

RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

This document is provided to support the Club Rules and communicate club policy to the members. Policy may be revised from time to time by the committee, and members will be adequately notified of changes.

Risk

Australian Standard 4360 defines risk as “the chance of something happening that will have an impact upon objectives. It is measured in terms of consequences and likelihood.” Risk management is the actions taken to manage or treat the risk and therefore reduce the risk by either reducing the likelihood or the consequences (or both) of undesirable events.

Management

Perth Bushwalkers committee addresses risk in the club in accordance with AS4360, by assisting leaders in identifying and managing risks involved in the various programmed activities, and also in managing the club’s financial actions and assessing exposure to risk from outside sources (for example legal actions taken against the club). While it is recognised that the club has so far managed risk effectively, legal and economic imperatives now provide powerful incentives to formalise the process. Benefits of good risk management include a safer environment for participants, reduced likelihood of undesirable events, improved public perception of the club and improved ability to source insurance.

Steps

In general terms, there are 4 steps in the risk management process:

- Establish the CONTEXT - Determine where problems can occur
- IDENTIFY the risks - Determine what can happen, and how it can happen
- ANALYSE the risks - Determine the likelihood and the consequences of it happening
- EVALUATE the risk - Establish the level of risk considering likelihood and consequence
- TREAT the risk
 - Identify the options
 - Evaluate and select treatment options
 - Develop treatment plans
 - Implement plans

Application

Bushwalking activities inherently involve exposure to risk, and these risks are largely managed by the leaders and members. Leaders of activities are assisted in formally assessing the risk for their particular activity by completing the form printed on the reverse side of the walk waiver form. This form guides leaders through the process of identifying, analysing and evaluating the risks involved in activities, and by completing this process leaders are then able to implement strategies to effectively manage the risks identified.

Unusual Activities

When unusual activities such as canoeing, abseiling, rock climbing and the like are proposed as club activities, the leader must submit a completed risk assessment form and a proposed management plan for the activity to the activity co-ordinator at least one month prior to the scheduled activity to allow for an approval process to take place. This is because these activities generally require skills that are not within the skills base or training regime of the club and as such may expose members to additional risk.

Monitoring

Monitoring and ongoing evaluation of the club risk management programme is undertaken by the Training and Safety Officer on behalf of the committee. Risk management training is undertaken as formal and informal training as required.

Insurance

In addition to the club’s management of risk, insurance is assessed and retained from year to year, but generally includes Public Liability to protect the club and its officeholders and leaders, and limited Personal Accident Insurance. These insurances are negotiated on behalf of all Australia’s organised bushwalkers by Bushwalking Australia Inc with whom the Club is affiliated through the Federation of Western Australian Bushwalkers Inc (WA’s peak bushwalking body). See separate [Club Insurance Policy](#).