

Safety Checklist

Canoe Polo competitions

Introduction & Instructions

This checklist is the recommended standard to ensure safety of **canoe polo competitions** organised by Australian Canoeing affiliates. Its purpose is to ensure that all appropriate steps have been taken to ensure the safety of all participants in slalom competitions sanctioned by Australian Canoeing.

This checklist is the second of two safety checklists that AC recommends you complete. It is to be used as an addendum to the first safety checklist, the *Safety Checklist for All Paddling Activities*.

To ensure a safe event:

1. Complete the **Safety Checklist for All Paddling Activities** first, then
2. Complete this **event-specific checklist** to ensure that additional safety issues specific to your event are also addressed.

Requirements noted in this checklist are based the ICF Canoe Polo Competition Rules, Version 2005.

Information about the Activity

Name of organisation hosting the activity:	
Name of activity:	
Description of activity and participants: <i>'Participants' include paddlers, officials, guides, instructors, coaches, observers, etc</i>	
Activity date(s) & times:	
Activity Venue(s):	
Other relevant information about the activity:	

Safety Checklist

Please document whether or not the following safety measures have been taken in preparation for your activity by completing the checklist below.

<i>Have the following steps been actioned?</i>	Yes	No	Date completed	Comments (if applicable)
<p>1. Appointment & role of Scrutineer</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Has a Scrutineer been appointed as one of the officials of the event?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Has the Scrutineer been fully briefed on his/her role as being, to be ... "responsible for checking the equipment of all players before and during [and after] their game. They may also check equipment at any other time during a competition"? <i>(Ref: ICF Canoe Polo Rules – 2005, chapter 3, rule 8).</i></p>				
<p>2. Appointment and role of Referee:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Has a Referee been appointed as one of the officials of the event?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Has the Referee been fully briefed on his/her role to include the following role: "A referee must dismiss from the playing area, once aware of the infringement, any player whose equipment is in breach of the rules, either at the first break in play or direct if the equipment has become dangerous for the players." <i>(Ref: ICF Canoe Polo Rules – 2005, chapter 3, rule 19).</i></p>				
<p>3. Equipment required &/or permitted</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Have all players and relevant officials been briefed on equipment required for this event? Equipment to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> One kayak, approved by the scrutineer, per player <input type="checkbox"/> One double-bladed paddle, approved by the scrutineer, per player <input type="checkbox"/> Personal equipment for all players: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> One helmet with facemask, approved by the scrutineer <input type="checkbox"/> Body protection, approved by the scrutineer <input type="checkbox"/> A shirt with sleeves, which at least covers the mid upper arm. The players shall not have grease, oil or any similar substance on their arms and neck. 				

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<i>Have the following steps been actioned?</i>	Yes	No	Date completed	Comments (if applicable)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> (permitted but not required) Extra protective equipment on the hands, forearm and elbows is permitted provided it is firm fitting, securely attached and with no sharp edges such that they do not endanger any other player. <input type="checkbox"/> Items such as jewellery that can endanger either the wearer or any other player may not be worn. <input type="checkbox"/> Players may not apply any greasy substances to their equipment. 				
<p>4. Safety specifications of equipment</p> <p>Have measures been put in place to ensure that all equipment used complies with the following safety requirements, as noted in Appendix II of the ICF Canoe Polo Rules – 2005?¹</p>				
<p>(a) Kayak</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The kayak may have no sharp projections or edges or other dangerous features. The shape of the kayak must comply with the detailed specifications. All metal bolts, screws or other fixing devices present in plastic kayaks and/or glass kayaks should be recessed. <input type="checkbox"/> The kayak must have soft, shock absorbing materials firmly affixed to the bow and stern ends, sufficient to prevent injury to players and to reduce damage to equipment. The padding must comply with detail specifications. <input type="checkbox"/> The kayak must have sufficient buoyancy to keep it afloat, so that some part breaks the surface of the water, even when it is completely full of water. If required by the Competition Organiser for the particular Playing-Area, the kayak must have additional buoyancy installed. <input type="checkbox"/> Edge – the edge of the kayak must be of sufficient radius so as not to cause injury to a player on impact. <input type="checkbox"/> Top and bottom surfaces – the top and bottom surfaces of the kayak must be smooth so as not to cause injury to a player. <input type="checkbox"/> Front and rear impact zones – the front and rear impact zones must be sufficiently rounded so as not to cause injury to other players or damage to opponents' kayaks. 				

¹ The safety specifications items noted in this checklist are taken from Appendix II of the ICF Canoe Polo Rules – 2005. The specifications noted in this checklist are not a complete copy of the ICF requirements for equipment used in Canoe Polo. Only those ICF specifications directly related to safety issues about the equipment are noted here. **AC recommends that you obtain a copy of the ICF Canoe Polo Rules when planning a Canoe Polo competition, to ensure that equipment used fully complies with ICF requirements.**

<i>Have the following steps been actioned?</i>	Yes	No	Date completed	Comments (if applicable)
<p>(b) Padding</p> <p>Soft shock absorbing padding at least 30mm thick at the horizontal centreline and 50mm wide must be firmly attached to cover the edges of the front and rear of the kayak at the ends for at least 100mm from the ends.</p> <p><i>See Appendix II, section 3 of ICF Canoe Polo Rules – 2005 for detailed requirements for padding.</i></p>				
<p>(c) Paddle</p> <p>The paddle must be double-bladed with a maximum length of 2200mm. There may not be sharp projections or edges.</p> <p><i>See Appendix II, section 4 of ICF Canoe Polo Rules – 2005 for detailed requirements for paddles.</i></p>				
<p>(d) Helmet</p> <p>Helmets used must be safety helmets and suitable. They must protect against any blow which may be reasonably anticipated in the course of a game covering from the jaw line to the rear point of the skull, such that no contact is possible between the skull and a blade on a horizontally held paddle.</p>				
<p>(e) Face protector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The face protector must be of a strong material such as steel or any equal strong material. <input type="checkbox"/> In any part of the face protector, an object 70mm wide and 70mm thick must not be able to enter. <input type="checkbox"/> The face protector must be securely fixed to the helmet, without sharp or dangerous fixings. <input type="checkbox"/> They may not present any sharp or dangerous part. <input type="checkbox"/> It must protect any blow that may be reasonably anticipated in the course of a game. <input type="checkbox"/> It must cover the entire face of the player beginning at the lower level of the chin and covering the surface between the two temples. 				

<i>Have the following steps been actioned?</i>	Yes	No	Date completed	Comments (if applicable)
<p>(f) Body protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The body protection must be at least 15mm thick. <input type="checkbox"/> It must protect against any impact from other players' equipment, which may be reasonably anticipated in the course of a game. <input type="checkbox"/> The body protection must begin within 100mm of the cockpit rim measured at the player's side, with the player sitting normally in their kayak. <input type="checkbox"/> The gap between the top of the protection at the side and the top of the armpit measured with the arm horizontal must be less than 100mm. 				

END OF CHECKLIST