



AUSTRALIAN OUTRIGGER CANOE RACING ASSOCIATION

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SAFETY ALERT 1 JANUARY 2013.

In order to be covered under AOCRA insurance all zones and clubs must have in place a Risk Management document in relation to safe paddling for their clubs and individual paddlers. The document will need to identify the risks and the measures required to reduce any potential risks.

The club document must follow the rules and guidelines specific to their area as identified in the relevant Zone Risk Management document.

The following must be included in relation to paddling in Strong Wind Warnings. (Strong wind warning: 26 to 33 knots as set down by Bureau of Meteorology).

- Zones /Clubs (coaches and officials) must be aware of the local Maritime Rules and Guidelines specific to their area of paddling.
- Zones /Clubs (coaches and officials) must be aware of the local Maritime Specification for smooth, sheltered or protected waters relevant for their particular area.

In the event of the issuing of a Strong Wind Warning by local Weather Authorities the following procedures must be put in place by Zones and clubs for all Outrigging activities including training.

- **A risk assessment must be completed and recorded by the club coach(s); zone official(s) before each paddling session.**
- **Paddling may only occur after all the risks have been assessed; the zone and local maritime rules have been considered, and the potential risks are deemed to be minimal.**

No paddling is to occur in any waters if a Gale force warning or worse has been issued. (Gale warning: 34 to 47 knots as set down by Bureau of Meteorology).

AOCRA recommends that OC1 / OC2 paddlers always paddle with a buddy. Leg ropes are a mandatory safety feature and must be attached to OC1/ OC2 canoes. It is recommended that paddlers use them to ensure their own personal safety especially when offshore and/or in circumstances where the paddler/s may become separated from the canoe.

Paddlers training or paddling outside club approval / guidelines do so at their own risk and responsibility.



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