



RISK MANAGEMENT

Safety Insight



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OC6 ULTRA LIGHTWEIGHT

SUPPORT BOAT | PADDLER SAFETY

Following on from the recent introduction and steady increase of Ultra Lightweight (90kg) OC6 Canoes within Australia, it's prudent to reassess the risk management guidelines and expectations AOCRA has in place with this regard.

With Paddler and performance safety in mind, an initial period of scrutiny was deemed appropriate to;

- Identify any key ocean racing integrity concerns
- Limit exposure to ensure paddler safety (bodily Injury from any resultant damage)
- Performance Testing and due diligence
- Material Damage / Repair costs / sustainability

Post this 'research and development' period and following consultation with affiliated clubs who control ultra lightweight assets, evidence suggests that:

- Ultra Lightweight Canoes are robust and able to handle Australian ocean racing conditions
- No evidence to suggest an alteration to the degree of already existent paddler safety
- Material Damage: Expected increase to repair cost/ability to repair if damaged. This will place upward pressure on the Marine Hull Insurance policy which could likely see a premium increase for this type of craft.

Arthur J. Gallagher, following review of this information, has sought approval from the insurer to relax the current support boat ratio requirement for this type of craft.

There is some concern regarding the increase pace at which an Ultra lightweight may generate over a standard race weight OC6 during a regatta (spreading the field and placing stress on support boats). It is for this reason that the standard AOCRA support boat ratio for regattas' is still deemed to be insufficient when catering for mixed weight regattas. An increased ultra lightweight support boat ratio (in addition to the standard AOCRA requirements) of 1SB per every 5ULW is required. Assessment of this requirement and risk will continue and we thank you in advance for your ongoing feedback.

The goal is, and always will be, to make people of all ages fitter and faster and to enjoy their paddling. **Risk management** is an important ingredient in your ability to achieve this and create a safe environment for a successful sport.



Arthur J. Gallagher
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