

SWIMMING NEW SOUTH WALES

OPEN WATER SWIMMING - RISK ASSESSMENT

Event: _____ Date: _____

Event Co-ordinators: _____

Person/s Completing Assessment: _____

Signature _____ Date: _____

Note: The hazards identified in this checklist are not all potential hazards. Event organiser is required to undertake an assessment for each event identifying hazards particular to that event.

Hazard	Assessment	Priority for Action	Hierarchy of Controls	Preventative Action	Assessment / Comments
WATER SAFETY					
Collision of two or more safety escort craft at venue	8M	Medium	Administration – All competitors and safety craft must be briefed on the Course configuration and traffic flow for the event by the Referee or Course Safety Officer. Training Flow diagrams distributed and/or exhibited.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure all competitors are familiar with, and understand the Training Traffic Flow procedures for swimming/paddling on Course. Ensure a Course Safety Officer is monitoring the activities on the Venue. Ensure only authorised craft/paddlers are permitted on the Course. 	
Swimmers sustaining injury while participating in the event	21L	Medium	Eliminate – Ensure that there are sufficient escort safety craft appointed, that a “No Dive Rule” is observed, the course is free of debris and hazards (eg spectators, unauthorised craft etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure all competitors understand the rules relating to the event in progress. Ensure that during briefing all competitors and safety personnel are advised of the correct procedures and signals to be given in case of any emergency or injury. Ensure that all are registered and numbered. Position safety support personnel and Race Judges, Turn Judges and Assistant Referees on the Course. Ensure that matting is placed near Start for entry into water and near the Finish for exit from water. 	

Water Quality			Organising body to contact local Council for Water Quality updates leading up to the event.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that Water Quality meets the Health regulations in regards to recreational use. 	
Water Temperature			Organising body to carry out Water Temperature readings leading up to the event.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referee and competitors' elected representative to take temperature prior to the commencement of the Event. • Ensure all competitors are informed of the water temperature at various points of the Course. • If water temperature is below the recommended temperature for competition – postpone/cancel event. 	
Reeds and weeds			Organising body to contact local Council regarding any problems with reeds and/or weeds that cannot be removed prior to the commencement of the event.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all competitors are aware of the area on the Course of any reeds and/or weeds. 	
Submerged objects			Organising body to contact local Council to ascertain if any submerged objects are on the Course that cannot be removed prior to the conducting of the event.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all competitors are aware of the area on the Course of any submerged objects. 	
Storms – Lightning			Organising body in conjunction with Referee and Safety Support Group.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delay Start of Event until storm has passed. • If storm unlikely to pass over postpone or cancel event. • If storm occurs during event, ensure all competitors are directed to leave the Course immediately. 	
Other (Relevant to your Event)					

INJURIES					
			Organising body to contact First Aid & Water Safety Support Groups and seek their assistance for First Aid and Water Safety for the event.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that First Aid personnel are in attendance. • Ensure that Water Safety Support is in attendance. • Ensure that local Hospital is advised of the date of the event. 	
LOSS OF COMMUNICATIONS					
			Organising body to arrange and ensure that enough two-way radios will be available for the event.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that each craft is equipped with two-way radios and mobile phones. • Ensure that Recording Room and Meet Director is equipped with two-way radios and mobile phones. • List of mobile No's: to be issued to each craft and shore personnel. 	
GENERAL					
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that Pontoons are restricted to authorised officials only. • Swimming NSW Code of Conduct to be implemented. • Every competitor to wear bright coloured swimming cap. • Ensure plenty of drinking water available for competitors. • Ensure the area of Competition is advised to Competitors, Spectators, and Officials etc. • Ensure that all Officials and Support personnel have signed on as they report to Meet Director/Referee. 	