

flatwater paddling framework

		F0 – Flatwater Participation	F1 – Flatwater Competent	F2 – Flatwater Lead	F3 – Flatwater Guide (formal)	F4 instructor (formal)
Required skills	People/Paddle skills - forward, reverse, emergency stop - turning (sweeps, draws etc) - support strokes – (low + high braces) - Towing – single, double.	Desirable	Essential	Essential	Per Paddle Australia Guidelines, with ability to secure formal qualifications.	
	Ability to undertake rescues: - Assisted ‘deep sea’ rescues - Self rescues - ‘hand of god’ rescue.	Desirable	Essential	Essential + Ability to lead rescues		
	Planning Float plan requirements	Desirable	Essential	Essential		
	Club systems (eg club calendar, GoMembership)	Desirable	Essential	Essential		
	Risk management and responsibility Group planning and management. Incident management	Desirable	Demonstrated familiarity essential	Demonstrated ability essential		
	Environment • Wind • Tides • Rain, water quality • Paddling destinations • Access to digital information	Desirable	Essential	Essential + Ability to communicate environment factors to participants		
	Equipment • Boat setup • gear selection and options • Arrangements for maintenance • Towing • Spare food/water • Identified access to first aid equipment and assistance	Desirable	Essential	Essential + Ability to demonstrate appropriate equipment selection for participants		
Paddling privileges and opportunities	What can I participate in?	Can participate in flatwater paddle activities with a F2 lead (or above)	Can participate in S01* open water paddles May paddle on flatwater with at least one other F1 (or higher)	Can participate in S01* open water paddles May take others out on flatwater per Paddle Australia Ratios – depending on group, and conditions (refer overleaf)	Can lead flatwater and participate in S01 paddles.	Can lead flatwater and participate in S01 paddles
Assessment		Nil, open to all club members – including trial memberships.	Self assessment first Approval by committee resolution on advice of guides/ instructors*		By Paddle Australia	By Paddle Australia

S01 = an environment where any of the following may be experienced: *distances more than 400m from shore, fetch greater than 1 nautical mile, up to 15 knots wind forecast, 0.5m waves (eg Botany Bay, Pittwater etc)*. The competency framework has been developed because the club cares about its members – their safety, enjoyment etc. More skills = more opportunities.

If keen to develop skills, (a) please sign-up for suitable sessions, (b) take the initiative to learn the skills, and (c) contact a committee member to discuss.

As adopted by the Club – October 2020

Ratios for Flatwater/inland paddling (per Paddle Australia Guidelines as at May 2020)

Background

In adverse weather, the conditions on a large body of inland water can become dangerous due to large seas, overtopping waves and strong gusts of wind. Water temperatures, even in summer, can be quite low.

Control of a group can be rapidly lost as conditions deteriorate, and capsizes occur. Under such conditions, it can be difficult to keep the group together unless they are able to respond skillfully and effectively to instructions: the larger the group, the more so.

The starting point for determining the ratio of leader/guide to participants for conducting group paddling activities on inland water are 1:6, or 1:8 in double craft.

Supervision should be increased towards a ratio of 1:4 considering the following conditions or variables:

- participants have special needs, including behavioural, physical or mental disability
- participants are primarily younger children
- weather conditions are poor (existing or forecast), with white horses, wind and/or cold water
- any planned trip is along a committing shoreline with few safe egress points
- the area is remote from observation or rescue
- the body of water is subject to unpredictable winds, common in mountainous area

Supervision should be relaxed towards a ratio of 1:12 considering the following conditions or variables:

- all participants are 17 years of age or older
- all participants are competent, both individually and as a group, to deal with likely problems which may be encountered
- good weather forecast with light/favourable winds, flat and warm water which present little risk to participants
- area is in a non-remote where assistance from other groups or craft might be available
- planned trip will stay close to an easily accessible shoreline.