

## Vaikobi Ocean Racing PFD:



Code of Federal Regulations 33 CFR 175.15. Except as provided in § 175.17, (a) no person in a recreational vessel unless (1) At least one wearable PFD is on board for each person; (2) Each PFD is used in accordance with any requirements on the approve label; ... (c) No person may operate a recreational vessel under way with any child under 13 years old aboard unless each such child is either (1) Wearing an appropriate PFD approved by the Coast Guard; or (2) Below decks or in an enclosed cabin. 33 CFR 175.17. Exemptions. (b) Racing shells, rowing sculls, racing canoes, and racing kayaks are exempted from the requirements for carriage of any PFD required under § 175.15.”

Therefore a person who is in a racing canoe or racing kayak may wear an inherently buoyant foam filled PFD which meets International Organization for Standardization ISO 12402-5 Level 50 or equivalent Internationally recognized standards such as Australian Standard 4758 Level 50. *These PFDs essentially allows a person to have enough flotation to help them float when swimming or treading water. An ISO 12402-5 PFD does not turn a person face up in the water if the person is unconscious (neither does many USCG approved PFDs), or hold a person's head high enough out of the water in rough conditions. A competitor who actually wears a PFD (even if has minimal flotation) is safer than not wearing a PFD at all. A competitor is more inclined to wear a lightweight ISO 12402-5 PFD since it does not hinder their stroke style, and is breathable so that it does not trap heat on a hot day.*

### The following must be followed when wearing a PFD that meets ISO 12402-5 Level 50 or Australian Standard 4758 Level 50:

- (1) User is near to bank or shore, or has help and a means of rescue close at hand,
- (2) User is a competent swimmer,
- (3) User is older than 13 years of age,
- (4) Water temperature is 50°F or above,
- (5) User is wearing the PFD and is wearing the PFD securely, and
- (6) Race officials have not made an announcement that conditions warrant the wearing of a higher buoyant USCG approved PFD.

**Note:** Most States defer to USCG regulations pertaining to PFDs. USCG regulations exempts racing canoe and racing kayaks from the carriage of any PFD. However, some northern States require all paddlers to wear a USCG approved PFD during specified winter months. ISO 12402-5 PFDs do not have sufficient buoyancy to protect people who are unable to help themselves.

### International Organization of Standardization (ISO)

ISO 12402-5:2006/A1:2010 Paragraph 4.2.4 Level 50 \*

ISO 12402-6:2007 Paragraph 5.1.3.3.2

<u>User's mass (weight)</u>	<u>PFD Flotation (buoyant foam)</u>
≤ 30 kg (66.2 pounds)	cannot use this level (type) of PFD
≤ 40 kg (88.2 pounds)	35 newtons (7.9 pound-force)
≤ 60 kg (132.3 pounds)	40 newtons (9.0 pound-force)
≤ 70 kg (154.5 pounds)	45 newtons (10.1 pound-force)

### Underwriter Laboratories, Inc. (UL)

Recognized by U.S. Coast Guard in Chapter I, Title 46 CFR Standard UL 1123 Marine Buoyant Devices 01-Oct-2008 ANSI Approved 08/22/2011 \*\*

<u>User's mass (weight)</u>	<u>PFD Flotation (buoyant foam)</u>
≤ 36.3 kg (80 pounds)	31.1 newtons (7 pound-force)

### International Canoe Federation (ICF)

ICF Sprint, Marathon, Ocean Racing, Slalom, Wildwater Rules 2015

<u>User's mass (weight)</u>	<u>PFD Flotation (buoyant foam)</u>
any user—sprint	PFDs are not required to be worn or carried
any user—marathon	if “organizers so decide for safety reasons”
any user—ocean racing	as “approved by the race committee”
any user—slalom	58.8 newtons (13.2 pound-force) ***
any user—wildwater	60 newtons (13.5 pound-force) ***

\* Does not have sufficient buoyancy to protect people who are unable to help themselves.

\*\* Touring & Whitewater paddling jackets may not turn an unconscious wearer face up.

\*\*\* Should keep a conscious person floating in a face-up position in the water.

