

Kayaking and Canoeing

(lakes, rivers and streams)



The planning considerations that are common to all curriculum activities can be found in the [CARA generic template](#). These must be considered as well as the activity-specific considerations outlined below.

Activity scope

This guideline relates to student participation in canoeing¹ and/or kayaking² in lakes, rivers and streams up to [Water Grade 2](#) as a curriculum activity. It does not include kayaking in open seas and oceans. Canoeing/kayaking may involve other activities that have various risk levels, for example [Swimming in locations other than pools](#) or Kayaking (open water). Refer to the relevant guidelines for management of these risks.



Mandatory requirements

Mandatory requirements must be met for the activity to be conducted.

- Undertake a process³ to confirm student water safety and aquatic ability prior to participating in the activity.
- Follow guidelines/codes of practice published by [Queensland Adventure Activity Standards](#) and the [Paddle Australia – Safety Guidelines](#) notably the helmet specifications for Grade 2 waters.
- Obtain parent/carer consent and a medical questionnaire/declaration. (Note: Students with a medical condition that may impact on their safety during participation in this activity must be cleared by a medical practitioner to participate in the activity).
- Establish and implement procedures appropriate to the activity, location and conditions. This must include, but is not limited to: safety; emergencies (e.g. separation from the group, injury, first aid); resuscitation; communication (e.g. assistance, emergency services, parent notification); and supervision.
- Induct students on emergency procedures (e.g. using rescue equipment), safety procedures and correct technique (e.g. righting a capsized craft) prior to the commencement of the activity. This should include, but not be limited to:
 - basic preliminary training before participating in on-water activities (e.g. [Collision Regulations](#), craft handling, communications);
 - safety regulations conforming to current [Maritime Safety Queensland](#) requirements (e.g. location and use of basic survival techniques) for the conditions the craft may encounter; and
 - the route, area and scope of the activity, and notice of any dangers from other sources.
- Wear [lifejackets](#) or personal flotation devices (PFD) that comply with Australian Standards and are appropriate to the conditions.
- Follow the school's [sun safety strategy](#).

Risk level

High risk: Kayaking and/or canoeing on flat water and [Grade 1 waters](#).

Extreme risk: Kayaking on [Grade 2 waters](#).

¹ A narrow-beamed pointed vessel with a rigid hull propelled by a paddle.

² A topped, narrow-beamed vessel that floats and is propelled by a double-bladed paddle.

³ The process is determined by the school and must consider the specific aquatic environments in which the activity will take place. For example, if canoeing or kayaking on a flat water location, adult supervisors must be satisfied that the participants can swim 200m without stopping and scull/float/tread water for 10 minutes in a swimming pool before participants are granted permission to participate in the canoeing/kayaking activity.

Supervision requirements

- At least two adult supervisors, one of whom is a registered teacher, are required for canoeing/kayaking activities.
- One adult supervisor is required to either canoe/kayak with the learners or travel in a powered vessel in close proximity to the learners under instruction.
- Inform supervisors of their role, potential hazards identified and precautions to be taken before departing.
- Refer to the [Paddle Australia – Safety Guidelines](#) for recommendations and factors affecting supervisory ratios.

Qualifications for supervisors

- At least one adult supervisor must be a registered teacher.
- At least one adult supervisor must hold a current Guide or Instructor award. The statement of attainment from a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) or Certificate from a NSO must be supplied.

AND

- A competent adult supervisor with a current first aid qualification including cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) with capability and competence (knowledge and skills) to perform a rescue to assist/recover a student, if required.

This may be one adult with multiple qualifications or multiple adults.

Skill Sets:

[SISSS00018 - Canoeing Guide Flat Water](#) or
[SISSS00019 - Canoeing Guide White Water Grade 2](#)

OR

[SISSS00064 - Kayaking Guide Flat Water](#) or
[SISSS00066 - Kayaking Guide White Water Grade 2](#)

OR

[SISSS00067 - Kayaking Instructor Flat Water](#) or
[SISSS00068 - Kayaking Instructor White Water Grade 2](#)

OR

[SISSS00021 - Canoeing Instructor Flat Water](#) or
[SISSS00022 - Canoeing Instructor White Water Grade 2](#)

OR

Competencies:

For Grade 1 water:

- SISOCNE303A Apply canoeing skills;
- SISOKYK302A Apply kayaking skills;
- SISOCNE202A Perform deep water rescues; and
- SOCNE305A Guide canoeing trips on flat and undemanding water; **or**
SISOKYK304A Guide kayaking trips on flat undemanding water.

OR

- For a registered teacher or other activity leader, a nationally recognised (Paddle Australia) qualification as a Paddling Supervisor in Canoe or Kayak or a Foundation coach.

For Grade 2 water:

- Grade 1 units above **AND**
- SISONAV201A Demonstrate navigation skills in a controlled environment; and
- SISOCNE304A - Apply inland canoeing skills on Grade two water; and
- SISOCNE307A Guide canoeing trips on Grade two water; **or**
SISOKYK305A Guide kayaking trips on Grade two water.

OR

- For a registered teacher a nationally recognised (Paddle Australia) qualification as a Whitewater Guide or Instructor in Canoe or Kayak.

Requirements for facilities and equipment

- Only use sea-worthy craft that is suitable for water grade and conforms to the boating regulation of [Maritime Safety Queensland](#).
- Provide rescue equipment that is quickly and easily accessible.
- Ensure the safety, repair and rescue equipment (e.g. quick release towing systems, throw bags), navigation equipment, helmets, lifejackets and paddles conforms to the [Paddle Australia - Safety Guidelines](#).
- Ensure protective clothing is worn at all times and includes appropriate footwear.
- All gear should be correctly waterproofed and stowed securely in the craft.
- Ensure that no single navigation system is relied upon. Where an electronic system (e.g. GPS) is used, have spare batteries and another position-fixing method available.

Hazards and controls*Before the activity*

Hazards	Control measures
Considering environmental conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess weather (Bureau of Meteorology) and environmental conditions. Refer to Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for restricted areas. Obtain permits and permissions as necessary (e.g. Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority). Refer to Australian Institute of Marine Sciences for information on dangerous Australian marine animals. Stings and bites by stonefish, irukandji and other dangerous marine animals can be fatal. Adhere to the Surf Life Saving Queensland Marine Stinger Safety guidelines. The Queensland Poisons Information Centre has further information about types of poisoning and treatment available, or phone 13 11 26.
Accessing facilities and using equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure access to waterways is available for emergency vehicles. Ensure shade, water and food are available. Ensure first aid is available and clearly identified.
Managing student considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide accurate information on tides, depths, currents and other expected water conditions to participants. During colder periods and during the stinger season, participants must wear a wet suit or stinger protective swimwear. Adhere to the Surf Life Saving Queensland Marine Stinger Risk Management Guidelines, if appropriate. Instruct participants to call or signal for assistance if they cannot rectify a problem immediately. Advise students not to handle marine organisms and avoid contact with marine creatures.

During the activity

Considering environmental conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cease activities when conditions tend towards unfavourable (e.g. impending storm). Continually assess threat of vehicles (e.g. boats) and dangerous marine animals (if appropriate to location).
Managing student considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continually monitor students for signs of distress (e.g. fatigue, exhaustion, illness, hunger, dehydration, difficulty breathing and hyperventilation). Continually assess threat of other water craft when paddling and when entering or leaving the water. Ensure that all participants work far enough apart that they are not struck by paddles. Instruct participants to remain aware of their position in the training area, distance from shore and other obstacles. Ensure that crafts negotiate rapids one at a time. The leader should negotiate areas of moving water immediately before the students. Ensure helmets are worn and securely fitted while paddling among rocks and during rescue practice. A helmet is optional for flat water canoeing/kayaking activities. Allow all students periods of rest from repetitive paddling (this may be resting/floating on the water, not necessarily landing).

After the activity

Accessing facilities and using equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continually assess threat of vehicles when loading/unloading canoes/kayaks. Instruct students to straighten backs and bend knees when lifting kayaks to/from the water.
Managing student considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement procedures (e.g roll marking mechanisms) for students leaving the location.

Additional links

[Paddle Australia](#)

[Paddle Australia – Risk Management and Safety](#)

[Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing](#)

[Guidelines For Managing Risks in Recreational Water](#)

[National Standard for Recreational Boat Safety Equipment](#)

[Safety in Recreational Water Activities Act 2011 \(Qld\)](#)

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