



# DBWA Risk Management Policy

## 1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to define the risk management requirements for Dragon Boating WA Inc (DBWA) sanctioned events.

## 2. First aid

First aid and/or ambulance service shall be available at the dragon boating race site. This service shall be provided by a qualified organization or person(s). In the event any injury occurs as a result of participating during competition, an injury/accident report is to be completed as soon as possible, preferably at the first aid administration area. Injuries occurring during training sessions shall be similarly recorded on the Injury Report Form. Completed forms are to be forwarded to DBWA as soon as possible.

## 3. General

Each team captain (coach) or a proxy shall attend pre-race meetings for preview of racing and clarification of race rules.

The officials shall not be responsible for any failure of equipment during a race and each team is advised to carefully check the boat, paddles and steering equipment allocated to it. Race officials are obliged to have damaged equipment replaced. DBWA reserves the right to deny entry to any team refusing to comply with race rules and conduct.

## 4. Safety

1. It is mandatory that paddlers, sweeps and drummers can swim at least 50 metres in their paddling attire, including footwear. It is the club's responsibility to conduct the necessary swim test. All poor swimmers and non-swimmers must wear a Personal Floatation Device (PFD) when in a dragon boat.
2. No alcohol is permitted on or near boats during training or competition.
3. When loading and unloading the boats, during training or competition, boats are to be loaded from the front, with the paddlers ensuring that at all times the boat is maintained in a stable position. Walking on seats is not permitted. Failure to load/unload in a safe manner may result in injury as well as disqualification.
4. Each competitor is solely responsible for his/her own safety during training and competition. No responsibility shall be accepted by the race officials, Dragon Boating WA Inc., any official

volunteer, or any sponsoring organization for any injury, damage or loss incurred or born by competitors or members of a team.

5. Dragon Boating WA Inc. takes no responsibility whatsoever in the instance of a person who is injured, or has a previous injury aggravated due to that person failing to take into account his/her physical conditioning to meet the rigorous requirements of dragon boat racing. Persons training must be physically capable of participating in strenuous activity.
6. Any person observed by an official to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs shall be removed from competing and cannot be placed in the team/crew. In addition, that person's team may be disqualified.
7. A team which permits a non-wavered/registered person to participate as a team member shall be subject to disqualification for that race, and may be disqualified from further participation in the regatta.
8. If a paddle is deliberately thrown in such a manner as to enter another boat lane the boat from which the paddle came may be disqualified.
9. The only person allowed to stand in the boat, away from entry and exit points is the Sweep.
10. In the event of a team member falling out of the boat, the team shall cease paddling and recover that person. The Safety Boat(s) may assist, but it is the responsibility of the team to rescue its' own teammate.
11. Any intentional entrance of a teammate into the water will result in the automatic expulsion of the team.
12. As well as the two spare paddles provided for in the Race rules, an approved personal life jacket shall be in each boat at all times.
13. Where training takes place other than in daylight, lights should be fitted in accordance with the rules governing the waterway.
14. Team members should familiarise themselves with teammates around, and in particular the person sitting adjacent. This is to recognise quickly who is unaccounted for in the event of a boat capsize.
15. In the event of a boat capsize all teammates should stay with the boat and wait for the Rescue Boat(s).