**BBOP STEERSPERSON CRITERIA**

**I. DEFINITIONS**

Adult Steers: Any paddler may practice steering with certified steers in seat 5.

**LEVEL 1:** **Novice steers**: New steers who are learning to steer during practice must have a fully certified steer present. However, if the certified steer believes that the novice steer is competent enough to handle the canoe independently despite weather conditions, they do not need to be in the same canoe.

**LEVEL 2:** **Basic Certified Steers:** A basic-certified steer possesses the necessary experience and skills and has received approval from a coach (in consultation with Level 3 steers) to steer during practice independently, without the presence of another steer.

**LEVEL 3**: **Advanced Certified Steers:** A steer with a diverse range of experience and skills that enables them to navigate more challenging conditions.

**Keiki Steers:** A certified keiki (youth) steer is allowed to steer in a keiki race or practice under supervision and with the coach's approval.

**II. STEERSPERSON CERTIFICATION**

All levels of steers must demonstrate knowledge and proficiency in canoe maneuvering, safety, and emergency procedures

* **Level 1** These steers develop their skills and experience while steering under the direct supervision of certified steers. Each novice steer’s practice must be approved by a certified steer, in consultation with a coach, based on the novice's experience and the prevailing water and weather conditions.
* **Level 2** These steers develop their skills and experience while steering under the direct supervision of certified steers. Each novice steer’s practice must be approved by a certified steer, in consultation with a coach, based on the novice's experience and the prevailing water and weather conditions.

**Control of the canoe**

Exhibits proficiency in navigating the canoe in the desired direction across a range of mild to moderate wind and weather conditions, demonstrating experience with factors such as wind, current, and tides.

Demonstrates ability to execute a safe approach to a dock or beach

Demonstrates ability to make an emergency stop or an evasive maneuver in open water

Demonstrates ability to ask other seats for appropriate assistance

**Safety of canoe and crew**

Conducts check of required equipment and rigging before paddling.

Need to at least know how to do the ratchet straps.

Ability to coordinate the crew for safe launching and haul-out of canoes

Knowledge of obstacles/hazards in local waters, and ability to gain similar knowledge when steering in other waters

Have held an orientation with a certified steer to review safety bags, radio procedures, right-of-way rules, assessing weather and wind conditions, and incident reporting.

Ability to communicate and successfully direct the steps in a huli recovery

* **Level 3 Steers**

Has solid experience at the basic level and has paddled in bigger waves and more complicated situations with assistance; and other steers and coaches confirm that the steers is prepared for more challenges.

Only level 3 steers with the confirmation from the head coach can certify an individual to level 3.