

“Find us at the beach by the boat ramp”

HEKILI RISK ASSESSMENT

**VERSION HISTORY**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
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| **Contact Officer: Hekili OCC Secretary** | **Next Review: February 2023** |

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# INTRODUCTION

Hekili Outrigger Canoe Club Inc. (HOCC) is a non-profit organisation whose safety and operation is managed by club members. Hekili OCC adheres to the ‘Member Protection and Risk Management Policy’ (MPRM Policy) and ‘AOCRA Rules’ as supplied by the national governing body – Australian Outrigger Canoe Racing Association (AOCRA). These documents can be located at: <https://www.aocra.com.au/index.php?page=administration>.

This risk assessment outlines the process required to ensure training sessions are conducted in a safe manner. The risk assessment process is the responsibility of every paddler. In certain situations the final decision will be made by the designated coach or the steerer/captain of the canoe. A paddler is responsible for their own safety at all times. If an individual would prefer not to paddle due to conditions, or they feel unsafe or uncertain on the water, they must inform the coach or steerer/captain immediately.

All paddlers are made aware of current and future requirements and their obligations as paddlers. This relates to safety and conduct during training, when representing the club at regattas and other paddling related functions and fundraisers. Paddlers are informed when they:

* Complete the indemnity form (this is a document which enables beginners to have six paddling experiences and be covered by insurance)
* Risk Assessment Acknowledgement form (attachment 1)
* Become a member
* Renew their membership
* Read the Risk Management Plan (attachment 2)

# Club Records and Documentation

In respect to safety the following documents are, through the Club Secretary, maintained and filed:

* Hekili Risk Management Policy
* Coaching and Safety spreadsheet which identifies:
* Registered Coaches
* First Aid Certificate holders
* Working With Children card holders
* Annual swim/tread/huli training to meet insurance purposes
* Vessel registration

Maintenance notes club equipment (ie: vessels and other safety equipment such as PFD’s, leg ropes, safety bags etc.) are compiled by the Club Captain and kept by the Club Secretary.

# TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

# Swim, Tread and Huli Tests

These tests must be conducted in accordance with the AOCRA MPRM Policy – section 5.3 Paddler Suitability (Swim, Tread and Huli). The policy is in place to ensure that paddlers are able to support themselves in the water, right and reboard a canoe in the event of a huli or other incident.

# Swim and Tread Test

These tests are to be conducted annually for all current members of Hekili OCC. Attendance and pass/fail will be recorded on the Coaching and Safety Spread Sheet.

S5.3 of the AOCRA Policy states that:

* Seniors – swim 400m with no external aid; tread water for 5 minutes
* Juniors – swim 150m with no external aid, tread water for 3 minutes

Refusal to complete the swim and tread test will result in a fail. Failure to ‘pass’ means that the individual must wear a PFD during training and regattas until a ‘pass’ is obtained. Failure to wear a PFD may negate any insurance claims made which involve the individual.

# Huli / Flipping Drills

Canoes can flip over, both in races and training sessions. The Club Coach will explain the flipping drill prior to the canoe entering the water and then a practical “flip” is carried out.

Due to the dangers of marine stingers in far northern waters, flip drills are usually conducted in protected waters where risk of marine sting is reduced (i.e. inside stinger nets when appropriate).

Failure to complete a huli results in information being passed to the committee and they need to determine whether paddling restrictions (eg: not to paddle in rolling swells in open water) need to be placed on the individual.

Documentation which records a paddlers successful completion of this skill is kept by the Club Secretary.

# Coaching Qualification Requirements

All coaches MUST:

* Meet the certification requirements documented in s5.2 of the AOCRA MPRM Policy;
* Be registered Hekili Club members

In addition, all Coaches MUST:

* Meet the requirements of Attachment C of the AOCRA MPRM Policy – “Screening / Working with Children Check”

Where a Junior Coach or Volunteer does not have a Working with Children Card, they must still complete the form in Section C and there should always be a card carrying coach/volunteer present. In all situations, Junior Coaches and Volunteers should try to avoid being in a situation where they are alone and out of visual range with a junior.

# POSITION REQUIREMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

# Coach(es)

At least one qualified coach or experienced steerer must be at each training session. Prior to attending training, the coach/steerer must have made themselves familiar with wind, current and tidal conditions. The coach/steerer is able to make the decision regarding whether paddling will occur.

The coach is responsible for team members. They need to take into consideration the competency levels of paddlers on the beach and determine if there are concerns. If there are, these concerns need to be accounted for and the training/session needs to be sculpted accordingly.

The coach must always:

* Complete a risk assessment for the session – this is able to be conducted mentally based on known competency of paddlers present; weather conditions; training duration and training plan.
* In the case of a strong wind warning the risk assessment must be documented.
* Allocate steerers/canoe captains that they feel will be capable of making informed decisions to assist in keeping the crew members safe, given the known paddling conditions.

# Steerer / Canoe Captain

* The steerer (or master) of the canoe is legally responsible for the navigation and direction of the canoe and the paddlers in the canoe. All paddlers must follow the steerer’s directions.
* This person is responsible to check the canoe condition and ensure that it has the required safety equipment.

If the steerer is in training the above requirements should be allocated to a trained coach in the canoe or the paddler with the most experience.

A team captain is appointed for each crew for every training session. This person shall be the steerer in most cases, *unless* the steerer is new and in training, then the team captain reverts to either: the qualified coach, assistant coach, or next most experienced person in the canoe. This person ensures the safety of all of their crew. This person ensures that the canoe is equipped for the training session and meets the club safety requirements. The team captain of the session does not in any way negate the coach/s responsibility or purpose for the session.

# Paddlers

A paddler is responsible for their own safety at all times. They may assist other roles in the club by ensuring that safety equipment is in each canoe.

They must listen to instructions provided by the coach and also the steerer/canoe captain. If an individual would prefer not to paddle due to conditions, or they feel unsafe or uncertain on the water, they must inform the coach or steerer/captain immediately.

# GENERAL WATER SAFETY - PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

# Yorkeys Knob beach by the boat ramp and YKBC Marina.

When paddling in this location and the surrounding water and islands there are some unique risk management issues. The identified risks and their controls are documented in Attachment 2 and each paddler should read this attachment to familiarise themselves with the risks and agreed club controls.

The primary canoe launch point is off the small beach adjacent to the rock wall that separates the Yorkeys Knob boat ramp and the marina traffic from the beach. This location is relatively protected. The secondary canoe launch point is from the boat ramp which enters the marina and is protected by the rock sea wall.

A picture containing text, map

Description automatically generatedQueensland Maritime Safety designates all waters in this locality as either Smooth or Partially Smooth Waters. Anything outside of this is considered Open Water. Refer to the map here. [www.msq.qld.gov.au/Safety/Smooth-and-partially-smooth-water-limits/Swl-cairns](http://www.msq.qld.gov.au/Safety/Smooth-and-partially-smooth-water-limits/Swl-cairns)

The following addresses certain risks and actions to mitigate, minimise or prevent injury to persons or damage to canoes when paddling with Hekili OCC.

# Sun Protection

Paddling involves long periods of time exposed to the elements and appropriate sun/wind protection should be used including, hats, sun cream, long sleeved sun shirts and sunglasses.

# Hydration

Outrigging often requires long periods on the water with no immediate access to fresh water. The exposure to heat and sun may result in dehydration. Individuals must take suitable water bottles or water packs on long paddles and it is encouraged that water is taken out by individuals during hour long training sessions as well. For new paddlers, frequent stops should be built into the training session by the coach.

# Wind Warnings

AOCRA and Hekili have a strict policy on the use of canoes during strong and gale force wind warnings.

Before each training session the coach(es) are to check the [BOM website](http://www.bom.gov.au/) and [www.seabreeze.com.au](http://www.seabreeze.com.au) and understand wind/current/tidal conditions for the training period.

The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) uses the Beauford Wind Scale to measure wind.  Follow this link to see the BOM wind definitions:

<http://www.bom.gov.au/lam/glossary/beaufort.shtml>

More specifically the BOM Marine Weather Definitions (follow the link): [Wind - Reference material - Marine Knowledge Centre (bom.gov.au)](http://www.bom.gov.au/marine/knowledge-centre/reference/wind.shtml) defines the following:

* Strong wind warning: 26 to 33 knots
* Gale warning: 34 to 47 knots
* Storm force wind warning: 48 to 63 knots
* Hurricane force wind warning: 64 knots or more

As previously documented, in certain situations the final decision in relation to paddling, will be made by the designated coach or the steerer/captain of the canoe. This is particularly important in adverse conditions as the steerer/captain is responsible for the safety of the crew and vessel. The steerer/captains directions/commands are to be strictly adhered to at all times.

**Gale Force Warning**

Under no circumstances are canoes to be put into the water.

**Strong Wind Warning**

In the event of a strong wind warning by local authorities, the following procedures must be put in place for all paddling activities:

* A risk assessment must be completed and recorded by the club coach(es) before the paddling session
* Risks must be assessed, maritime rules considered and potential risks deemed to be minimal.

Hekili OCC has access to protected (smooth and partially smooth waters located:

* In the YKBC Marina. This is fully protected from the ocean by a rock sea wall.
* Within the area defined by Half Moon Creek – Yorkeys Knob point – Trinity Beach – Western most point of Double Island.
* Within Half Moon Creek
* Refer to the map at Section 4.1

OC1, OC2, OC3 and V1 paddlers must adhere to the same rules as OC6 paddlers and must check the BOM accordingly. OC1, OC2, OC3 and V1 paddlers must be responsible for their own actions.

# Canoe Safety

* All sessions must be logged with an on shore person and include an expected return time, this is particularly important for sessions (training or social) which occur outside the designated club training times.
* For sessions that start or finish in hours of darkness, sessions are to be carried out in areas away from major boat traffic.
* Storm covers are to be put on canoes in the event of rough conditions. This is at the discretion of the team Coach and Captains.
* The canoe rigging must be checked prior to every session and re-rigged where necessary.
* Any person showing signs of alcohol consumption or other erratic/unsafe behaviours will not be allowed in the canoe (this is at the discretion of the team Coach and Steerers).

Hekili OCC requires all canoes carry the following safety equipment. These requirements are in accordance with sD.7.5 of the AOCRA Regatta and Training Rules Policy.

# Mandatory OC6 Requirements

* One Type 1, 2 or 3 PFD for each paddler every time the canoe is put in the water. These should be easily accessible. Specifics regarding the type of PFD required can be located in [AOCRA Rules](http://aocra.com.au/uploads/file/AOCRA%20Admin%20/2021%20AO%20Rules(1).pdf) (Effective April 1st 2021). HOCC Committee will ensure that they purchase the correct PFD types on behalf of the club members.
* Two bailers
* One bottle of vinegar during stinger season.
* When a session begins or finishes in darkness white lights must be affixed to the canoe and/or one or more of the paddlers (as per Maritime Safety Queensland, <http://www.msq.qld.gov.au/Safety/Navigation-lights.aspx>)

# Desirable OC6 Requirements

* an EPIRB must be carried in areas that are designated as Open Waters (as per the map instructions from Maritime Safety Queensland – Refer to Section 4.1) or be accompanied by a motor boat equipped with the correct safety gear.
* In the event of rough conditions you may fit storm covers to the canoe
* A radio in each canoe to allow communication if there is a potential that the canoes may become separated
* A spare paddle to assist if one is broken or lost

# Mandatory OC1/2 Requirements

* One Type 1, 2 or 3 PFD for each paddler every time the canoe is put in the water. These should be easily accessible.
* A leg rope must be attached and it is recommended that paddlers use them to ensure their own safety, especially when offshore and/or in conditions where the paddler/s may become separated from their canoe.
* When a session begins or finishes in darkness white lights must be affixed to the canoe and/or one or more of the paddlers (as per Maritime Safety Queensland, <http://www.msq.qld.gov.au/Safety/Navigation-lights.aspx>).
* All paddlers must log the training session on WhatsApp and or TeamApp.

# ACCIDENT PROCEDURES

# Preventative Measures

* All paddlers should be made aware of preventative measures and how to deal with a situation on the water. Measures include:
  + Use of PFD’s
  + Bailing techniques
  + Understanding the ocean / waterways
  + How to rig a canoe
  + How to huli and recover a canoe
  + How to exit and reboard a canoe
  + Managing a canoe in the surf
  + Attaching storm covers
  + Use of a tow rope
  + What to do in the case of a marine sting

# Incidents, Injuries and Equipment Damage

All incidents (injury & equipment damage) must be reported immediately. They should be reported to two people:

* Firstly, the Club Coach or Club Captain and
* Secondly, the President or Secretary.

All incidents must be logged into the AOCRA online system within 7 days of incident. *NB: if you do not make the 7 day limit, please report as late reporting is better than no reporting.*

An incident report MUST be completed to enable a paddler or club to make an insurance claim for medical or related expenses or for equipment damage claims.

The report form can be located on the AOCRA website, after sign-in. It is strongly suggested that a verbal or written report is made to two of the individuals listed above and they will place a report into AOCRA on your behalf.

# ATTACHMENT 1

**RISK ASSESSMENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

As a member of Hekili Outrigger Canoe Club I have been made aware of the Risk Assessment document for the Club.

I have read the document.

I understand my obligations as a member of the Club to adhere to all the safety requirements as per this Risk Assessment.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Surname** |  |
| **Christian Name** |  |
| **Signature** |  |
| **Date** |  |

# ATTACHMENT 2

**RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN**

| **#** | **Element** | **Description** | **Potential Hazards** | **Consequence** | **Likelihood** | **Risk** | **Control measures / Management Strategies** | **Residual Risk** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Pandemic Covid | Communicable viral disease | Spread of viral infection | Major | Likely | **High** | Covid-19 training for all coaches & committee  Strict Hygiene Protocols & Supplies (personal and equipment before, during and after use)  Social Distancing where practical  Congregating is discouraged  No unnecessary body contact  Signage Do Not Enter & Must not attend sessions if unwell or displaying even mild flu like symptoms  Encouraged to use the CovidSafe App, get a Covid-19 vaccination & a flu shot | **High**  likely/  **High** |
| 2 | Canoe Management | Launching canoe from the beach | Sprains, strains lifting canoe | Minor | Likely | **Medium** | Training, only lift with 5 people or more present | **Low**  Unlikely / minor |
|  |  | Shore Break | Personal injury  Canoe damage | Minor | Unlikely | **Low** | If large shore break is present, launch canoe/s from boat ramp | **Low**  Unlikely / minor |
|  |  | Poor state of equipment | Flip/submerge  Personal injury | Minor | Unlikely | **Low** | Equipment to be checked before each training session | **Low**  Unlikely / minor |
|  |  | Transporting canoes (on trailers to & from sites) | Motor vehicle accident, road debris damage | Minor | Likely | **High** | Only allowing experienced drivers to tow. Adequately insured vehicles. Use of appropriate vehicles for towing. | **Medium**  Likely / medium |
| 3 | Coaches | Training qualifications | Not trained, liable for damage to paddlers and canoes | Minor | Unlikely | **Medium** | All coaches must be accredited or coach assistants must work under an accredited coach | **Low**  Unlikely / Minor |
|  |  | Volunteers | Not well instructed, nor trained, causing incorrect instruction to paddlers | Minor | Unlikely | **Low** | All volunteers must work under an accredited coach | **Low**  Unlikely / Minor |
| 4 | Training Safety | Late canoe procedure - if a canoe has not returned from training | Lack of direction due to lack of light. Loss of vision / direction. Huli – unable to right canoe | Major | Unlikely | **High** | Training sessions to be logged. White lights to be carried | **Low**  Unlikely / Major |
|  |  | Lack of light | Limited visibility to other marine craft. | Medium to Major | Likely | **High** | If training dusk or dawn, all canoes must carry a torch/lantern that has a white light | **Medium**  Likely / Major |
|  |  | Cross training | Physical injury due to over exertion/lack of technique/insufficient training – lack of fitness | Minor | Likely | **Low** | Working to fitness and experience level | **Low**  Unlikely / Medium |
|  |  | Flipping | Physical injury, panic, drowning | Minor to major | Likely | **Medium** | All paddlers must be trained in flip-drills. All paddlers must be able to tread water for 5 mins and be able to swim 100m minimum | **Low**  Likely / Medium |
|  |  | Medical Emergencies | Heart attack, asthma, dehydration | Major | Unlikely | **High** | Ensure medical declarations are filled out correctly and coaches are aware of individual’s conditions | **Medium**  Unlikely / Medium |
|  |  | Marine stingers | Severe pain and reaction if stung. Possible death from heart failure | Major | Unlikely | **High (November to May)** | All paddlers to wear full length protection during stinger season. All canoes to carry vinegar. All paddlers to know procedure in the case of someone being stung (ie immediately douse area with vinegar & call 000) | **Medium**  Likely / Medium |
|  |  | Stingrays, Stonefish & other biting/stinging marine creatures | Severe pain and reaction if bitten or stung. Possible infection of wounds | Major | Unlikely | **Low** | Train all paddlers in marine animal environment, awareness, & respect | **Low**  Unlikely / Major |
|  |  | Crocodiles / sharks | Severe pain, possible death from animal attack | Major | Unlikely | **Low** | Train all paddlers in marine animal environment, awareness, & respect | **Low**  Unlikely / Major |
|  |  | Sun stroke / hyperthermia | Severe pain, possible unconsciousness from dehydration | Major | Likely | **High** | Train all paddlers in correct sun protection & adequate hydration methods | **Medium**  Likely / Major |
|  |  | Sand Bar | Flipping, swamping, damage to canoe if flipping in shallow water | Medium | Unlikely | **Low** | Train all paddlers to recognise water behaviours | **Low**  Unlikely / Medium |
|  |  | Shipping / Boating traffic | Collision, injury, damage to craft | Major | Likely | **Medium** | All canoes to use white light (as per MSQ) at dusk or dawn | **Medium**  Rare / Major |
| 5 | Junior safety | Adult coaches & volunteers | Inappropriate interactions | Major | Unlikely | **High** | All adults must have blue card when working with juniors | **Medium**  Rare / Major |
|  |  | Parents of junior paddlers | Inappropriate behaviour, swearing, berating child in front of peers | Medium | Unlikely | **Low** | All coaches (& assistants & volunteers) are trained in mitigating bad behaviours | **Low**  Rare /  Minor |
|  |  | Juniors aged 10 years and under | Cannot swim strongly, flip, drowning | Major | Unlikely | **High** | A risk assessment must be conducted by a Level 1 sports specific outrigger coach prior to each training / racing session. Correctly fitted life jackets must be worn by all paddlers under 10 years at all times | **Medium**  Unlikely /  Medium |
| 6 | Weather | Strong wind warning | Flip, blown off course, impact damage to canoe or body, drowning | Major | unlikely | **Medium** | All paddlers must only paddle in protected or smooth waters, as per the QLD Maritime Safety maps, and according to AOCRA Training & Race Rules | **Medium**  Unlikely /  Medium |
|  |  | Gale force wind warning | Flip, blown off course, impact damage to canoe or body, drowning | Major | unlikely | **High** | In accordance with AOCRA race and training rules, no canoes are to be launched during a Gale force warning | **High**  Unlikely /  High |
|  |  | Cyclone WATCH & WARNING | Flip, blown off course, impact damage to canoe or body, drowning | Major | Unlikely | **High** | AOCRA race and training rules apply - no canoes to be launched. Remove canoes from beach. | **High**  Unlikely /  High |
|  |  | Electrical storms | Struck by lightening | Major | Unlikely | **High** | If lightening is present, canoes should not be launched | **Low**  Unlikely / Medium |
|  |  | High / low air/water temperature | Hyperthermia / hypothermia. | Medium | Unlikely | **Low** | Train paddlers in correct hydration & clothing protection | **Low**  Unlikely / Medium |

The primary risk is the potential for interactions between outrigger canoes and marine vessels including fishing boats and general marine pleasure craft. All preventative measures must be taken to avoid collisions including actions such as canoes giving way to larger craft and the use of lights during on canoes prior to sunrise, after sunset and in the twilight hours preceding these events.

All paddlers must be aware of other craft in the area and alert their steerer when required. When launching and berthing vessels at the beach, it is essential that all paddlers maintain an awareness of breaking waves and how they may buffet the gunwales and potentially cause the canoe to move heavily on to paddlers standing in the water.