



Adventure Activity Standards (AAS) Update Number 12 February 2004

Introduction

IMPORTANT! It is now review time again, please pass this update on to anyone you think will have an interest in any of the activities mentioned in this update.

It is important to remember that AAS are being documented by leaders and representatives in outdoor recreation/education and are very much for the outdoor recreation/education industry. So if you have a preferred wording or you have an issue with a requirement in a draft AAS then you must let us know so that we can do something about it.

News at a flash

- **Current DRAFTS for your review** (Friday 6th Feb – Friday March 26th)
http://www.orc.org.au/aas_review.asp

These drafts are online **NOW** as planned. There are always people who will miss the opportunity to comment because they are unaware of this review stage. Please ensure that you inform anyone you feel may have an interest in reviewing;

- **Snorkelling (including SCUBA and swimming with seals and dolphins)**
- **Challenge rope courses**
- **Abseiling**
- **Canoeing & Kayaking**

The style of documenting the **ratios** in the canoeing/kayaking draft is **NEW!** Working with Australian Canoeing and the UK Adventure Activity Licensing Authority we are looking at more appropriate ways to define ratios.

Please have a look at this part of the canoeing draft regardless of the activity you are involved in and let us know what you think. This approach is based upon defining the variables, which then help to define a range of appropriate supervision ratios.

- **Bushwalking AAS.** The Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs (VicWalk) is continuing to gather feedback on AAS. The extended review process is being conducted within VicWalk who are hosting an information night for (invitee's only) on the 2nd of March. Hopefully this information night will resolve the outstanding issues.

You can contact the ORC any time to discuss any aspect of the Adventure Activity Standards.

- **Final AAS workshops in stage two are for;**
 - **Snow activities (Resort based)**
 - **Snow activities (not resort based)**
 - **Water Skiing or Archery**

We are now looking for the relevant groups and/or individuals for involvement in these workshops. At this stage, the AAS will cover;

Resort skiing and snow boarding so we will be looking for representation from the resorts, ski schools, lift companies, ski patrol, school groups and community groups who attend resorts in formal groups.

Non-resort based snow activities are likely to include **Ski touring** and **snow camping** so we are looking for interest from resorts, ski touring clubs, ski patrols, associations, commercial providers etc.

The final AAS was intended to be **water skiing**. However recent discussion has suggested that there is a greater requirement for an AAS to be developed for **Archery**. We would like to hear your views so that we can present them to the steering committee.

- **AAS Brochures are now available.** If you would like to be able to provide brochures to your members, volunteers, leaders or anyone else that you feel should be made aware of AAS within Victoria (or interstate), simply send an email to info@orc.org.au with the following.
 - What organisation you represent.
 - How many brochures you would like.
 - How you intend to distribute the brochures (post, handout, display)
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Additional Industry News

The Outdoor Recreation Centre Inc. has recently provided feedback to Consumer Affairs Victoria in response to the **Fair Trading (Recreational Services) Regulations 2004**. These regulations will allow providers of recreational activities to use legal waivers permitting participants to waive their rights to sue (under the fair trading act).

The main feedback was to ensure that the warnings used as 'sign posted' or 'written waivers' must state that;

The purchaser gives up ALL rights to sue the supplier for personal injury or death if the services are provided in breach of the implied conditions contained in the *Fair Trading Act 1999*.

The waivers must also be clear (so that participants are not un-duly concerned) and as such must also state that;

The purchaser retains the right to sue the supplier if death or injury is caused by recklessness on the part of the supplier.

These waivers **ONLY** apply to contracted services and only adults can sign the waivers. Issues with school and other youth groups need to be resolved and the ORC is keen to work these out.

In summary, our proposed wording suggests that participants will not have the right to sue if the injury they sustained is due to the nature of the activity (rather than the fault of the provider). However, if the injury is caused by the providers "recklessness" then this waiver (under the fair trading act) will not apply and the participant will still have the right to sue.

For a more information on this issue please contact us.

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