

THE MOST IMPORTANT SAILING RULES FOR MANUALLY PROPELLED VESSELS

This leaflet provides a simplified overview of the sailing rules for manually propelled vessels on the water. A complete overview is available at www.visuris.be/scheepvaartreglementering. All waterway users must also comply with any temporary regulations in force through a shipping notice, see www.visuris.be/scheepvaartberichten.

TIP: You will find important information and useful tips at www.visuris.be/kano and www.visuris.be/peddelsporten.



THE SEVEN

- 1 Shipping traffic always has **right of way**.
- 2 Keep to the **starboard** bank (to the right in the sailing direction).
- 3 Display a **white light visible from all sides** if it is dark or in foggy conditions.
- 4 Bear in mind that vessels have a **blind spot**.

GOLDEN RULES

- 5 Cross the waterway **perpendicularly** and quickly.
- 6 Preferably wear **high-visibility clothing**.
- 7 Wear a **buoyancy aid or life jacket**.

PRIORITY RULES

Shipping traffic always has right of way. It is important that you can always react quickly and change your course.

- Keep to the starboard bank (or keep to the right in the sailing direction).
- Give shipping traffic the space it needs and bear in mind the blind spot of vessels. All vessels have a blind spot, meaning there is restricted visibility from the wheelhouse. The skipper therefore cannot see everything happening in front of the vessel. In addition, the response of these vessels is slower, meaning they cannot easily stop or take evasive action.
- Cross the waterway perpendicularly and quickly.







VISIBILITÉ

- Preferably wear high-visibility clothing.
- Bear in mind the blind spot of commercial vessels.
- A white light must be displayed when it is dark. This includes at dusk or in foggy conditions!

SOUND SIGNALS

The following signals can be used by commercial and pleasure crafts.

GENERAL SIGNALS

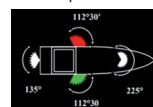
	Attention (a warning)
	I am going to starboard
	I am going to port
	I am reversing
	I cannot manoeuvre
	Imminent danger of collision

OPTICAL SIGNALS ON VESSELS

The general light configuration comprises four navigation lights: the stern light, the masthead light, the starboard light and the port light. These are only visible from certain sectors. From the various combinations you can work out in which direction a vessel is sailing in relation to your own vessel.



General presentation

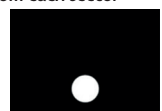


Sectors viewed from above

Visible lights from each sector



For



Aft



Starboard side



Port side

THE MAIN TRAFFIC SIGNS

PROHIBITION SIGNS



Sailing onwards prohibited



Decommissioned part of the waterway



Mooring prohibited



Mooring prohibited on the banks of the waterway



End of permitted water-skiing zone



End of permitted zone for jet boats (powerboats)



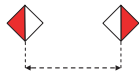
End of permitted high-speed boating zone



Launching or hauling a vessel out of the water prohibited



Prohibited for manually powered vessels



Sailing outside a specified boundary prohibited



Sports and pleasure craft prohibited

MANDATORY SIGNS



Must sail in the direction indicated by the arrow



Must go to the port side of the navigation channel



Must go to the starboard side of the navigation channel



Must maintain a course on the port side of the navigation channel



Must maintain a course on the starboard side of the navigation channel



Must cross the channel to port



Must cross the channel to starboard

DESIGNATION SIGNS



Passage allowed



Permission to berth



Permission to moor



The channel followed is the main channel in relation to the channel that opens into it



Start of the high-speed boating zone



Start of the permitted water-skiing zone



Manually powered vessels permitted



Permitted area for launching or hauling vessels out of the water

WHERE ARE YOU ALLOWED TO CANOE, KAYAK, ROW OR SUP?

Sailing with manually powered vessels is allowed on the navigable inland waterways in Flanders, except on:

- the Ghent-Terneuzen canal;
- the navigation channel from the Beneden-Zeeschelde (Lower Scheldt Estuary) (the section of the Scheldt Estuary downstream from Burcht);
- certain inner arms of waterways, such as the one in Bruges and the 'Afleidingsvaart' of the Nete canal in Lier.

De Vlaamse Waterweg nv is in favour of further developing gentler forms of water recreation, preferably on and along smaller waterways (CEMT classes I and II), where the conditions for practising this form of recreation are safer, or where the preconditions for recreation can be better met. You can view the map at www.visuris.be/kano.

ACCESSING LOCKS

On the grounds of safety, no manually propelled vessels may enter locks on the Flemish waterways. De Vlaamse Waterweg nv may permit access subject to conditions that it lays down in exceptional circumstances.

PASSING THROUGH AND SAILING IN HIGH-SPEED ZONES

Sailing in and passing through high-speed zones in manually propelled vessels (such as canoes, kayaks, rowing boats and SUPs) is prohibited. There are a few exceptions to this. At www.visuris.be/snelvaartvakken you can see whether a manually propelled vessel is allowed in a high-speed zone and under what conditions

TIP: DISCOVER THE BEST PADDLE ROUTES IN FLANDERS

In collaboration with De Vlaamse Waterweg nv, Flanders Environment Agency (VMM) and a number of municipalities, Sport Vlaanderen has developed various great paddling routes. You can read about these on the Sport Vlaanderen website (www.sport.vlaanderen/peddelroutes).

STAND-UP PADDLEBOARDING

The following additional conditions are laid down for stand-up paddleboarding:

- Stand-up paddleboarding is prohibited between dusk and dawn.
- SUP leashes must be used.
- Buoyancy aids must be worn during SUP lessons and when there are groups of 15 people or more.

This publication has been produced in collaboration with:



www.wwsv.be



www.vlaamse-roeiliga.be



www.peddelsport.vlaanderen

www.visuris.be