



WATER SAFETY POLICY - PROCEDURES

3. **BOARD, SKI, SWIM TRAINING SQUADS – SENIOR CLUB MEMBERS**

[Applies to any session which is identified by the participants as part of a club training program, irrespective of the number of participants or whether the head coach or other authorised club representative is present]

1. Supervising coach is water safety supervisor. If no coach present, one of the participants to act as the water safety supervisor.
2. Water safety supervisor can also act as water safety person if participating in the water with the group and the group numbers 12 or less.
3. Water safety supervisor needs to be at least 18, hold BM as a minimum and be proficient.
4. Water safety supervisor must undertake risk assessment prior to any training session taking place.
5. Water safety supervisor needs to ensure that –
 - Risk assessment documentation completed
 - Rescue equipment is available – can include boards/skis being used in the session by others
 - Participants confirm that they are ok to participate and that they are not carrying any injuries that may impact on their ability to participate in the session.
 - Participants capable of training in the conditions
 - Appropriate water safety personnel are present. Water safety personnel must be qualified (SRC or BM) and proficient and competent for the conditions.
6. If the risk assessment indicates a high risk, the training session must not take place.
7. **For training on Sydney Harbour or other inland water areas**, a standardised risk assessment form can be pre-completed and signed off by the water safety supervisor. The supervisor will need only consider any relevant variables that may impact on the safety issues – e.g. the session is early morning in low light as opposed to late afternoon in full light.
8. **For training at beach**, a standardised risk assessment form may be possible but the variable nature and impact of the surf, wind and tide on safety means a standardised approach may not be considered appropriate in the event of an accident.

9. Water safety supervisor has to ensure that there is at least 1 nominated water safety person for each 12 participants. The water safety personnel can be persons who are also part of the training session including the water safety supervisor. Water safety personnel need to be determined and identified to the training squad prior to the activity commencing. **The minimum number of water safety personnel (i.e 1 for each 12) must be in the water at all times the squad is in the water.**
10. **If all participants in the activity are proficient SRC or BM members**, the one on one buddy system can be adopted instead of having specific water safety personnel nominated. **It will still be necessary to nominate one member as the water safety supervisor and a risk assessment still needs to be completed.**
11. Water safety supervisor needs to consult with the patrol captain or lifeguard to determine where the activity is to take place. Patrol captain or lifeguard has ultimate authority to determine where the activity is to occur. If no patrol or lifeguard on duty, the water safety supervisor determines where the activity is to take place.
12. Water safety can be provided by patrolling members at the discretion of the patrol captain and provided minimum patrol requirements are otherwise met. **The patrol captain or lifeguard has responsibility to ensure that sufficient water safety is available for the events**
13. Water safety supervisor must be alert to late arrivals to the training session and if necessary adjust water safety ratios accordingly.
14. Water safety supervisor is to ensure that all completed risk assessment documentation is returned to the club for filing.