

Curriculum activity risk assessment

Water Skiing

clever • skilled • creative

Activity scope

This document relates to student participation in waterskiing activities as a curriculum activity. This guideline is to be considered in conjunction with [Power Boating in Small Craft](#).

Risk level

This document is a guideline, the actual risk level will vary according to the specific circumstances of the activity; these must be considered when assessing the inherent risk level and planning the activity. As a starting point, ask the following questions:

- What students will be involved?
- What will the students be doing?
- What will the students be using?
- Where will the students be?
- Who will be leading the activity?



Inherent risk level		Action required/approval
<input type="checkbox"/>	High	Likely chance of a serious incident and injury requiring medical treatment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A Curriculum Activity Risk Assessment is required to be completed. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Principal or head of program (e.g. DP, HOD, HOSES) approval prior to conducting this activity is required. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Once approved, activity details are to be entered into the <i>School Curriculum Activity Register</i>. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Obtaining parental permission is recommended.

Teachers/leaders:

Activity description:

Start date:

Finish date:

No. of students (approx):

Class groups:

Supervision ratio (approx):



Queensland Government

Uncontrolled copy. Refer to *HLS-PR-012: Managing Risks in School Curriculum Activities* at <http://education.qld.gov.au/strategic/eppr/health/hlspr012/> for master.

Date Modified: 24 January 2012
Due for Review: 17 January 2014

Teen Boy Waterskiing, File #: 10499388
 iStockphoto © Jen Grantham

Listed below are the 'minimum' recommendations for this type of activity. For any items checked 'No', provide further information on the additional or alternate controls to be implemented for the safe conduct of the activity.

Minimum supervision

Adequate adult supervision is to be provided – consider the following: the number of students, their individual needs, and the nature of the activity. Other supervisors should be selected from those most suitable for this particular activity. Before they depart, the supervisors should be informed of their role, potential hazards and precautions to be taken.

When planning any outdoor activity, the ratio of qualified, experienced leaders to dependent participants needs to be considered. A minimum of 3 adults is recommended for this activity including:

- Power boat driver with:
 - experience approved by the principal and leader, and
 - a [current powerboat licence](#), and
 - knowledge of the signals used when water skiing, and
 - membership of the [Australian Waterski and Wakeboard Federation](#) (AWWF)
- Observer with:
 - experience approved by the principal and leader, and
 - knowledge of the signals used when water skiing
- 'On-shore' supervisor with:
 - experience approved by the principal and leader.

In certain situations, judgment may dictate smaller or larger numbers of participants per leader.

Several variables can affect this decision, including but not limited to:

- outcomes of the risk management process
- the leaders' experience
- participants' expected capabilities (i.e. experience, competence, fitness)
- conditions (environment, weather)
- planned duration of the activity
- number of participants and optimum group size
- remoteness of the activity
- suitability and availability of equipment.

Registered teacher with minimum qualifications as outlined below

OR

An adult with minimum qualifications as outlined below, in the presence of a registered teacher.

Further information:

Minimum qualifications

The qualifications listed in this section are minimums for each type of situation. Leaders are encouraged to seek training to raise their qualification level above the minimum listed.

- Current first aid qualifications including Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) or ready access to first aid facilities, including qualified personnel
- [Blue Card](#) requirements met

Demonstrated skills and currency that meet the leadership, group management, technical capacities and safety requirements (including familiarity of the environment, emergency procedures by all adult participants) of the specific circumstances being addressed

For the adult taking overall responsibility for water safety:

- [Bronze Medallion](#) or equivalent (e.g. Pool Lifeguard)
OR
- A statement of attainment from a registered training organisation or governing sporting body covering the following unit of competency
 - SISACU202A Perform basic water rescue or equivalent**OR**
- Competence (demonstrated ability) in the teaching of recreational swimming.
A teacher could demonstrate a reasonable level of competence by two or more of the following:
 - knowledge of the activity and the associated hazards and risks
 - experience (i.e. previous involvement) in undertaking the activity
 - demonstrated ability and/or expertise to undertake the activity
 - possession of qualifications related to the activity.
- In circumstances where one person holds **both** the Bronze Medallion and CPR qualification and is involved in an emergency situation, another adult present will be required to ensure students exit the water safely and manage effective supervision of students.

For a registered teacher leading the activity:

- Accredited Level 1 coach in water skiing
AND
- Competence (demonstrated ability) in the teaching of water skiing and wakeboarding.
A teacher could demonstrate a reasonable level of competence by two or more of the following:
 - knowledge of the activity and the associated hazards and risks
 - experience (i.e. previous involvement) in undertaking the activity
 - demonstrated ability and/or expertise to undertake the activity
 - possession of qualifications related to the activity.**OR**

For a leader other than a registered teacher:

- An adult with qualifications (accredited Level 1 coach in water skiing)
Level 1 accreditation can be obtained by contacting the AWWF where recognition of prior learning can apply.

Further information:

Minimum equipment/facilities If checked 'No', provide further information	Yes	No
First aid kit suitable for activity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communication system: <input type="checkbox"/> phone-line at location <input type="checkbox"/> mobile phone <input type="checkbox"/> walkie talkies/UHF Radio <input type="checkbox"/> student/adult messenger Other:		
Sun safety equipment (hat, sunscreen, shirt, etc)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wetsuit pants for female participants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Powerboat that conforms to Maritime Safety Queensland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensure all students are wearing approved Personal Flotation Devices (PFD) of the type approved by Standards Australia 4758.1-2008. Each PFD should be checked for correct fit before each ski run.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drinking water (students should not share drinking containers)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Further information:		

Governing bodies/associations	Yes	No
For water ski competition, the Governing body Waterski Queensland will be able to provide assistance as required and in most cases can 'sanction' the event.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Further information:		

Hazards/risks	Control measures	Yes	No	Implementation plan/ additional controls
Physical exertion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cramps • Sprains and strains • Fatigue and exhaustion • Speed of boat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead appropriate warm-up and warm-down activities. • Continuously monitor students for signs of fatigue and exhaustion. • Ensure progressive and sequential skill development. • Develop students' confidence and ability to float in deep water while wearing a buoyancy vest before they participate in water skiing. • Proficiency in double ski technique before advancing to single ski which requires higher speed. • Instruct in technique, signals and safety procedures. • Keep boat speed to level suitable for students. 	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Water <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of drowning • Submersion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure suitability and competency of students. • Tow only a single skier. • Do not 'drop off' skiers in shallow water. • Ensure start and 'drop off' areas are clear of swimmers. • Designated water skiing areas should be used, observing hours of operation. 	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Noise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loud and/or continuous from boat motor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear personal protective equipment where necessary. • Ensure power boat has mufflers fitted to reduce noise level. 	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special needs • High-risk behaviours • Medical conditions • Student numbers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain parental permission, including relevant medical information. • When students with medical conditions are involved, ensure that relevant medical/emergency plans and medications are readily available (e.g. insulin, Ventolin®, EpiPen®, etc). • Refer to Individual Education Plan/Educational Adjustment Plan/Behaviour Management Plan and other student documents. 	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	

Hazards/risks	Control measures	Yes	No	Implementation plan/ additional controls
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where necessary, obtain advice from relevant advisory visiting teachers or specialist teachers. Ensure adequate adult supervision. Jewellery can be a serious hazard when undertaking many activities. All forms of jewellery should be considered in terms of the risk it presents for each activity. Procedures should be put in place to ban, dissuade or protect (e.g. tape) the wearing of jewellery accordingly. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Vehicles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continually assess threat of vehicles. Consult appropriate documents, such as zoning plans produced by the Department of Environment and Resource Management or other relevant authority. Site proof of registration and insurance with water skiers' liability. Current requirements of Maritime Safety Queensland relating to water skiing and tobogganing must be observed. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Additional control measures

These would relate to the specific student needs, location and conditions in which you are conducting your activity.

Hazards/risks	Control measures

Submitted by:	Date:
Indicate the names of those who were involved in the preparation of this risk assessment.	

Approval	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Approved as submitted:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Approved with the following condition(s):
<input type="checkbox"/>	Not approved for the following reason(s):
By:	Designation:
Signed:	Date:
Once approved, activity details should be entered into the <i>School Curriculum Activity Register</i> by administrative staff.	Reference no.

Monitor and review <i>To be completed during and/or after the activity and/or at the completion of the series of activities.</i>	Yes	No
Are the control measures still effective?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have there been any changes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are further actions required?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Details:		

Important links

- HLS-PR-003: First Aid
<http://education.qld.gov.au/strategic/eppr/health/hlspr003/>
- HLS-PR-004: Infection Control and Management of Prescribed Contagious Conditions
<http://education.qld.gov.au/strategic/eppr/health/hlspr004/>
- Infection Control Guideline
http://education.qld.gov.au/health/pdfs/healthsafety/infection_control_guideline.pdf
- HLS-PR-005: Health and Safety incident recording, notification and management
<http://education.qld.gov.au/strategic/eppr/health/hlspr005/>
- HLS-PR-013: Developing a Sun Safety Strategy
<http://education.qld.gov.au/strategic/eppr/health/hlspr013/>
- HRM-PR-010: Working with Children Check - Blue Cards
<http://education.qld.gov.au/strategic/eppr/hr/hrmpr010/>
- SCM-PR-002: School Excursions
<http://education.qld.gov.au/strategic/eppr/schools/scmpr002/>
- Australian Waterski and Wakeboard Federation
<http://awwf.com.au>
- Department of Environment and Resource Management Zoning Plans
http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/parks_and_forests/marine_parks/zoning_plans/index.html
- Maritime Safety Queensland
<http://www.msq.qld.gov.au/>
- Maritime Safety Queensland – Personal watercraft licence
<http://www.msq.qld.gov.au/Licensing/Personal-watercraft.aspx>
- Maritime Safety Queensland – Boat safety equipment
http://www.msq.qld.gov.au/~media/d7f7a97e-f8ec-4e2a-882c-25f2a2d74aca/pdf_rec_safety_equipment.pdf
- Power Boating in Small Craft
<http://education.qld.gov.au/strategic/eppr/health/hlspr012/resources/powerboatsmall.pdf>
- *Safety in Recreational Water Activities Bill 2011*
<http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/bills/53pdf/2011/saferecwab11.pdf>
- Standards Australia
<http://www.standards.org.au/>
- Surf Life Saving Queensland Marine Stinger Risk Management Guidelines
<http://www.thesurfclub.com.au/slsc/documents/MarineStingerRiskManagement23-08-08FINAL.pdf>

Further information

For further information on incorporating risk management strategies into curriculum activity planning refer to [HLS-PR-012: Managing Risks in School Curriculum Activities](#) and the associated list of [Curriculum Activity Risk Management Guidelines](#).

For further support with risk management training and advice, contact trained staff in schools such as Workplace Health and Safety Officers (WHSOs) and Workplace Health and Safety Representatives (WHSRs), and regional staff such as Senior Health and Safety Consultants.