

10.7.5 - ADVENTUROUS ACTIVITIES – WATER

1. PHILOSOPHY

- 1.1 The Water Activities program should be an integral part of all Section activities
- 1.2 For the purposes of this policy, Adventurous Activities – Water are defined as any Scouting pursuits conducted in a water/ marine environment in which the participants are registered members of the Scout Association.
- 1.3 Typical pursuits include:-

Swimming
Surfing

Li-lo-ing
Canyoning

Snorkeling
Scuba Diving

Rafting
Canoeing
Sea Kayaking
Rubber Rafting (Inflatable)

Board Sailing (Wind Surfing)
Sailing- Dingys/Cats
Sailing- Keel Boats

Power Boating
Jet Skis/ Water Scooters
Water Skiing

2. OBJECTIVE

- 2.1 The objective of this policy statement is to:
 - (a) Identify who has authority to approve and run adventurous water activities subject to the Policy 10.1 Authority and Prescribed Activities sections.
 - (b) Identify the training and competence requirements for the issue of:
 - (i) Charge Certificate to Activity Leaders Water

LEVEL 1- Basic Skills



LEVEL 2 – Advanced & Above



- (ii) Instructor Certificates to Adult Activity Leaders Water
- (iii) Charge Certificates to youth members

- (c) To provide an authoritative basis for the issue and periodic update of water activities documents providing interpretive guidelines for application of the policy, practice and safety standards.
- (d) To indicate conditions required for approval of water based expeditions (Canoe, Sail, Raft).

3. SAFE PRACTICES and DUTY OF CARE

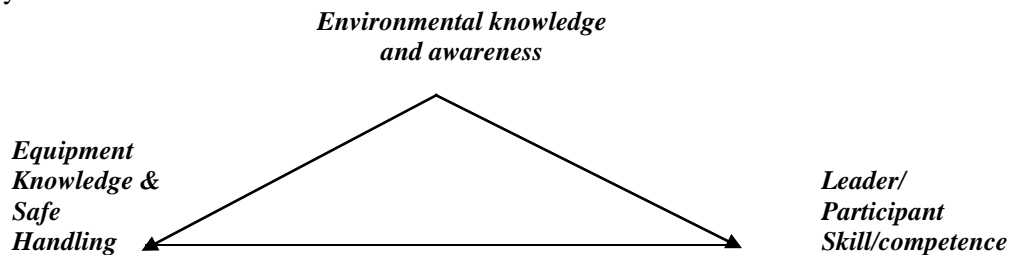
3.1 It is widely accepted that adventure- based outdoor programs particularly water based activities, offer development opportunities for both personal growth and development and team building, but they also bring risk of accident or injury.

Without the real or imagined danger the development " opportunity" evaporates..

3.2 But to ensure that Leaders exercise a responsible level of duty of care, the "risk' must be managed to minimise the danger of accident or injury.

3.3 To do so requires good preparation and planning that takes account of three interrelated elements. They are present irrespective of whether the activity is simply a Cub Pack swim in the river or a Venturer 3 day canoe expedition.

They are:



3.4 The consideration of all three variable elements is essential in exercising duty of care judgements when planning and managing water based activities.

4. ACTIVITY APPROVAL

4.1 In accordance with Policy No. 10.1 the Group Leader, the Leader-in-Charge, or the Crew Leader is the person with the authority to approve water-based adventurous activities.

4.2 As a "Prescribed Activity", water activities require some specialist knowledge & expertise. The Group Leader or approving authority, must either demonstrate that they have the necessary specialist knowledge or competence and qualification to approve the activity or have sought advice from one of the identified sources listed below.

| <u>Activity</u> | <u>Qualification</u> | <u>Advice Source</u> |
|---|--|---|
| Swimming | Knowledge of the conditions | Water Activity Guidelines |
| Surfing (see definition) | Bronze Medallion Knowledge of local conditions | Water Activity Guidelines. |
| Snorkelling | Knowledge of local conditions | Water Activity Guidelines |
| Scuba Diving | Dive certificate | Branch Activity Leader Water |
| Li-Lo- ing | Familiar with local conditions/river level check/weather forecast | Guidelines |
| Canyoning | Familiar with local water levels & rock conditions Check weather | Water Activities & Rock Committees |
| Rafting Lake/local Touring/exped. | Local knowledge Familiar with river section Water level check Weather check | Guidelines Guidelines Branch Activity Leader Water |
| Canoeing Local/lake Touring | Canoe Basic Canoe Level 2 | Guidelines Branch Activity Leader Water |
| Moving water | Canoe Level 3 | |

| | | |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| Sea Kayak | Canoe Level 3 plus experience | Branch Activity Leader Water |
| Inflatable Rafts | Canoe Level 3 | Branch Activity Leader Water |
| Board Sailing | AYF –TL7 | Guidelines |
| Sailing | | |
| Dingys/catamarans | AYF – TL1 | Guidelines |
| Keel boats in-shore | AYF – TL4 | Branch Activity Leader Water |
| Keel boats off-shore | AYF – TL5 | Branch Activity Leader Water |
| Power boats | AYF – TL3 plus NSW licence | Guidelines or Branch Activity Leader Water |
| Jet ski/Water scooter | Waterways licence with endorsement | Guidelines |
| Water skiing | Waterways License with experience | Guidelines |
| Fishing | Local knowledge particularly if rock fishing | |

5. TRAINING AND COMPETENCE LEVELS

5.1 Full details are provided in the Water Activities Guidelines document however the following principles will apply

5.2 Adult Leader Definition and Qualification

5.2.1 Activity Leader -Water

Definition An adult Leader from any Section or Rover who has completed Leader Training to the Basic level - Sectional; Senior First Aid Certificate or equivalent; and has subsequently completed the specialist training identified for the activity area.

Certification The Certification is reviewed every three years and requires evidence of continuing activity to a minimum of 20 hours over the preceding 18 months.

Activity Function Subject to any restrictions identified in the Guidelines, the Activity Leader may lead and/or take responsibility for youth members and other adult Leaders in planned adventurous water activities.

This may include the instruction and testing of youth members for a Charge Certificate which allows them to take charge of a single boat.

As part of their responsibility the Activity Leader may authorise and take responsibility for a water based expedition but need not personally participate.

5.2.2 Branch Activity Leader Water

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Definition | Technically qualified Leaders appointed to the Branch Water Activities Team. Qualifications include:- (i) Completion of all levels of the specialisation (eg Levels 1,2&3 – Canoeing) (ii) Minimum of 2 seasons experience; (iii) Senior First Aid Certificate; (iv) Meet the requirements as an Assistant Instructor |
| Certification | Branch Activity Leaders are required to maintain up to date knowledge in their skill area, and the certification is reviewed every 3 years. |
| Activity Functions | Organise or assist in the organisation of Branch sponsored adventurous water activities; Assist with the technical training of Leaders, Rovers and Venturers as part of the Branch Water Activities training program. |

5.2.3 Instructors

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Definition | Technically qualified Leaders who have: (i) Completed Leader Training to the Advanced (Wood Badge) level; (ii) Completed Trainer Training; (iii) Completed the highest level qualifications in their skill area. (iv) Assisted on several courses. OR (i) Completed Leader Training to Wood Badge level; (ii) Hold current Instructor level qualifications in the specialisations in their National Association 's recognition scheme. This will also include holding an Australian Coaching Council qualification. |
| Certification | Instructors are expected to take a leading role maintaining up to date training content in the Branch Water Activity Courses. Certification will be reviewed every 3 years. |
| Activity Functions | Lead specialist training of Adult Leaders, Rovers and Venturers. Lead general courses, practical training and ad hoc instruction sessions in a wide range of water safety and boating skills. Lead the organisation of Branch sponsored water activities delivered at Region or Branch level. |

Competency Levels for Water Activities

5.3.1 Greater detail is provided in the Water Activities Guidelines, but this list outlines the competence levels required for

- (a) CHARGE CERTIFICATES – where a person is authorised/accredited to take charge of a 'vessel' (youth) or a boating activity (Leaders).
- (b) Accredited Person – to lead or take charge of a Water Activity not related to boating, rafting or touring.
- (c) Activities that do not require accreditation but are subject to the Water Activities Guidelines.

5.3.2 CHARGE CERTIFICATES

| <u>ACTIVITY</u> | <u>YOUTH</u> | <u>ADULT LEADER/ROVER</u> | <u>INSTRUCTOR/ASSESSOR</u> |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|--|---|
| Canoe –Flat Water | Level 1 Canoe Basics | Level 1&2 Canoe - Touring Snr 1 st Aid, Leader appointment | Level 3 – River Leaders Wood Badge, Snr 1 st Aid Instructor Quals. |
| Canoe/Kayak Moving water | Scouts/Vent. Level 3 River | Level 3 River Leaders Snr 1 st Aid, Leader appointment | As above plus experience |
| Sea Kayak | Venturer only as above | As above plus conversion day course | As above plus conversion day course |
| Inflatable Rafts | Venturers only Level 3 River | As for canoe moving water plus conversion day. | As for canoe moving water plus conversion day. |

| ACTIVITY | YOUTH | ADULT LEADER/ROVER | INSTRUCTOR/ASSESSOR |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Sailing | | | |
| Dingy/ Cat. | Sailing Basics Levels 1&2 | Sailing Basics –Levels 1&2 1 st Aid, Leader appointment | AYF Sailing Instructor (or Small Boats Level 5, TL3, Inst. quals, experience) plus Wood Badge, 1 st Aid. |
| Touring | As above plus Level 2 Canoe Touring | As above plus level 2 Canoe Touring | As above |
| Sailboarding | No certificate requirements | No certificate requirements | AYF Sailing Instructor plus sailboard experience. |
| Keel boats In-shore Off-shore | Cannot take charge Crewing Cert | AYF TL4 with in-shore or off- shore endorsement | AYF TL4 with endorsements |
| Power Boat | Must be over 16 years | AYF TL3 or Waterways Cert. 1 st Aid, Warranted Leader | AYF TL3 Power boat & Rescue endorsement, Wood Badge, 1 st Aid |
| Jet–Ski & Water Scooters | Not under 16 yrs | AYF TL3 or Waterways plus endorsement | As above plus Water ways endorsement |
| Water skiing | | As for Power boat plus - 20 hours as a ski boat operator - 20 hours in water skiing experience. | As for power boat plus - 20 hours as a ski instructor |

(b) ACCREDITED PERSON

| <u>ACTIVITY</u> | <u>YOUTH</u> | <u>ADULT LEADER/ROVER</u> | <u>INSTRUCTOR/ASSESSOR</u> |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Surfing | Must have an accredited Leader | Leader appointment, Bronze Medallion, min 30 days surfing in similar conditions. | As for Adult Leader plus Wood Badge & a seasons instructing |
| Snorkelling | Not permitted to lead | Leader appointment strong swimming ability 1 st Aid | Dive Instructor Quals, Wood Badge Instructor , Bronze Medallion |
| Scuba | Not to lead | As above plus dive quals. | As above. |

(c) ACTIVITIES SUBJECT TO GUIDELINES BUT NOT REQUIRING ACCREDITATION

Swimming: See definition

Rafting – Day activities in inland enclosed waters and within 50 metres of the shoreline.

Lo-lo-ing

6. **ACTIVITY GUIDELINES**

- 6.1 The Branch Water Activities Committee under the authority of the Branch Executive Committee prepares, publishes and circulates guidelines for safe practice and standards.

These safe practices and standards are to be applied by all members of the Scout Association on each and every occasion they approve, lead or participate in any water based activity.

Group Leaders or others approving Adventurous Activities - Water are required to draw attention to the relevant guidelines when approving an activity which in part or wholly includes water based activities.

The Branch Water Activities Committee will constantly seek information and advice from relevant national bodies and from its own experience, to ensure that the guidelines reflect current safety standards and 'best practice'.

AUTHORITY

This Policy Statement was approved by the Branch Executive Committee on 28 February 2001.