

Risk Assessment for Snorkelling



Reviews

Completed By	Revision Date	Approved By	Approval Date
S.Hamlin	2/02/2021	Shaun Mackin	12/02/2021

Risk level		Action required/approval
High	High chance of injury or incident	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manage through regular planning processes

Minimum Supervision

2 x qualified Activities Instructor is to be present to run Snorkelling

1 x adult teacher/supervisor should be present to assist with supervision and participant behaviours

- 2 x qualified Activity Instructor in the water + 1 x suitably briefed responsible person as a lookout

Qualifications

All lead Apex staff and contractors hold at a minimum, one of the following qualifications /skills sets or other recognised skill sets/ qualifications from another jurisdiction, along with mandatory First Aid/ CPR and QLD Blue Card, working with children check.

- Certificate 3 Outdoor Recreation
- Certificate 4 Outdoor Recreation
- Diploma Outdoor recreation
- Guide Snorkelling, Demonstrate Snorkelling Activities
- Perform Basic Water Rescue or Equivalent

Through the use of well maintained equipment, training and accredited staff and sound operating procedures and policies Apex Camps control the “real risks” associated with this activity

In assessing the level of risk, considerations such as the likelihood of an incident happening in combination with the seriousness of a consequence are used to gauge the overall risk level for an activity. The matrix below has been used as a guide to assist with developing the risk assessment:

Likelihood	Consequence				
	1 Insignificant	2 Minor	3 Moderate	4 Major	5 Critical
5 Almost Certain	Medium	Medium	High	Extreme	Extreme
4 Likely	Low	Medium	High	High	Extreme
3 Possible	Low	Medium	High	High	High
2 Unlikely	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	High
1 Rare	Low	Low	Low	Low	Medium

Risk Level	
Low	Little chance of incident or serious injury.
Medium	Some chance of an incident and injury requiring first aid.
High	Likely chance of a serious incident and injury requiring medical treatment.
Extreme	High chance of a serious incident resulting in highly debilitating injury.

Minimum Equipment/Facilities

First aid kit suitable for activity

Communication system

Electronic and other equipment that can be damaged by water is to be carried in water resistant containers.

Leaders are responsible for determining the equipment to be carried by all participants. The following communication equipment should be appropriate for the activity and area of operations.

- Phone-line at location
- Mobile phone
- UHF Radio

Sun Safety equipment (hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, shirt etc)

Appropriate clothing and footwear (no singlets, skirts, short shorts, thongs, crocs etc) whilst walking to beach

Leader will inspect the area and ensure its soundness before commencing the activity

Emergency management plan

Drinking water (students should not share drinking containers)

Vehicular access to within a reasonable distance of the activity in case of emergency

Insect repellent

Towel

Hazards/Risks	Control Measures
Biological material <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bodily fluids (e.g. blood, sweat, saliva) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comply with HLS-PR-004: Infection Control and Management of Prescribed Contagious Conditions and Infection Control Guidelines. Students with open cuts and abrasions are to be removed from the activity and treated immediately. If bleeding cannot be controlled completely, the participant should not be allowed to return the activity. All clothing, equipment and surfaces contaminated by blood should be treated as potentially infectious. • Have sufficient and suitable containment material (bandages, etc) available • Ensure that personal items are not shared.
Animal bites/ diseases <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insects • Dangerous/ poisonous organisms • Marine Stingers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief students on blue bottle awareness • Instructor to check beach for blue bottles stingers. • Supply and provision of insect repellent • Clear area where games are played with participants removing sticks and shells • Ensure group has read and understood any warnings issues by the life guards on the information boards • Stingers suit supplied to prevent marine stingers,
Environmental conditions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weather • Surfaces • Surrounds • Temperatures • Isolation • Plants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure students bring appropriate clothing • Assess weather conditions before and during activity (e.g. temperature, storms) • Check and assess surrounds for loose items, debris and hazards and suitability of participants. • Boundaries and safety rules clearly defined at commencement & modified where required during sessions • Assessment made of conditions prior to undertaking water-based activities
Equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment failure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct regular equipment checks prior to start of sessions. • Check for worn or faulty equipment • Supply all equipment in a clean and serviceable condition • Check equipment before use • Provide specific (written and verbal) training in and awareness of safety requirements.
Physical exertion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strains and sprains • Cramps • Exhaustion and fatigue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the suitability and competency of students participating in the activity • Constantly monitor students for fatigue and exhaustion
Ratios & Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apex supervision ratio 1:10 (maximum of 25 actively participating at once) • Maximum number of students: 25 • Age limitation: 10+ years of age - Picnic Bay & Horseshoe 12+ years of age - Nelly Bay & Geoffrey Bay

Hazards/Risks	Control Measures
Drowning Including shallow water blackout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure PFDs are correctly worn at all times. Conduct activity according to participants' skill level. Instructors capable of performing deep water rescue and First Aid, including resuscitation. Regular headcounts
Participants become scared once out in the water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants briefed on nature of activity, adoption of challenge by choice theme. Use of good instruction and identification of possible participant issues. Instructors to conduct program at participant's level of skill and competence. Reassuring atmosphere and careful guidance from staff. Rescue kit (throw-ropes) on standby if required.
Other users in the area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boats and other sea craft 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief participants about the possibility of other users and how to conduct themselves around them. Venue assessed on arrival, if busy or there is concern about other users then another area might be considered • Supervisors will check regularly for boats around the area
Spread of infection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thoroughly clean equipment after use. Every participant has their own snorkel set for the session
Not equalising ears <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • potentially causing perforated ear drums 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants briefed on importance of equalizing • All snorkelling is on surface unless trained in snorkel diving
Swallowing water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants shown how to use snorkel and how to clear snorkel
Swell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey water before entering, if conditions are considering dangerous the snorkelling will be cancelled.

Hazards/Risks	Control Measures
<p>Students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special needs • High risk behaviours • Medical conditions • Student numbers • Child protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain parental permission including relevant medical information • When students with medical conditions are involved, ensure that relevant medical/ emergency plans and medications are readily available (insulin, Ventolin, EpiPen, etc) • Refer to individual education plan/Educational adjustment plan/Behaviour management plan and other student documents. • Where necessary, obtain advice from relevant advisory visiting teachers or specialist teachers • Ensure there is adequate adult supervision • Participants travel together in teams of 4-6 • Participants briefed on activity boundaries, correct radio protocols and contingency procedures in the event of external interference during activity • Activity utilises frequencies with minimal radio traffic • Roaming supervising Staff supplied with radios monitor movements of groups on site • Jewellery can be a serious hazard when undertaking many activities. All forms of jewellery should be considered in terms of the risk it presents for each activity. Procedures are in place to dissuade or protect (e.g. tape) the wearing of jewellery accordingly.

Emergency Procedures	Teacher/group leader responsibilities	Participant Briefing Instructor should cover:	Participant Requirements
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Effect Rescue as required. 2. Conduct First Aid as required. 3. Contact Emergency Services via mobile phone, radio. 4. Depending on injury: Stabilise patient and await ambulance or remove patient to appropriate site to recover. 5. In the event of serious injury, suspend activity until incident can be investigated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform & liaise with Activity Staff regarding any potential issues with group (behavioural, disabilities, injuries) • Listen to activity briefings and assist Staff in procedural aspects of session as required, such as helping students to belay under supervision of Activity Staff • Monitor & take charge of behavioural issues if needed and attend to any pre-existing medical conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenge by Choice Philosophy • Session Objectives • OH&S Brief • Safety Brief • Equipment Familiarisation • Skills Demo & Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sunscreen, insect repellent • medication (if relevant) • water bottle • fully enclosed shoes, hat • minimum of sleeved shirt that covers midriff when arms are raised • shorts/leggings that preferably cover knees (to prevent grazes) • hair tied back, jewellery removed