



WATER SAFETY POLICY - PROCEDURES

7. **NIPPERS - BOARD & SWIM TRAINING SQUADS**

[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, another authorised person such as water superintendent or age manager 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 5 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 in the form of tubes/boards/IRB
 - 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 5 participants. **If a moderate risk is identified, the ratio is 1 to 4.** Water safety personnel need to be determined and identified to the training squad prior to the training commencing. **The minimum number of water safety personnel (i.e. 1 for each 4 or 5 depending on the risk assessment) must be in the water at all times the squad is in the water.**
10. For U14 age group, ratio of water safety personnel can be 1 to 12 if all participants have their SRC. If there is a mixture of SRC and non-SRC participants, the ratio of 1 to 5 or 1 to 4 must be met.
11. Water safety supervisor and personnel must wear identifying clothing – either a coloured cap or coloured rash vest with “Water Safety” on both sides. If patrol members perform water safety they must wear a red and yellow cap and patrol rash shirt with “Surf Rescue” on both sides.
12. Water safety supervisor needs to consult with the patrol captain or lifeguard to determine where the training is to take place. Patrol captain or lifeguard has ultimate authority to determine where the training is to occur. Subject to minimum patrol requirements being met, excess patrol members can undertake water safety for the training at the discretion of the patrol captain. **The patrol captain or lifeguard has responsibility to ensure that sufficient water safety is available for the events**
13. If no patrol or lifeguard on duty the water safety supervisor determines where the training takes place.
14. Water safety supervisor must be alert to late arrivals to the training session and if necessary adjust water safety ratios accordingly.
15. Water safety supervisor is to ensure that all completed risk assessment documentation is returned to the club for filing.