If you're planning to kayak in Texas, it's important that you are aware of the state laws and what might legally be required while you're on the water.

While there may be different regulations for different vessels, there are general laws for kayaking and canoeing that can be useful to know before you head out. So to help you stay on the right side of the law, we've put together this guide on Texas kayaking laws.

Personal Flotation Devices

Regardless of where you're paddling, if you're in a kayak, canoe or any other vessel under 16 feet in length **you must have a wearable Personal Flotation Device (PFD)** on board; one for each person in your vessel. These have been provided.

If your craft is longer than 16 feet, it's necessary for you to also have a throwable flotation device in addition to the wearable ones.

Children

All children under the age of 13 must wear a PFD, that's been approved by the **US Coast Guard**, while on the water. This law applies to children on vessels under 26 feet and the PFDs must be worn at all times.

Nighttime Paddling

It is mandatory to have a bright white light on board your vessel if you're paddling between sunset and sunrise, and preferably one that has a 360 degree visibility.

A white light is required by all canoes and kayaks, as well as other manually powered vessels that are on the water at night.

Alcohol Consumption

While it might seem like the perfect opportunity to kick back and have a beer, drinking alcohol while you are operating a boat is actually against the law.

If you're operating a vessel and are found to have a blood alcohol level above 0.08% then you could find yourself with an up to $2,000 fine and you could end up in jail for up to 180 days - and that's just for a first conviction.

Fishing License

Whether you plan to fish from a pier or your kayak, in order to **fish anywhere in Texas** you will need a fishing license. There are different licenses for saltwater and freshwater but it's also possible to combine the two with an all-water package.