

Pittwater Outrigger Racing Club Inc

RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

A. General:

1. All PORCI paddlers must comply with the current risk management Policies of AOCRA and in compliance with any relevant rules or regulations issued by NSW Maritime.
2. All paddlers must either be financial members of PORCI or registered/insured with AOCRA or equivalent international body or prospective members trying the sport. Prospective members are entitled to no more than 3 sessions on a signed Indemnity Form. Corporate day paddlers must also sign an Indemnity Form before paddling.
3. Where possible, all prospective members with limited paddling experience must participate in a Novice Program until the novice coaches deem them to be capable for progression to the more experienced squads.
4. AOCRA rules state that all registered paddlers must pass an annual 400m swim test (to be conducted in an ocean/saltwater environment) and be proficient in 2, OC6 capsiz drills per season. Prospective members are exempt from this until full members of PORCI.
5. Steerer &/or coach is to check that weather conditions & forecast are safe for the session according to AOCRA and NSW Maritime rules which must be adhered to at all times. If conditions are within the rules but not ideal, then canoes are recommended to stay in sheltered bays.
6. The steerer/coach is to ensure that the canoes are in a safe working order prior to the commencement of a session.
7. A sufficient number of Personal Floatation Devices (PFD's) for each paddler, 2 bailers, a spare paddle and tow rope are to be taken with OC6 canoes at all times.
8. A mobile phone (or equivalent communication device) in a waterproof case with safety strap is recommended to be taken on all offshore and long inshore sessions.
9. During non daylight sessions, lights must be fixed to the canoe as follows - a white beam visible from 360 degrees, which may include or be additional to a forward facing solid white beam or red and green navigation lights, and a rear facing flashing strobe (preferably) or solid white beam.
10. Follow the scheduled training program and location, unless alterations are required due to either; the weather, number of paddlers, crew or paddler proficiency, or other.
11. If the coach is not present, then they are to be notified of any changes to the scheduled session within 24 hours.

12. If an incident (a near miss or collision with another vessel or shoreline) occurs or a paddler is injured, the coach and the Club Safety Officer or a member of the PORCI Executive Committee are to be notified within 24 hours. Details of all such incidents shall be recorded by the coach or Club Safety Officer.
13. The steerer is in charge of the canoe and has the ultimate say in the canoe's direction, location, speed. The steerer has the right to shorten/cancel a session due to a change in the weather or due to a lack of a paddler's or crew's ability to cope with the session or conditions. Wherever possible the steerer should make themselves familiar with local Maritime rules and conditions.
14. In non-daylight hours, paddlers are to avoid paddling in boating channels and when crossing an area of high boating traffic, do so quickly and in a highly visible location.
15. Coaches are recommended to draft a training program outlined for at least a 3 month period in the season and if requested make each session available for members to peruse. Members to be aware that this program is subject to change according to training progress and attendance. Each training session is to be kept in a logbook detailing the following items –
 1. Time & date
 2. Attending paddlers
 3. Direction/location
 4. Weather conditions
 5. Type of & duration of the session
 6. Any incidents or injuries.

B. Local Environmental Risks:

1. Paddlers are to be aware of sand stingrays that frequent the shallow bay areas of Bayview, and wear appropriate footwear at relevant locations, including at BYRA and Rowland Reserve.
2. All paddlers/steerers/coaches are to be aware of the local boating traffic areas and avoid these areas where appropriate, particularly in non-daylight hours. This includes when passing the marina areas to reduce the possibility of a collision with boats/tenders exiting the marina pens.
3. No solitary canoe is to travel north of the Barrenjoey lighthouse unless accompanied by another canoe or vessel or carrying a mobile phone (or equivalent communication device) in a waterproof case.

C. OC1 / OC2 Paddlers guidelines:

1. A leg rope must be attached to the canoe at all times.
2. During non daylight sessions, lights must be fixed to the canoe. A forward facing solid white beam and a rear facing flashing strobe are recommended.

3. PFD's must be attached to the canoe/s or paddlers during all sessions. It is recommended that PFD's are worn during rough seas or when there is an increased risk of capsizing.
4. It is recommended that a mobile phone (in waterproof case) or waterproof radio, with safety strap is taken on all sessions.
5. A spare paddle strapped to the canoe is recommended.
6. It is HIGHLY recommended that paddlers do not paddle alone, especially in open water or in non daylight hours.
7. Sessions are to be logged with a club coach. Under AOCRA National rules, OC1/2 paddlers are covered by insurance provided the session is logged with the coach. This can be done before or after the session up to the end of the season.

These polices are to be followed in all cases except where commonsense prevails.