

Water Safety Roles & Responsibilities

Developing a Culture of Safety throughout Rowing

ARA Responsibilities

The Amateur Rowing Association has the responsibility to develop and maintain a culture of safe practice in rowing and to support everyone involved in the sport in their efforts to achieve this.

Regional Responsibilities

Regional Rowing Councils (RRCs) have a responsibility to develop a culture of safety in their Region. The role of the RRC is to support clubs in organising their activities to meet the Minimum Standards, whilst allowing for an interpretation based on the types of clubs, waters used and activities in the Region.

The nature of Regions varies enormously and this will influence how each one approaches its responsibilities. The role of the Regional Water Safety Adviser, working with others, will therefore be influenced by how the Region wishes to develop a positive safety culture.

Club Responsibilities

Clubs have a responsibility for the safety of their members and for the development of a culture of safety in all activities associated with rowing. The primary responsibility for ensuring safe practice within a club lies with the Club Officers and the Club Committee. The Club Committee should appoint a specific individual as a Club Safety Adviser to take the lead in promoting safe practice, but such an appointment does not remove the accountability for safety from the Officers and Committee members. In this respect, every member of a club has an important part to play. A Club Water Safety Adviser must not be seen as the only person responsible for safety but rather the person who can advise the Committee and work with the Captain, Officers, coaches and others to identify and respond to safety issues by adopting Minimum Standards and good practice. If, for any reason, a Club Safety Adviser is not appointed or does not adequately perform this advisory function the accountability for the provision of adequate safety advice remains with the Officers and Committee.

The nature of clubs varies enormously and this will influence how a club manages safety and addresses the various issues. The approach taken by the club is therefore dictated by the way the Officers and Committee decide to manage safety and adopt the Minimum Standards.

Personal Responsibilities

Everyone involved in rowing has a Duty of Care to ensure their actions both on and off the water are conducted in a manner which does not compromise the safety of others. Adults also have a personal responsibility for their own safety.

Duty of Care

What is it? Duty of Care was described by Lord Atkin in 1932 – “You must take reasonable care to avoid acts or omissions which you can reasonably foresee would be likely to injure your neighbour. Who then is my neighbour? Someone who is so closely and directly affected by my acts or omissions that I ought to have them in mind when directing my mind to the acts or omissions which are called into question”

Who has a Duty of Care in Rowing? – Put in simple terms, everyone connected with the sport

Further good practice

Set aside time in the Club's calendar to provide education and training on safety related issues such as navigation, boat checking, first aid etc.

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ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES & ACTIONS

ARA

- Provide guidance and minimum standards - Manage the ARA Water Safety Strategy
- Provide and facilitate education and training for Regions, Clubs and their members - Reflect safe practice in Coach Education
- Monitor and review incidents - Highlight and communicate trends, dangerous situations and practices
- Support Regional Water Safety Advisers
- ARA Executive and Council to be advised of and approve recommendations on safety issues
- Appoint an Honorary Water Safety Adviser - Water Safety Committee - Water Safety Working Group - Liaise with outside bodies and partners

REGIONS

- Advise clubs and competitions on risk management - Support clubs and competitions needing help and advice
- Promote and provide safety education and training - Disseminate good practice
- Review competition safety, give feedback and endorse for the ARA Competition Calendar
- Facilitate contact between clubs, Navigation or relevant authorities - Establish weather or water condition warning system
- Review safety issues through a permanent committee agenda item
- Appoint a Regional Water Safety Adviser - Regional Safety Team - Understand the principles and guidance of Row Safe

CLUBS

- Set, implement and review safety policies for all club members
- Assess local risks - Update Club Safety Plan and rules - Produce Emergency Action Plan - Communicate to all members
- Educate and train members in risk assessment and safe practice - Display up to date safety information
- Produce an annual safety audit
- Foster the reporting of all incidents using the ARA online system - Assess club's reports to further develop safe practice
- Review safety issues through a permanent committee agenda item
- Appoint a Club Water Safety Adviser - Water Safety Team - Understand Row Safe guidance documents

YOU

- **Share responsibility with your club to learn how to manage risk in all your activities at all times and promote a safer rowing culture**
- **Report ALL incidents including 'potential incidents' which could have resulted in injury or damage to equipment**