

Someone has a serious medical trauma at your club event. Are you prepared?

What are our responsibilities as clubs, or as event organisers? In every case where a club or event organiser assumes responsibility for an activity, there must be a plan in place to deal with emergency situations. It is our responsibility to our members. In some cases, such as a simple recreational club paddle, the leader or guide will have a means of communication with emergency services, and will have a first aid qualification to provide immediate assistance.

Where more complex events are organised, correspondingly more detailed plans must be developed. In competitive events, the likelihood of paddler medical trauma or accident is greatly increased. Organisers should assume that there **will** be an emergency situation during their event, and have systems in place to deal with it. In a marathon event, for example, how will the message of a trauma at the turn buoys get to the race controller? If there is a safety boat at the turn, then the message will get back very quickly, providing the safety boat has either mobile phone with network coverage, or radio handsets with sufficient range. But what if there is nothing?

And if the message has been relayed, where will the emergency services make contact with the casualty? If the only access to the waterway is at the finish line, then the paddler has to be ferried back to this place. Given the general speed limit of a safety craft, of maybe 10 knots, then it will still be a minimum of 10 minutes to get this place. More than enough time for the casualty to become a statistic, unless a person in the safety boat has current first aid skills.


And this is a best-case scenario.

In your recent events, have you had observers along the course, able to raise the alarm quickly? Have they had communications equipment? If they are using mobile phones, do they have the number of the race controller? And are they able to get quickly to a paddler on the water, in a suitable safety boat? Will you be able to face the relatives of a person, and say that you had provided reasonable levels of safety? Were you aware of all paddlers at your event that had documented medical issues, as they indicate on their membership application?

The usual assumption that those paddlers around will provide the first assistance to a paddler in distress must be the last resort. It assumes every paddler has first aid qualifications, and can render assistance to a person in difficulties while in the water, something even the experts find difficult. Every event, whether a whitewater recreational expedition, marathon race, or open water event, should have safety as its number one priority.

Club Registration Renewals

It is time to renew your club membership of PaddleNSW for the forthcoming year. As you have seen by now, there are many benefits to be gained from having a 'close and personal' relationship with the State Organisation. Besides providing the insurance and event management assistance for your club, PaddleNSW can help you set up an on-line membership process similar to that used by PNSW. It saves an enormous amount of time and saves handling countless cheques and cash. Many clubs have now adopted this system, with great results.



The club membership renewals process is simpler this year, as member clubs do not have to provide their association registration or constitution. Our main requirement is for current contact details for club executive to be updated to ensure that we are able to keep the communication channels open.

The 2010-2011 renewals form accompanies this newsletter

There are direct benefits for your club through the PNSW education initiative you would now be aware of. Clubs that have not completed their on-line survey of member qualifications are reminded to do so as soon as possible, so their members can receive virtually free qualification training as coaches, instructors or guides. It is an opportunity too good to miss. In fact, your club can even receive additional funding for paddler training if it has difficulty with members attending distant training courses. Want a reminder of the process?

1. Clubs complete the **on-line survey** of member paddle qualifications. See <https://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dFFEOWJDa0tUWmxnRE00RjRiUnVYNKE6MA>
2. Clubs submit a brief but comprehensive outline of their **paddler development policy** to admin@paddleNSW.org.au
3. **PaddleNSW** will contact the club representative with an offer to train a number of members.
4. Club nominated paddlers then pay for and **attend the appropriate course**, completing final assessment requirements. See the Education menu on the PaddleNSW website www.paddleNSW.org.au
5. These paddlers **conduct training**, guiding or coaching activities for their club.
6. Clubs **verify** that their training programmes are in place.
7. Nominated trainees have their **course fees** substantially **refunded**.

Please contact admin@paddleNSW.org.au if you have any questions about how to receive this education assistance.

The current ACAS booklet is attached for the information of prospective trainees.

The on-line registration address for courses is

<https://www.registernow.com.au/secure/Register.aspx?ID=2559>

You can register for all upcoming courses at this address.

Your New Club Constitution

The long-awaited constitutional reforms have now been gazetted after a prolonged gestation period. They come into effect on July 1st. If you check the 'For Clubs' menu on the PaddleNSW website, you will find a summary of the changes, plus a copy of the draft new constitution (which will be replaced by the actual document when we get our hands on it). Clubs enacting any changes to their existing constitution will now have to adopt the new format instead, so you may as well get your head around it before you need to introduce it.

PaddleNSW will be recommending members adopt the new model, hence the question posed in the current membership application requesting approval for electronic polling. Please recommend to your members they answer 'yes' to the question on their membership applications. We don't want to be working in the dark ages forever!





Certificates of Currency

Every year, clubs organising events often require certificates of currency for their public liability insurance, sometimes for local councils, other times for waterways licences. Please contact AC if you need specific C of C's for named parties. A generic certificate is attached.

The Sprint Committee

Liz Wilson and I have been doing most of the work putting sprint events together, booking dates at SIRC, filling in the venue application forms, setting up the registration system, organising volunteers on the day, organising the start list (a mammoth task) and medals, and sorting the finances afterwards. We have set up the Sprint Series so paddlers can experience the fun of Sprint Racing in the best possible conditions. After the State Championships earlier in the year, we found we couldn't continue to provide the level of dedication to these events that is required, and decided we had to hand these responsibilities to others. But others have not been forthcoming.

I see sprint paddlers training hard, working to improve their speed by fractions, not knowing that future sprint regattas may not happen. And that is a sad but distinct possibility. The management committee volunteers spend enough of their own valuable time just running the affairs of the state organisation, without having to do the additional work needed to put on paddlesport events.

Membership of a technical committee can be a very rewarding experience, and any clubs that have sprint on the menu should consider it their duty to nominate a representative to the committee. You know who you are!


For our regional clubs and athletes

Yet more benefits for our paddlers come in the form of travel assistance for junior athletes to attend training camps and similar activities. If you have juniors who qualify for this assistance (they have to travel more than 120km to receive funding), please use the attached claim form to request reimbursement of travel and other costs. There is a finite amount of money available that has to be distributed fairly amongst all applicants. BE QUICK. Applications close 1st August 2010.

PaddleNSW is assisting in regional development of paddler education, by assisting with coaching and instruction camps for members prior to relevant qualification courses. If you have specific needs, the clubs survey is the way to let us know. We may have some grant funding to throw your way.

PNSW staff

PNSW is now able to fund the appointment of administration office staff. We currently have a webmaster for 16 hrs/week, and are advertising for an office administrator for 24 hrs/week. Once our staffing is sorted, we will be able to provide you with even more efficient service. All website-related matters can be directed straight to webmaster@paddleNSW.org.au unless they need approval from the Management Committee. Approval is required for any matters concerning non-PaddleNSW sanctioned events, etc.





Single-Event memberships

The new single-event membership process introduced on the 1st January has been working well. It is good to see some of the funds redirected back to the clubs to reward them for the effort of processing the forms, and posting the originals back to PaddleNSW.

There have been a few instances of paddlers indicating they have paid only \$5.00 for this membership. Please ask your paddlers to write down the total amount they have paid you for this membership application. If you have been only taking the \$5.00 from paddlers and sending it all to PNSW, you are requested to charge the full amount of a minimum of \$10.00. *(By charging only \$5.00, you are not fulfilling the requirements of this membership application, and it is possible the membership application and any associated insurance claim will be rejected by PNSW.)*

And finally

PaddleNSW exists to benefit all NSW paddlers. Make use of our resources, let us know your needs or concerns, and we will do our best to assist.

