

Tallebudgera Outdoor and Environmental Education Centre

Curriculum Activity Risk Assessment

Activity Details

CARA Creation Date: 11-Mar-2026			
Activity:	Water skiing and wakeboarding		
Activity Scope:	<p>Guideline review date: 24 September 2025</p> <p>This guideline demonstrates the minimum safety standard for student participation in water skiing and/or wakeboarding during daylight hours, as an activity to support curriculum delivery. This guideline must be used in conjunction with the power boating guideline when a boat is being used for this activity.</p> <p>Note: This activity does not include participation in jumping competitions, water skiing tournaments, tubing on any form of floatation device or ramp jumps/tricks (e.g. as an activity in cable parks). A separate risk assessment should be undertaken for these activities.</p> <p>The Department of Education is committed to ensuring that curriculum activities are planned for and managed in accordance with the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (Qld), to ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, the safety of students, staff and others.</p> <p>Depending on the scope of this activity, other risk assessments may be required when planning. Curriculum activities encompassing more than one CARA guideline (e.g. swimming in locations other than pools while power boating) must comply with the requirements of all CARA guidelines appropriate to the activity.</p> <p>Activities that pose an unacceptable risk to students are not recommended as part of an education program. These activities include, but are not limited to, unstructured free-swim activities and breath-holding/underwater games.</p> <p>Schools should consider conducting this activity at a Department of Education Outdoor and Environmental Education Centre (O&EEC) and consult with O&EEC centre staff for risk assessment requirements.</p> <p>For activities conducted at a non-Department of Education venue, and/or when engaging external expertise, request written risk assessment advice and attach it to this CARA record.</p> <p>For activities conducted off-site, schools must comply with the school excursions procedure.</p>		
Guidelines:	https://education.qld.gov.au/curriculum/stages-of-schooling/CARA/activity-guidelines/water-skiing-wakeboarding		
Activity Description:	This CARA relates to student participation in wake riding activities conducted on Tallebudgera Creek, where students ride an inflatable Stingray and/or Couch towed by a motorboat under the supervision of trained staff.		
Inherent Risk Level:	High		
Inherent Risk Level Description:	Teaching and/or practicing of water skiing and wakeboarding skills.		
Start Date:	Monday, 02 February, 2026	End Date:	Friday, 26 February, 2027
On School Grounds:	No	Is parental permission required for this activity?	Yes

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Activity Requirements	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If any requirement cannot be met, the activity must not occur. • A registered teacher must be appointed to maintain overall responsibility for the activity. • Teachers, in collaboration with other adult supervisors of the planned activity, determine additional risks, hazards and control measures relevant to the activity and the specific school/group circumstances in order to lift the safety standard above the minimum identified in the CARA guideline. • Consult review comments from previous CARA records to improve safety standards based on the advice from the previous supervisors of the activity at the school. • Prior consultation and collaboration with local expertise (e.g. local councils, venue manager, lifeguard) is required for local advice, emergency support mechanisms and additional supervision requirements to ensure participant and public safety. • Compliance with the Maritime Safety Qld water skiing guidelines is required when planning this activity. • Reference to Queensland Government zoning and designated areas is required to ensure motorised water sports (including water skiing and/or wakeboarding) are permitted. • Permission/permits are required to be obtained from land managers (e.g. Queensland Government marine park permits and activities, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, local councils or private landholders), if applicable. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Students</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools must consider age, maturity and skill level of students when planning curriculum activities. Ensure participants' current level of confidence and skills in the water have been tested. Consult the sequence of competency found in the water safety and swimming education program for guidance at each year/band level. • Adjustments are required for students with disability to support access and participation in the curriculum. Consult with the parents/carers of students with disability, or when appropriate the student, to ensure risks related to their child's participation in the activity are identified and managed. • Schools must consult current student medical information and/or health plans in accordance with the managing students' health support needs at school procedure. Record information about any student condition (e.g. physical or medical, such as epilepsy) that may inhibit safe engagement in the activity and include specific support measures within emergency procedures. • For activities with students with a medical condition or disability that may impact on safety during the activity, consultation with parents is required prior to allocating supervision to determine the impact of students' medical condition or disability on safety during the activity. • For participants with known allergies, schools must comply with the supporting students with asthma and/or at risk of anaphylaxis at school procedure and the school's anaphylaxis risk management plan, including an adult supervisor of the activity with anaphylaxis training. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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<p>Emergency and first-aid</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency plans and injury management procedures must be established for foreseeable incidents (e.g. drowning, running aground, provision of first aid, spinal injuries) and incorporate the advice from local authorities. Adult supervisors must have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> emergency contact details of all participants a medical alert list and a process for administering student medication communication equipment suitable to conditions (e.g. two-way radio, mobile phone) and a process for obtaining external assistance and/or receiving emergency advice. Note that battery life can be impacted by weather conditions recovery/rescue equipment suitable to the location (e.g. emergency position-indicating radio beacon [EPIRB], flares) an appointed emergency contact (e.g. the Principal, a park ranger, or local police) who is provided with a route card listing activity details (outline of the route to be followed, the number and names of the party, the estimated time of departure/arrival emergency shelter/protection locations and alternative routes that consider foreseeable emergencies (e.g. injury, bushfire, thunderstorm, extreme temperature, tides). Safety procedures must be determined for the location (e.g. signalling for assistance, avoiding moving engine parts/propeller, location of first aid support and equipment, roll marking, process to rapidly communicate emergency advice to adult supervisors of impending severe events) and incorporate advice from off-site facility, if relevant. Access is required to first aid equipment and consumables suitable for foreseeable incidents (e.g. heat pack, ice pack, vinegar). 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Induction and instruction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Induction is required for all adult supervisors on emergency procedures (e.g. drowning, running aground, provision of first aid, spinal injuries) and safety procedures (e.g. collision regulations, Maritime Safety Queensland requirements, signalling for assistance, avoiding moving engine parts/propeller). If the activity is conducted at an off-site facility, induction is to be informed by advice provided in consultation with expertise at the venue. Instruction is required for students and adult supervisors on correct techniques (e.g. universal hand signals) to ensure preliminary water safety knowledge and learning prior to entering the water. Rule-reminders are to be provided throughout the activity. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Consent</p> <p>Parent consent is required for all activities conducted off-site and all extreme risk level activities conducted onsite. It is strongly recommended that parent consent is obtained for high risk level activities conducted on-site.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Activities are facilitated in alignment with TOEEC Standard Operating Procedures for Wake Riding which guide our annual practical inductions and operations.</p> <p>TOEEC also maintains Standard Operating Procedures for Severe Weather, Natural Environment, Medical and Behaviour management, along with a comprehensive Emergency Response Plan encompassing all TOEEC operations.</p>	

Risk Management Details

Supervision	
<p>Principals, in consultation with the qualified adults, make final supervision decisions for the activity that considers the local context.</p>	
<p>Appropriate adult supervision must be provided to manage the activity safely i.e. prevent an incident from occurring and manage an incident if one were to occur, including managing emergency situations. At no time should students be relied upon to recover a person in difficulty. The principal must give active consideration</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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to the minimum standards set in the CARA guideline for the activity, the CARA planner and the risk assessment when determining the appropriate level of supervision.

Specific roles for supervisors must include recovery, emergency and general supervision roles.

See Number of adult supervisors (below).

Prepare a supervision plan to prevent drowning that considers the advice provided in this CARA guideline.

Where a lifeguard service is available, schools are to collaborate with the lifeguard on the contents of the CARA record prior to the activity for advice and to address any queries they may have. Note: The presence of a lifeguard service does not absolve the school of any supervision requirements unless secured for the sole purpose of the activity.

Participants must adhere to all rules and advice communicated by the local lifeguard service, facility operator/owner and any safety signage at the facility/location.

Before the activity, all adult supervisors:

- must be familiar with the contents of the CARA record, including the Emergency and Supervision Plans.

During the activity, all adult supervisors:

- must provide active and direct supervision – be constantly vigilant, attentive and rescue ready
- must comply with control measures from the CARA record and adapt as hazards arise
- must **not** allow this activity to occur outside daylight hours.

The activity must be suspended if the conditions become unfavourable (e.g. poor visibility, extreme temperatures, thunderstorms).

Number of adult supervisors

Principals, in consultation with the qualified adults of the activity, determine the final number of supervisors to fulfil instructional, emergency and supervision roles for the local context that consider the nature of the activity, students' ages, abilities and specialised learning, access and/or health needs. In some instances, the final supervision ratio may be 1:1.

To support decisions about the number of qualified adults required for the activity, confirmation of student water safety and swimming ability is required prior to participation. [See FAQ's for further support](#). The process is determined by the school and must consider the specific aquatic environments in which the activity will take place. Consult the sequence of competency [water safety and swimming education program](#) for support in determining age-appropriate suitability and consider student self-rescue skills in the specific aquatic environment.

At all times, at least 1 adult supervisor with capability and competence (knowledge and skills) to assist/recover a student must be ready to perform a rescue.

In addition to the above:

- At least 3 adult supervisors are required to manage the activity safely in the roles of driver, spotter in the boat and spotter on shore.
- Driver and spotters must have experience in the role and knowledge of the [universal hand signals](#) used when water skiing.
- The spotter in the boat must hold a current first aid qualification and be prepared to enter the water (e.g. wearing life jacket) at all times.

If the minimum safety standard cannot be met, modify the activity (or elements of it) and use the [hierarchy of controls](#) to implement alternative control measures to meet or exceed the minimum safety standard (e.g. reduce the number of students participating at any one time).

*See [FAQ's](#) for further support.

Supervision is managed in alignment with TOEEC Standard Operating Procedures for Wake Riding.

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Supervisor Qualifications	
Qualifications support the minimum safety standard for this activity. Principals make final decisions* in determining supervisor capability (competence, relevance and currency) and whether the activity leader meets an appropriate teaching standard. * See FAQ's for further support.	
All adult supervisors must comply with the Working with children authority—blue cards procedure.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Qualified adults for the activity Recovery/emergency – CPR, First aid, Rescue	
Adults at the venue, including registered teachers, engaged for recovery/emergency are to have current knowledge, judgement, technique and physical ability to carry out safe water rescues and enact an emergency procedure. Recovery/emergency units of competency include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HLTAID009 Provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) or equivalent; and • HLTAID010 Provide basic emergency life support • HLTAID011 Provide first aid or equivalent competencies • HLTAID013 Provide first aid in remote situations • SISCAQU020 Perform Water Rescues An adult with concussion management knowledge or training is required. Consult Concussion in sport resources.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
For water skiing and/or wakeboarding behind a boat , at least 1 adult supervisor is:	
a holder of a valid marine licence ; and	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
experienced in power boating relevant to water skiing and/or wakeboarding activities; and	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
able to conform to the general safety obligations for vessels prescribed by Maritime Safety Queensland and the power boating activity guideline.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
AND EITHER	
a registered teacher with demonstrated competence (knowledge and skills) in teaching skills of water skiing and/or wakeboarding and demonstrated ability to perform rescues appropriate to the location. Examples of demonstrated ability include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • competence (knowledge and skills) in water safety (e.g. current professional development from Royal Lifesaving such as Swim and survive) • a water safety and swimming instructor qualification from a registered training organisation (RTO) governing sporting body covering SISCAQU002—Perform basic water rescues unit of competency. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
OR	
an adult supervisor, working under the direct supervision of a registered teacher, with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrated competence (knowledge and skills) in teaching skills of water skiing and/or wakeboarding; and • Level 1 coaching accreditation from Waterski and Wakeboard Australia or similar. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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For water skiing and/or wakeboarding at a cable park, at least 1 adult supervisor is:	
employed by the cable park, working under the direct supervision of a registered teacher, with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrated competence (knowledge and skills) in teaching skills of water skiing and/or wakeboarding Level 1 coaching accreditation from Waterski and Wakeboard Australia or similar. 	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maritime-related enquiries should be directed to the nearest Maritime Safety Queensland regional office . *See FAQ's for further support.	
TOEEC staff are appropriately qualified to lead and facilitate Wake Riding.	

Facilities and Equipment	
The qualified adult supervisor of the activity, in consultation with the principal, determines the requirements for facilities and equipment appropriate to the local context.	
Participants must wear personal protective equipment as relevant (e.g. wetsuit pants, wetsuit or stinger protective swimwear).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Level 50 lifejackets as outlined by Maritime Safety Queensland must be worn when participating in water skiing or wakeboarding activities.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ensure access to waterways is available for emergency vehicles or vessels.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Equipment must be sized to match the ability and strength of students.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
All equipment must be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
A process for checking for damage for all equipment used in the activity must be established and employed (e.g skis, boards, ropes, helmets).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
A retirement schedule must be developed to replace plant and equipment by manufacturers' nominated expiry date or when significant wear causes a hazard.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Facilities and Equipment are maintained as per TOEEC Standard Operating Procedure for Wake Riding.	

Hazards and Control Measures	
Environmental hazards	

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<p>Dangerous marine life - e.g. crocodiles, sharks, stonefish, marine stingers, stonefish, sea snakes, blue-ringed octopus, cone shells, cyanobacteria, coral (scrapes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check with the local authority (e.g. local government) for the presence of known water contaminants (e.g. blue-green algae) or other marine hazards (e.g. stonefish) at the location. • Look for and obey warnings and/or safety signs • Follow Queensland Government dangerous marine life and Surf Life Saving Queensland marine stinger safety advice. • Marine organisms are not to be handled and contact is to be avoided. • Continually assess threat of dangerous marine life. Immediately move the participants to a safe location if dangerous marine life is detected or suspected. • Ensure stinger suits and/or footwear is worn in the water when appropriate (e.g. enclosed footwear with thick soles when swimming in creeks or estuaries where dangers such as stonefish may be present). • Adhere to established practices regarding the use of insect repellent, outlined in insect viruses and allergies. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Environmental considerations - Weather, surrounds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess weather conditions prior to undertaking the activity, inspecting the intended location in order to identify variable risks, hazards and potential dangers. • Follow the school's sun safety policy, including appropriate swimwear (e.g. swim shirts), sun protection (e.g. sunscreen) and shade facilities when outside. • Follow the managing excessive heat in schools guidelines when participating in very hot or extreme heat conditions. • Ensure shade, food and water are available during the activity. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Water temperature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage cooler water temperatures with additional control measures e.g. shorter in-water time, wetsuits etc. Note: sudden temperature changes may trigger seizures. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Facilities and equipment hazards</p>	
<p>Activity location</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location must be suitable for the activity being undertaken to ensure safe participation and that safety rules and procedures can be followed. Undertake a reconnaissance of new or infrequently used venues to ascertain suitability. • Consider underwater vegetation (e.g. coral, weed), marine life (e.g. crocodiles, sharks, eels), debris and protection from watercraft when selecting ski location. Assess suitability of surrounds and reach of water (e.g. local water conditions and hazards, traffic patterns). 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Faulty or dangerous equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure equipment is tied down and stored correctly to prevent personal injury or damage during transit or retrieval. • Remove any equipment from the activity area that poses a risk to participants. • Ensure all safety equipment is in place and in good condition. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Vehicles / vessels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continually assess threat of vehicles and vessels if appropriate to location. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Student considerations</p>	

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Injury <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students aware of the location of emergency and first-aid equipment. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Physical exertion - Exhaustion and fatigue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor students for signs of fear, hesitancy, loss of balance, fatigue, disorientation, hunger and/or exhaustion. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Student issues - Student numbers, special needs, high risk behaviours, medical conditions, separation from the group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tow only a single skier. Ensure students are proficient in the double ski technique before advancing to single ski when water skiing. Ensure start and 'drop off' areas are clear of swimmers. Remove accessories (e.g. jewellery, lanyards) before participating. Ensure fingernails, hair and clothing do not pose a hazard. Implement procedures (e.g. roll marking mechanisms) to account for all participants before, during and after the activity. Instruct students to obey all safety signs and instructions. 	<input type="checkbox"/>
Visibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have students wear easily identifiable clothing (e.g. high visibility rash vest). Ensure staff can easily recognise those students with health support needs (in and out of the water) and are familiar with their needs. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Additional links Waterski Queensland Safety in Recreational Water Activities Act 2011 (Qld) Sports Medicine Australia injury fact sheets	
Hazards and Control Measures are incorporated in TOEEC Standard Operating Procedures for Wake Riding.	

Attachments

[Wake Riding SOP 2026.docx](#)

Staff/Other Participants

Family Name	Given Name	Type	Other Participants Role
Binns	Christopher	Staff Member	N/A
Blount	Stephen	Staff Member	N/A
Boswell	Andrew	Staff Member	N/A
Cody	Keith	Staff Member	N/A
Daddo	Bianca	Staff Member	N/A
Duncan	Jimmy	Staff Member	N/A
Gillard	Daniel	Staff Member	N/A
Henderson	Rohan	Staff Member	N/A
McGregor	Troy	Staff Member	N/A

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Mills	Dale	Staff Member	N/A
Petersen	Samantha	Staff Member	N/A
Raines	Kate	Staff Member	N/A
Richards	Nicola	Staff Member	N/A
Roberts	Bryce	Staff Member	N/A
Stephenson	Jesse	Staff Member	N/A

Approval Details

Approval Status: Approved			
Approval Officer Name:	Brennan, Kalindi	Approval Date:	17-Mar-2026

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Planning Considerations

Which students will be involved?

- Consider the number of students, size of student groups and students' capabilities e.g. age, experience, competence, fitness, maturity.
- Consider any individual student needs e.g. personalised learning, support provisions (including behaviour support plans), health management (including health plans and prescribed medication requirements).

Where will the students be?

- Consider the location of the activity e.g. remote/easily accessible, public /private, school/classroom/workshop/other.
- Is the number of students appropriate for the available space?
- If outdoors – sunsafe strategies are implemented; weather and environmental conditions are assessed before and during activity (e.g. temperature, storms, water currents, tides); and strategies to reduce the likelihood of viruses, allergies and skin infections caused by insects (e.g. ticks, mosquitoes, spiders) and other animals are applied.
- The site is checked for hazards (e.g. poisonous plants, dangerous animals, uneven terrain, barbed wire,) and necessary controls implemented.
- Activities are appropriately situated in relation to buildings, pedestrians, members of the public, vehicles and other activities e.g. designated areas for activity, spectators and vehicles are established.

What will the students be doing?

- Consider the nature and duration of the activity i.e. need for drinking water, food, rest, appropriate clothing, warm-up and warm-down.
- Instruction in rules and pre-requisite skills is provided.
- Student skills are developed in a progressive and sequential manner.
- First aid and emergency medical treatment provisions are appropriate for the type of activity and location e.g. first aid kit, first aid trained personnel, Ventolin®, Epipen®, and students' personal prescribed medications as required in health plans are available.
- Emergency response strategies are in place e.g. communication plans (e.g. mobile phone, walkie talkie), safety induction, evacuation plans.
- Hair, clothing, footwear and jewellery are worn in a manner that is appropriate and safe for the activity.
- Personal items, e.g. drink bottles, towels and mouthguards, will not be shared between students.

What will the students be using?

- Instruction in safety procedures and safe handling of equipment is provided.
- Equipment is suitable for the activity, properly maintained, appropriately used and complies with the relevant safety standard.
- [Relevant department procedures and guidelines](#) are adhered to for the use of equipment and work processes.

Who will be leading the activity?

- A registered teacher has overall responsibility for the activity.
- Sufficient adult supervision is in place to manage the activity safely (including in emergency situations).
- The activity leader has the competence (knowledge and skills) to plan, induct, instruct and manage the activity safely for students and others.
- There are sufficient adults present with current First Aid qualifications (including CPR) or ready access to qualified first aid personnel.
- Blue Card requirements are adhered to for leaders/volunteers.

I have incorporated the above factors when planning my risk management strategies for this activity.

Additional activity-specific requirements for students with specialised learning needs are provided in the Other Details box below.

Planning is undertaken in alignment with TOEEC Standard Operating Procedures for Wake Riding which guide our annual practical inductions and operations.