# Adaptation for Upper Limbs











Romain DIDIO / Cyril FOURNIER FRANCE

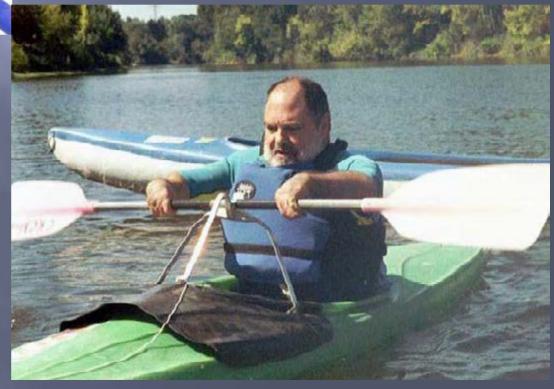


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Special glove or cuff to help keep hold of the paddle







## Aids for maintaining grip www.creatingability.com







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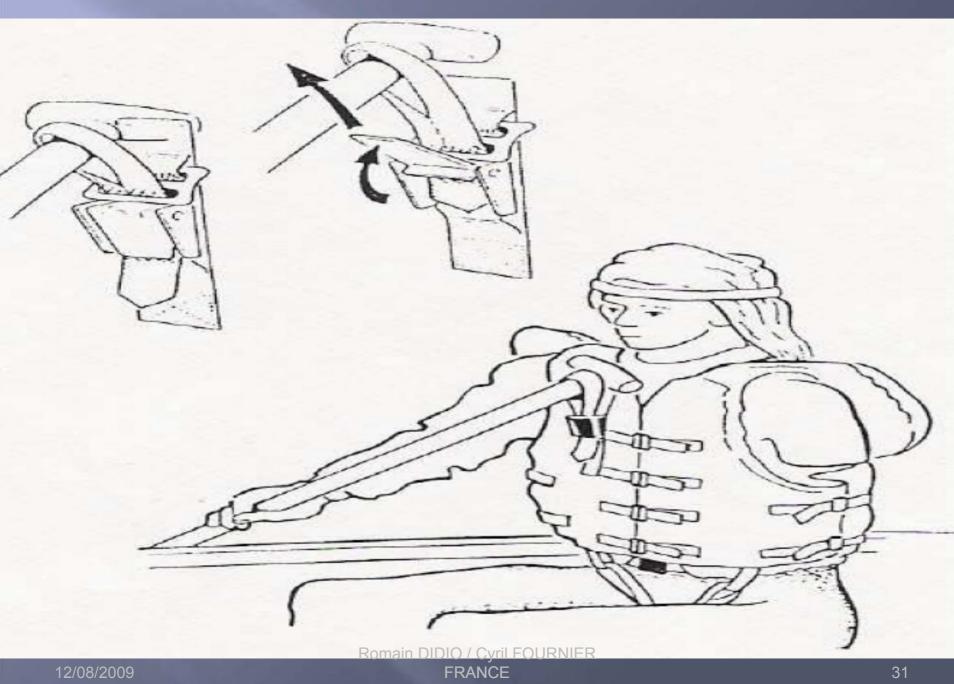
## **Paddling with One Arm**











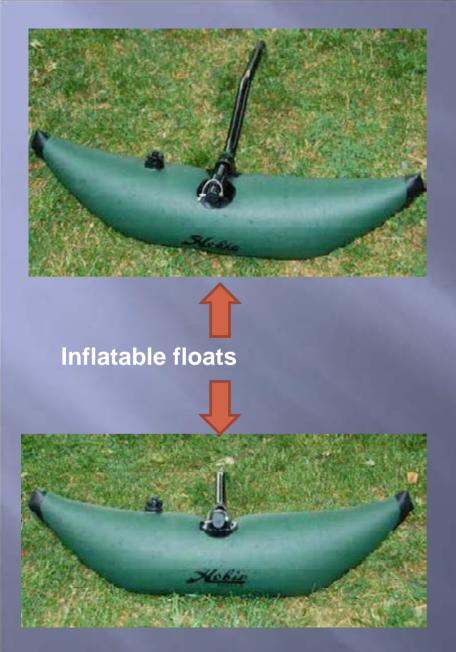
## Create a fixed point to allow paddling with one arm















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## **Access to the Water**



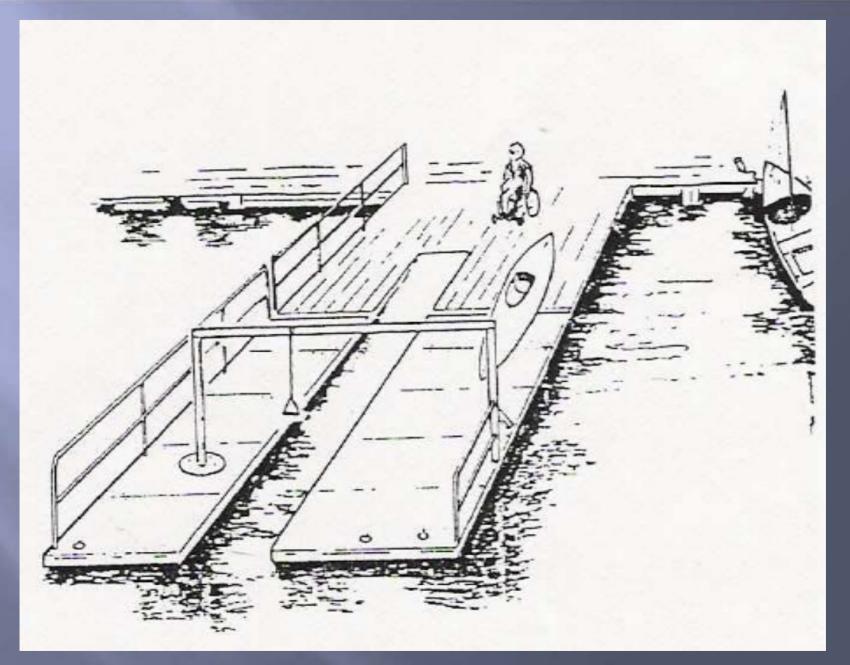
Cristal P.

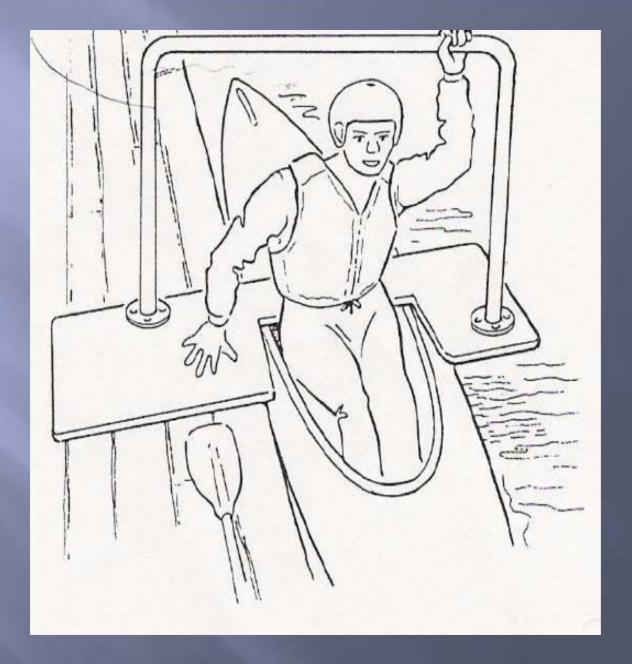
The Seahorse Chair www.vipamat.fr



## **Boarding Adjustments**







## 2. PATHOLOGY

#### a. Motor disorders

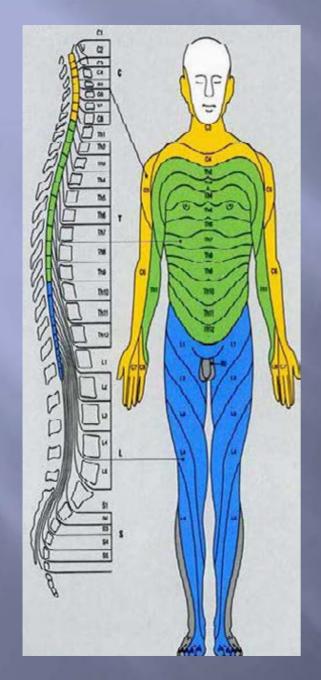
- ⇒ Wheelchairs:poweredmanual
- ⇒ Users : amputees, MI/MS, part paralysis, cerebral palsy, para/quadraplegic

#### b. Visual Impairment

- => total
- => partial

#### c. Hearing Impairment

- => total
- => partial



#### **PARAPLEGIC AND QUADRIPLEGIC:**

#### **METAMERIC SENSORY LEVEL:**

- Which?
- Complete or incomplete?
- Functional consequences?

#### **SPASTIC PARAPLEGIA:**

Contractions, hypertonia, defence reflex uncontrolled

#### PARAPLEGIA:

Weak muscles, muscle atrophy, tendon reflexes abolished.

## Paraplegic and quadraplegic:

Peripheral neurological disability

#### **NEUROLOGICAL LEVEL**

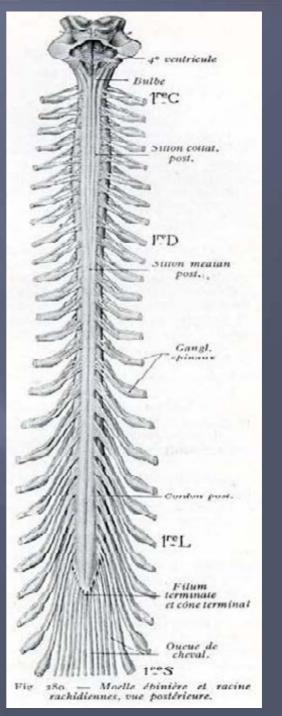
- Numbering = spinal nerves ≠ vertebrae
- C5 to T1 = quadraplegia
- Below T2 = paraplegia

#### **GENERALLY DEPENDS ON THE VERTRABRAE**

- Cervical = quadraplegic
- Dorsal = upper body paralysis
- Lumbar = lower body paralysis
- Coxics = lower body paralysis

**Paraplegia:** lower body paralysis depending on which vertebrae is damaged

Quadraplegia: condition affects the upper body



## Paraplegic and quadraplegic

#### COMPLICATIONS AND PRECAUTIONS:

- ✓ incontinence
- ✓ vegetative
- ✓ Skin complications
- Complications with tendons
- ✓ Increased spasticity



## Paraplegic and quadraplegic conclusion:

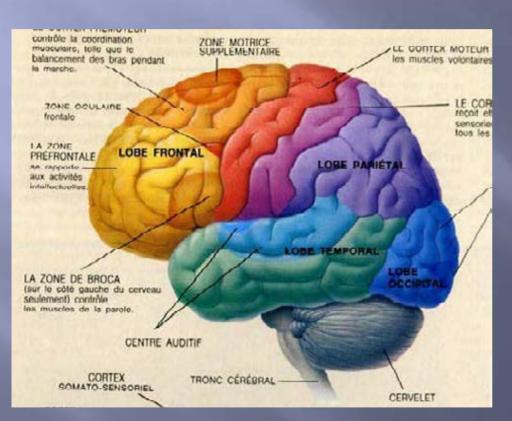
- It's highly variable
- Must ask for information of their condition
- Complications are very specific to each sport
- Prevention is essential (fatigue, tendinitis...)





#### Hemiplegia: Paralysis of half the body

Lesion or water on the brain of the frontal lobe or of the nerve endings



The damaged side of the brain limits the opposite half of the body.

#### **ETIOLOGY:**

- head trauma
- AVC
- tumours
- infections
- malformations
- diving accident
- Cerebral Palsy

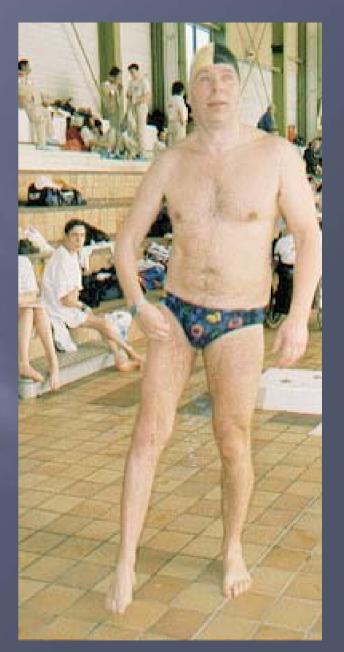
#### Hemiplegia

#### PRINCIPAL CARACTERISTICS OF HEMIPLEGIA:

- Left or right side of the body
- Complete or incomplete
- Predominantly brachio-facial
- Spasticity
- Most common probems:
  - → sensory disorders
  - → visual disorders
  - → language disorders
  - → epilepsy

#### **HEAD TRAUMA:**

- Neuropsychological disorders
- Epilepsy
- Cerebral disorders (balance)
- Orthopaedic disorders



#### **CEREBRAL PALSY:**

- Causes: suffered during or after birth, or if born prematurely (generally from not enough oxygen at birth)
- Non-hereditary, non-progressive
- Problems associated:
  - → hypertonia
  - → abnormal movements
  - → disturbed motor patterns
  - → problem with seeing and hearing
  - → spatiotemporal disorder
  - → epilepsy
  - → orthopaedic problems
  - → possible intellectual deficiency to a variable degree, in just one third of the cases



#### Amputees:

- Due to congenital reasons, trauma or tumour
- It can be on the lower body, upper body, or both
- Progress of prosthetic limbs has helped
- There can be problems with the residual limb (hygiene is very important)
- Athletes can practice the sport with or without their prosthetic limb
- Complications are possible due to friction, humidity, salty water





#### Progressive Neurological Disability:

- Myopathy (Duchenne de Boulogne, Becker,...)
  - → respiratoiry assistance
  - → orthopaedic problems
  - → cardiac problems
- Hereditary Spino-Cerebral Degeneration (Friedreich, Charcot-Marie...)
- Spinal muscular atrophy

#### **Problems with progressive disabilities:**

- Aggravated with fatigue
- Aggravated with lack of movement
- Must find a compromise between physical activity and rest
- Frequent medico-technique assistance is necessary
- Materials constantly being improved
- Social and psychological benefits have a positive impact
- Do not propose a long-term objective

#### **Visual Impairment:**

- Etiology: congenital, traumatic, tumour
- Precautions:
  - → frequently develops or improves
  - → fragility of the eyeballs, avoid trauma
  - → frequently knocked out of the boat and collide with others
  - → take care of water in the eye



#### Hearing Impaired

#### - Etiology:

- → chronic pain
- → blocked ears
- → otosclérose
- → otosclerosis: calcification reduces the mobility of the stirrups
- → exposed to high loud noise
- → taken toxic medecine
- → fractured skull

#### - Precautions:

- → must take out hearing aids
- → be careful of knocking hearing implants

## conductive deafness

(outer and middle ear, never complete)

sensorineural hearing

(inner ear)

### 3. IMPORTANT POINTS

- \* Be sympathetic with your guest:
  his or her pathology, his or her sports experience,
  his or her expectation regarding the activity.
- \* Check their medical certificate and that all medical forms have been completed so you know what to expect (functioning abdominals, easily tired...)
- \* The right support is very important
- \* Be careful of skin problems
- \* Be careful of the climate (hot/cold), there can be problems with thermoregulation (for paraplegics and quadraplegics)

- Problems linked with the length of trip and caring for the paddler's needs such as his or her catheter.
- \* The aids for transferring into and out of the boat, take care of the athlete and the helper.
- With the adaptated seats, ensure there is no risk of getting stuck in the boat so they can get out in an emergency.
- Comfort and support: try beforehand, both the athlete and the helper need to validate the support and the adapted equipment. Very important this is done together.
- Try all the various stages of learning: escaping from the boat, boarding, secured seating, choice of material etc.

### IMPORTANT POINTS FOR THE CLUB

- Give a good welcome: washrooms, common space must be easily accesible for everyone
- Do not hestiate to close certain exits, if you feel it is unsafe
- Inform and communicate with other members of the club
- Inform people how to access the water
- Ensure good communication with the paddler
- The long-term goal depends on their needs and pathology
- Contact specialists and ask for their help and advice

### **RECOMMANDATIONS FOR EVENTS**

#### PROPOSED SITE DEVELOPMENT

- It is essential to designate someone in the organising committee to answer all the questions posed by physcially challenged paddlers before beginning. This person should also guide the committee on accessibility.
- Disabled parking spaces should be relatively close to the athlete's village.
- Pathways from carpark to athlete's village, from village to boarding area, from village to the ceremony area must be accessible. This maintains a steady flow of movement for those in wheelchairs or on crutches.
- Consider the access to washrooms.
- Ensure the boarding area is reserved, boarding is longer and takes more space.

- The height of the pontoon should be 20 cm from the surface of the water. The minimum width of the pontoon should be 1.5 m.
- If there is a ramp to the pontoon, the width can be less than 1 m and the slope gradience should be about 10%.
- PaddleAbility races in the programme should be no earlier than 10 am, to allow athletes time to prepare.

#### **Ensure there is:**

- A storage area for the boats near the pontoon.
- A cloakroom near the boarding area to store not just clothes, but wheelchairs, crutches, prostheses as well.

## **CONCLUSION**

#### THE BENEFITS OF CANPOEING FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

#### **Physical Aspects**

- Rediscovery of body image
- Helps to establish compensation and muscle function
- Preserves and enhances the cardiorespiratory capacity
- Development of balance Etc..

#### Socio-Psychological Aspects

- Social interaction increased through life at the club
- Feeling of equality with the able-bodied on the water
- Feeling of freedom (apparatus not visible or not on the boat at all) Etc...
- => ENHANCES AUTONOMY AND SELF-ESTEEM