

Australian Canoe Polo

Risk assessment

Championship title: _____

Venue: _____

Risk assessment completed by: _____

Date: _____

Complete the risk assessment before the competition commences, preferably a day or two beforehand to allow time for any remedial action that may be required. It is best to complete the assessment with another person to have a second opinion on the range of risks that may be encountered.

Item	Description of risk	Consequence	Likelihood	Action	Additional requirements
A. Getting to the venue					
1.	Travelling to the venue. Consider potential impacts of long distance travel, private transport, public transport, and people travelling alone.	Car accidents, injury, people get lost on the way.	Low	Where possible, people should not travel alone. Provide venue address and a map to it. Keep in touch with mobile phones.	
2.	Getting equipment to the venue. Consider the potential impacts of transporting boats, paddles, gear, goals and other equipment to the water.	Car accidents, loss of gear and equipment	Low	Where possible, use trailers to transport bulky items. Use trailers for boats and gear in preference to individual transport. All gear well secured and protected from coming loose during travel.	
3.	Car parking. Is there adequate car and trailer parking at the venue? Is it close by?	Carrying boats and gear over distance can result in manual handling problems, including strained muscles	Low	Survey available parking before the competition to check location, access, and suitability.	
B. The venue					
4.	Weather – heat, cold, rain, storms	Hypothermia, dehydration hyperthermia, sun stroke, sun burn, UV	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Umbrellas, sun shades, tents • Sun screen available, eye protection advised • Water or other drinks available 	
5.	Inadequate facilities Consider availability and suitability of toilets, change rooms.	No change rooms, no toilets, no showers	Medium	Survey available facilities before the competition to check location, access, and suitability.	
6.	Boats and floating goals difficult to carry to river.	Strain and manual handling issues related to carrying boats and goals over long distances.	Moderate	Heavy items should be carried by more than one person. Use trolleys if possible or temporary vehicle access.	

7.	Risk to public	Boats and gear carried through public areas can present a hazard to the public.	Low		
8.	Access ramps in poor repair or not suited for launching kayaks.	Trip hazards, cuts to feet.	Moderate	Inspect access ramps before using them. Repair ramp of limit access as appropriate.	
9.	Entry/exit to water	Possible to slip and fall on to the ground or into the water.	Moderate		
C. On the water					
10.	Contaminated water, syringes, floating debris.	Illness.	Low	Assess water conditions before the competition. Consult local authorities or government guidelines for recommendations.	
11.	Poorly maintained playing equipment that has sharp edges, screws, loose tape, and the like.	Cuts and bruises	Low	Organise scrutineering of equipment before the competition.	
12.	Floating goals, field markers, and tie ropes pose hazards to players.	Cuts and bruises, entanglement in rope	Low	Check equipment before placing on water. No loose ends on ropes, ropes kept off the playing area.	
13.	Canoe polo games	Injuries from boat tackles. Injury from falling into the water. Injuries from paddles.	Low	Paddlers must wear a buoyancy vest to protect against tackles and provide buoyancy if they have fallen out of the boat and into the water. Wear helmets with face guard	
D. Other risks					