

# Water Awareness and Charge Certificate Manual

## Module 03: OR as it applies to Water Activities

Current Document Revision Number: 1.5

Revision Date: 18 January 2018

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## Revision History

Module Title	Comments	Rev No	Revision Date
Module 3: PO&R as it applies to Water Activities	Initial Release	1.0	3 Jan 2010
Module 3: PO&R as it applies to Water Activities	Standardised formatting	1.1	8 Jan 2010
Module 03: PO&R as it applies to Water Activities	previous Module 3	1.2	23 Mar 2010
Module 03: OR as it applies to Water Activities	PO&R replaced by OR	1.3	19 Dec 2015
Module 03: OR as it applies to Water Activities	Outcomes added	1.4	28 Jan 2017
Module 03: OR as it applies to Water Activities	Section 3: Permits added	1.5	18 Jan 2018

## Outcomes

After completing this module, the certificate holder will:

- Be able to state policies of Scouts Scout Africa as they apply to water activities.
- Be able to complete a permit for an activity involving water activities

## 1 Organisation Rules

Organisation Rules (OR) governs the structure of scouting in South Africa. OR has very little text on water activities and charge certificates.

### 1.1 Rule 3.2.10

3.2.10.3. Where a Sea Scout Troop is formed, at least one of the Scouters shall have the appropriate water charge. For details see the requirements in the SSA Adult Support Policy.

3.2.10.4. Activities involving Scouts using Watercrafts not exceeding 15,25 metres in length and only whilst on inland waterways (dam's, estuaries, rivers, etc.) are included in the public liability insurance policy. Watercrafts exceeding 15,25 metres in length and any activity whilst on sea, are specifically excluded from the Public liability insurance policy. Before any Scout Troop may engage in any activities on sea or using a watercraft exceeding 15,25 meters in length, the Regional Scout Programme Team Representative shall ascertain that, if necessary, suitable alternative insurance has been arranged, or that all reasonable possibilities of claims against the Movement have been entirely waived by those taking part in the activity, or by the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) responsible for them where applicable.

## 2 Safe Scouting

The Safe Scouting Policy provides responsibility and safety guidelines for the day to day activities of troops and packs in Scouts SA. Safe Scouting Rule 9 defines how water based activities are to be conducted.

### 9. Water Activities

#### 9.1. General Regulations

9.1.1. All events or activities on or near water, must adhere to the general principles in point 2 of this policy, with the following additional requirements:

9.1.1.1. A permit must be issued in terms of point 3 of this policy

#### 9.2. Water Activities Council

9.2.1. In any Region where boating forms part of the programme for Scouts, a water activities Council must be formed.

9.2.2. The Water Activities Council is responsible for:

9.2.2.1. The compilation, issue, and observance of local rules for the use, condition, and equipment of all rafts and boats, and for the safety of those using them, and in particular

9.2.2.2. The awarding, renewing and revoking of charge certificates

9.2.2.3. Ensuring the proper care and maintenance of any boats and equipment loaned to, or in the possession, of any scout franchise holder, by the franchise holder.

9.2.2.4. The water Activities Council may prohibit the use of a boat or equipment, either owned by any franchise or private person, if such boat(s) are considered unseaworthy, or equipment unsatisfactory or inadequately maintained.

### **9.3. Swimming**

9.3.1. The activity leader or suitably qualified adult, must, at minimum, hold a nationally approved water awareness certificate. If a patrol activity the person in charge of the activity or a Scout who is 15 or older and who holds the LifeSaver interest badge will be the responsible person during swimming

9.3.2. No youth member shall be allowed to swim except under the supervision of the activity leader. The activity leader must appoint pickets and lookouts to ensure the safety of the swimmers.

9.3.3. The safety of the place must have been previously ascertained, and all reasonable precautions must be taken to ensure the safety of the swimmers. All reasonable precautions should be taken to ensure that the water is safe for swimming.

9.3.4. Where the circumstances dictate suitable lifesaving equipment and professionally trained lifesavers must be at the event

### **9.4. Rafting**

9.4.1. The activity leader must, at minimum, hold a nationally approved water awareness certificate

9.4.2. No RAFT shall be used in the course of a CUB or SCOUT activity unless certified safe by the activity leader

9.4.3. The safety of the place must have been previously ascertained, and all reasonable precautions must be taken to ensure the safety of the crew. All reasonable precautions should be taken to ensure that the water is safe for rafting.

### **9.5. Boating**

9.5.1. The activity leader must hold a nationally approved water charge certificate issued for the purpose.

9.5.2. All BOATING activities shall comply strictly with all legislation and regulations of any competent authority having jurisdiction over the activity or place of such activity.

9.5.3. No boating shall take place unless there are suitably equipped and manned Rescue craft, appropriate for the event and venue

- 9.5.4. No BOAT shall be used in the course of a SCOUT activity unless properly manned and under the supervision of a person holding an appropriate Charge Certificate issued for the purpose,
- 9.5.5. No Scouter or other person in charge for the time being shall allow any CUB or SCOUT to take part in BOATING without first considering carefully all the conditions, and in particular having made sure:
- 9.5.5.1. That the CUB or SCOUT has earned the swimming scoutcraft badge, or has demonstrated the ability to swim 100 metres in any stroke.
- 9.5.5.2. All reasonable precautions should be taken to ensure that the water is safe for swimming. That everyone aboard a vessel is wearing appropriate personal buoyancy aids, in accordance with current Water Activities Council Requirement
- 9.5.5.3. That every SCOUT forming part of the crew of any vessel will not wilfully endanger the vessel or other crew member(s)
- 9.5.6. The charge holder responsible for the activity is responsible for ensuring that all vessels taking part in the activity are seaworthy.
- 9.5.7. The regional Water Activities Council shall define other requirements at its discretion when required.

**NOTE:** Please refer to the Scouts SA website <http://www.scouts.org.za/> for the latest version of these documents

### **3 Permits**

The Safe Scouting policy requires the following

“3.1.1. All activities and events except for normal troop and pack meetings require an activity permit to be issued by the relevant authority before they can go ahead.”

The permit includes the following section

**SAFETY PLAN:** (Include as many details as possible)

Will there be water/air activities:  Yes  No Description:

Charge Licence Name:  Charge No.

Will there be any potentially risky activities?

Yes

Description:

No

Explain the safety plan: (Add additional pages if needed)

Nearest Hospital:  Contact No.

Address:

Emergency Contact Parent:  Contact No.

Emergency Contact Scouter  Contact No.

First Aider in Charge:  Level:

This is an important section, which needs to be completed correctly. The person managing the event needs to consider the safety plan and what to do in an emergency before the event starts as there is no time to figure out what to do when a problem occurs. Specifically, consider the following.

- How far is it to the nearest hospital?
- How will I get the casualty to the hospital?
- Does the hospital have an emergency room open 24 hours?
- What emergency services are available that could assist me?