

RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Given that sea kayaking is an inherently risky activity the SKCWA follows a structured risk management strategy to minimise the likelihood and consequence of potential risks to participants and the Club associated with events.

1. All members receive an initial induction prior to joining any club event. This induction includes theoretical, and on-water practical components aligned with Paddle Australia's (PA) Basic Award, including a minimum swim of 25m in paddling gear.
2. All club on-water activities are ranked according to a risk profile. This includes the initial difficulty of the event in alignment with PA's award qualifications. This ranking includes AP (All Paddlers) in which all members can participate. ISSA (Introduction to Sea Skills Award), SSA (Sea Skills Award), SGA (Sea Guide Award) and SI (Sea Instructor Award). The event could be re-classified if the prevailing conditions change.
3. If a member wants to paddle one level above their Award they must have organised a Sea Skills Award paddler or a long-standing, experienced member to closely support them, and advised the leader of this arrangement.
4. All club activities are led by leaders who are endorsed by the general SKCWA committee based on their experience and capability, including but not limited to, PA qualifications.
5. Participants individually register with the leader of the paddling event.
6. Each paddler initially matches their Paddle Australia Award level with the level of the paddling event. Long-standing, experienced members without PA qualifications check with the leader.
7. The sea leader has a right to veto a member from joining a paddling event.
8. All participants sign on to the event before the briefing and understand that but also that in becoming PA and SKCWA members they have already agreed to PA's Event Waiver which acknowledges the risks associated with the specific paddling event.
9. The leader prepares a standardised Float Plan incorporating risk management elements specific to the planned event. These elements include:
 - Weather and sea conditions
 - Participant numbers and capability
 - Location specific hazards
 - Support elements (e.g. other club members and external agencies)
10. A pre-paddle briefing and equipment check with all participants is undertaken prior to departure by the leader.
11. Prior to and during the event the leader may modify the activity including potential cancellation if the risk profile changes.