or need assistance? Contact:

Pamela Dillon, NASBLA Staff

pam@nasbla.org

Cell: 703-895-9824 (call or text)

Approved Charges and Current Charge Teams:

Charge Teams are open for additional Paddlesports Committee Members to join.

Charge 1 Continued - Collaborate with Paddlesports Trade Coalition (PTC):

Collaborate with PTC to develop a recommended resource list for training paddlesports retailers, outfitters, and livery staff. Incorporate feedback received on training resource needs from PTC and other paddlesports industry partners.

- *Members: Jeff Moag - LEAD, Kosette Seibert, Josh Hoffman, Lili Colby, Virgil Chambers*

Charge 2 Continued - Microlearning and Outreach:

Part 2-1. Expand the Paddlesports Microlearning list of recommended safety videos for kayak, canoe, SUP, and other disciplines (pack raft, raft, etc.).

Part 2-2. Create a location on the NASBLA website and/or Paddlesports Dashboard to link to the list of recommended videos. Create protocols to maintain and update the list. ****NOTE: NASBLA did not receive funding for the RBS Dashboards.**

- *Members: Phil Hagar - LEAD, Seth Snow, Josh Hoffman, Jim Emmons, Craig Watson*

Charge 3 Continued - National Paddlesports Committee Honors (NPCH):

Part 3-1. Update the 2026 NPCH criteria to address findings from the 2025 process.

Part 3-2: Create a Standing Charge in the Paddlesports Committee to continue the NPCH process.

- *Charge Team Members: Kosette Siebert – LEAD, Andrea While, Lili Colby, Seth Snow*

Charge 4 Continued - Presenter's Guide for Paddlesports Safety:

Part 4-1. Update the Guide based on lessons learned from the August 2025 VA and PA beta tests.

Part 4-2. Support state efforts to implement the Guide.

Part 4-3. Consider options to roll out an on-water Train-the-Trainer option based on implementation of the Presenter's Guide. Roll-out options to include consideration of partnerships with other organizations (e.g. NSBC, PTC, ACA, USPS/ABC, CG Auxiliary and/or others).

- *Virgil Chambers – LEAD, Jim Greenhalgh, Craig Watson, Andrea White, Brian Phillips, Adam Spangler, Scott Szczepaniak, Roland McDevitt, Mindy Tucker*

Appendix C:

Paddlesports Resources - SUP

The following video resources are recommended by the NASBLA Paddlesports Committee as of August 2025 to supplement classroom or on-water training.

The Paddlesports Microlearning charge team evaluated each listed resource and determined each supported or met these established criteria:

- ANSI/NASBLA Basic Boating Knowledge and Human Propelled American National Standards.
- The NASBLA Seal of Safe Boating Standards
- USCG's Media Production Procedure
 - For practical purposes, the charge team determined videos should be less than 4 minutes in length to supplement classroom or on-water training and not be an instructional class on their own.

Note: This is not an exhaustive list. Additional resources may be vetted and added to this resource list in the future.

Note: Links are subject to update; See these videos posted at <https://www.youtube.com/@NASBLASafeBoating>

Paddle Sports Skill	Video Link	Notes
Safety gear know before you go	Essential Gear That All Paddlers Need To Carry on The Water	Presents showing a light at night
	https://youtu.be/MrciUgU6OHc?si=1vnuKwZlb5n8xz1g	Safe SUP Choices - Check the Forecast
	https://youtu.be/sF5xInb98gM?si=xqzzjnaZqcbhaX8u Safe SUP Choices - Always Wear a Life Jacket	Safe SUP Choices - Always Wear a Life Jacket
	https://youtu.be/Y_Po_y5R_E8?si=JlI3QnUZaONPoiyo	Safe Kayak Angling Choices - Always Wear a Life Jacket
	https://youtu.be/9abD-exaIAQ?si=uZCDy-tHJT7W0KKy	Safe SUP Choices - Never Paddle Impaired
	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ivyW1FbrPNs	Paddle TV - Stand Up Paddle Safety
	https://youtu.be/R2zRL4bIB0A?si=u6iBaVnaNrFscwzS	Targeting Members of the Paddlesports Industry
PROPER PFD WEAR	Life Jackets and Inflatable Life Jackets	Use if information on Child wear is appropriate. This is a good supplemental material for the Presenter's Guide, but may not address the primary audience for the guide.
	Paddling with Kids Does Your Child's PFD Fit Properly?	Use if information on Child wear is appropriate. This is a good supplemental material for the Presenter's Guide, but may not address the primary audience for the guide.
	Paddling With Kids Do They Need to Wear a PFD?	Covers why to wear a life jacket even if they can swim. Focuses on Children. Paddle TV.
	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CjJsaalluiU	PFD wear on SUP

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	Bing Videos	How To: Fit a Life Jacket
	Bing Videos	Safe paddling with Paul and Ka Kuthe PFD wear
	Bing Videos	<u>Adjusting PFD</u>
Entering/Exiting/ Boarding/ Launching	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0i2mUZfWL-s Entering/Exiting SUP from Dock - West Coast SUP Adventures	Launching Your Paddle Board Safely From a Dock
	Launching Your Paddle Board Safely From The Beach	Boarding SUP in Water - West Coast Adventures
	SUP: Paddle Boarding Basics REI	Falling and recovery
	Launching and Docking a Stand-Up Paddleboard (SUP)	Launching and docking your paddle board
	https://3.basecamp.com/4145652/buckets/35403320/documents/9977152932	How to stand up on a SUP Safely
PADDLE STROKES	Bing Videos	How to adjust your paddle
	SUP: Basic Paddle Strokes REI	REI basic paddle strokes
	How to Paddle Straight on a SUP	How to Paddle Straight on a SUP
	Why Can't I Paddle Straight? / How To SUP With Straight Line Tracking	Why Can't I Paddle Straight? / How To SUP With Straight Line Tracking
MAINTAINING A PROPER LOOKOUT	What To Know About Paddling with Boat Traffic in Multi-Use Waterways - YouTube	What To Know About Paddling with Boat Traffic in Multi-Use Waterways - YouTube
KNOW WHEN APPROPRIATE TO SUP	Weather and Tides	Weather wind and tides. British video but good information
	ProTips: Stand-Up Paddleboard Safety Tips	Good tips but does show some video with belt pack behind paddler
	SUP safety tips with 'She SUPs' # 2 Create a float plan	Create a Float Plan
RULES OF THE ROAD	How to Navigate Channels as a Paddler	How to Navigate Channels as a Paddler
	Sharing the Waterways	Sharing the Waterways

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SUP Rescue	How To: SUP Flip Rescue with Nikki Gregg	How To: SUP Flip Rescue with Nikki Gregg
	Bing Videos	Flip Rescue
	https://3.basecamp.com/4145652/buckets/35403320/documents/9977152932	Tail Mount SUP
	https://3.basecamp.com/4145652/buckets/35403320/documents/9977152932	Side Mount Reboard SUP
	https://3.basecamp.com/4145652/buckets/35403320/documents/9977152932	How to Fall off a SUP Safely
	https://3.basecamp.com/4145652/buckets/35403320/documents/9977152932	Flip Rescue