



WAVESKI SURFING AUSTRALIA INC AFFILIATION WITH QUEENSLAND CANOEING INC



“TAKING WAVESKI SURFING FORWARD IN LEAPS AND BOUNDS”

An opportunity has arisen for the sport of Waveski Surfing in Australia to affiliate with Queensland Canoeing Inc and as a result become a discipline under Australian Canoeing (AC) and a recognised sport of the Australian Sports Commission.

This would involve Waveski Surfing Australia Inc. (WSA) affiliating as a club of QLD Canoeing (QC) with an annual capitation fee of \$275 and a membership fee of approximately \$85 per member. The capitation fee pays for Directors and Officers liability Insurance. This fee structure would cover all insurances for the directors, officers, members and committee and administration support. This is covered in more detail below.

Affiliation directly with Australian Canoeing was not considered an option as AC has state-based organisations where each state affiliate pays an amount to Australian Canoeing (AC) based on population percentage and each state differs in this contribution. The direct membership of WSA to AC would raise differing fee issues for the members which would be more costly than those through QC.

By affiliating with QC, the canoeing organisation would become the administrator of Waveski Surfing Australia (WSA) and operational supervisor of WSA and its activities as deemed and approved by the CEO of Australian Canoeing. Queensland Canoeing however are not there to run the sport in its entirety. QC's charter and determination is to grow the participation, competition, profile and exposure of the sport. This is not a controlling or interfering measure, just the appropriate governance and it is WSA who set the reasonable direction of the sport via the WSA Committee and facilitates aspects of this disciplines operations.

WSA would be classed as an association under QC and therefore AC. WSA would continue to have a management committee to develop and review the strategies, rules and policies of the sports discipline reporting to the Board of QC. The WSA Committee will be deemed the Waveski Surfing discipline body who continue to develop strategies etc and run just like a discipline. QC will assist with development of the sport, grants funding etc with WSA and take over as much as is reasonable of the administration and operations. QC would liaise with each state office of canoeing to ensure their assistance in the development of the sport.

WSA, like other affiliated clubs or organisations would have the opportunity to have a member nominated and possibly elected to the QC Board. That person however would act for the entirety of the canoeing sports and not just WSA as is the position of every director of the board. The management team or committee would meet and report to the board a minimum bi-monthly, reporting all issues and matters to the QC Board by way of minutes and position papers to ensure strong governance and measures of performance are met.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

QC has approximately 1300 members in QLD, with a projected growth of 200 for 2009/2010. We have targeted junior development conducting specific programs to attract junior paddlers and events such as state schools sprint and marathon races with attendance of around 170 students

representing 36 schools and growing. Queensland Canoeing has hosted the World Masters Canoeing, National Championships in Slalom, Wild Water, Marathon and Canoe Polo. Some highlights recently are:

- Expansion of Schools programs in sprint, marathon and canoe polo
- Assimilation of outrigger and surf life saving ocean events for cross sanctioning and increased participants
- Expansion of come n try activities to Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton and Maryborough enhancing those conducted in the south east. This equates to over 300 programs offered in this state.
- Commencement of export program to the Pacific Nations under the QC Pacific Project Strategic Plan
- Development of a “Member Benefits Program” now expanded Australia wide.
- Development and implementation of coaching, instructor and officiating curriculum
- Closer ties between associated sports such as Surf Life Saving, Surfing, Triathlon, Rowing and Swimming
- Increased sponsorship for events, athletes and the organisation
- Tripling of the fleet of program craft
- National Sea Kayak Symposium

AFFILIATION ADVANTAGES

Importantly, as an affiliated organisation of the recognised State and National Sporting Organisation, Waveski Surfing becomes a recognised discipline of canoeing and therefore receives the rights of all disciplines under the national funding agreements. This provides for recognition and development of coaching and officiating tools, sports development through QC plus many other benefits. Please note, that funding currently provided to AC by the Australian Sports Commission is heavily weighted on Olympic Sports. Funding in Queensland by the Department of Communities, Sport & Recreation Services is provided with performance measures toward participation which allows for greater pathway and sports development of non-Olympic disciplines. Funding in states and territories varies state by state and will be determined by the WSA committee.

This affiliation also qualifies WSA members to compete in International Canoe Federation (ICF) events and activities. Funding streams would be sought in other territories of Australia to provide development throughout the nation.

MEMBERSHIP

Currently the membership fee for individuals in Queensland is \$85.00 for seniors and \$70.00 for juniors (Under 18). The funds retained by Queensland Canoeing are only \$27.00 per member. The balance is paid to GST, capitation to AC which includes for athlete insurances, public liability and other insurances.

CURRENT ASSOCIATION FINANCES

Throughout the affiliation process, the current association funds will remain with WSA just like any club with a annual financial reporting requirement to QC as per the current incorporation requirements to the Office of Fair Trading. These are normally presented at the fully extended value at AGM's and final audited reports or where the finance reports are requested to be inspected as the constitution allows.

QC will fund the development of aspects of the sport, sourced from a percentage of events and other agreed income to be negotiated plus contributions the WSA committee deem appropriate for projects etc.

Further funds would be raised for the discipline management team through memberships, events, coach education, formal education, community programs, grants, sponsorships, operations etc as deemed by the WSA committee strategic plan and agreed by the Board and Executive Officer of QC.

INCORPORATION STATUS

As an organisation WSA would be treated like any other discipline where they have a committee of management reporting to the Executive Officer and the Board. This committee has a defined role with a great deal of control over its destiny in cooperation with the Executive Officer and the board. Under the current Queensland Canoeing structure, the members join clubs and pay a capitation fee. WSA Inc would remain as an incorporated association and vary its business structure only to allow for affiliation. Members would remain or continue to be members of WSA. The constitution would need to ensure there are no conflicts with the overarching constitution of QC and AC. It is therefore suggested that WSA become the association or club for the purposes of governance. It is proposed that following an agreed term there should be a review of the incorporation status on a regular basis to determine if WSA Inc whether or not to continue as an incorporated body in its own right to simplify administration and governance.

COACHING

QC is a National Training Provider and is currently seeking to accredit the coaching tools and level of competency for coaching and coaching education based on best practice from other affiliated ICF Federations to ensure worldwide corresponding Coaching qualifications. Queensland Canoeing will lead this project in association with the National Education Officer.

This will ensure development of coaching and support program development in regions where qualified coaches can deliver programs and pathways adding to the outcomes of the strategic plan.

INSURANCE

Members of QC are covered by a comprehensive range of insurances including personal injury and accident, public liability and third party while part of a sanctioned activity. This means any training, events or activities related to paddling. The cover also extends to Directors and Officers Liability Insurance, which indemnifies those elected or appointed to committees and club, management, coaching or instructing against claims of wrong doing arising as a claim but not criminal activity. Other options are available in craft and equipment and varied event insurance such as other non paddling disciplines.

AC and QC insurances are by Willis Insurers and they have already included Waveski's, Surf Kayaks, and Ocean Racing as new disciplines and craft into the package with no increase to fees. Willis is the insurers of V8 supercars among many other sports.

The Insurance taken for canoeing and kayaking activities references the rules of competition or participation at the given time. These are found in QC's and AC's bylaws, selection policies, competition rules and safety guidelines. The policies of WSA will form part of the discipline specific policies falling under QC.

SPORTING RULES

By affiliating with QC, there will be no change to the current sporting discipline rules other than a reasonable requirement for the wearing of PFD's for non swimmers and persons under 14 years of age. This is a reasonable expectation of Maritime Safety Australia and Australian Canoeing, whom would be referenced should an incident occur. The rules would only be altered if any rules breached safety guidelines for the insurer or marine authorities as referred to above.

PFD's are required under the rules of all kayaking activities of Australian Canoeing and must be consistently applied to all disciplines. This currently includes all disciplines of flat water training and

racing, canoe polo etc. It is a safety measure above Maritime Safety Authority's and applied only to under 14's and non-swimmers. This will not be altered for any single discipline.

SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

Queensland Canoeing with the WSA Committee will co-ordinate steps to develop the sport nationwide as expertise dictates. Through this development and strategic approach, we will collectively seek funding to support the purchase of craft and equipment in addition to the training and accreditation of coaching staff where a need is identified and confirmed.

The sport will receive recognition in all communications outlining the disciplines of QC and AC. There is a proposed publicity campaign announcing the affiliation and highlighting the athletes and the sport. This needs to occur as soon as possible to strike before the summer season gets fully underway.

A schools development program will be commenced after sport specific production to ensure consistent standards and approaches Australia wide by recognised deliverers. This will be a gradual approach depending on the availability of equipment and coaching staff to undertake these programs.

QC will assist with the facilitation and administration of events throughout the calendar. This will include liaison with media, local governments, safety authorities, suppliers and sponsors. Events will continue to be run and managed by the WSA committee and other volunteers and entries will be managed through QC to ensure income and expenditure controls.

IT

The website or link to the current website should be maintained by a WSA committee member like any club or committee does within Queensland Canoeing. It is true that in the recent past some committees and clubs have not been active enough in updating and maintaining the website. The entire design and maintenance of the website is under review and will be discussed at the upcoming Australian Canoeing AGM in November. It is entirely up to the WSA Committee to decide how or if the website is developed or retained.

REVIEW AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

As discussed at the WSA AGM, the affiliation will undergo a 12 month review process with performance measure to assist with determining if the affiliation will continue after 2010. The performance measures are currently being determined and will be published on finalisation of the affiliation process.

OTHER CRAFT

Through this affiliation process, the discipline of Waveski Surfing will collaborate with Surf Kayaks and combine the activities of Surf Kayaks with Waveski Surfing. Participants will be encouraged to try both disciplines and jointly present at future events and develop common strategies.

In addition to this there may be a future opportunity combine both disciplines under one banner within QC and could assist with growing the sport through attraction of membership and funds to WSA.

Surf Kayaking and the events operated will form their own income and expenditure and will be separate to the finances carried over from WSA. This applies to any other of the discipline QC manages as funds are separated at higher levels of the financial reporting and cannot change as a governance practice.

Canoe Polo and White Water paddlers will also be encouraged through talent identification, demonstration or come n try days to take up Waveski Surfing. There are great advantages in Waveski Surfing and Surf Kayak remaining separate classes of craft for events so we are presenting a higher participation number to attract media, sponsors and new paddlers. Growth of the sport will occur with greater impact of numbers. Whether surfers choose to swap between craft, is entirely up to them. However, surf kayakers will be encouraged to join WSA, or another club if they wish, for that matter, however it is the entire sport which will benefit as will the industry as an aside.

SUMMARY

Queensland Canoeing and Waveski Surfing Australia are committed to this project. WSA continuing as a standalone and volunteer based organisation is potentially unsustainable as the sports median age grows older. QC is a professional operation with strong governance and management practices. QC offers more benefits, coverage, sports development and exposure. They are far more resourced and capable to undertake this project to give the sport the growth we all know is there, but not possible as a volunteer based organisation. Australian Canoeing, agree and support the growth of this discipline and discussion will occur regarding the funding streams of the future. We are charged to drive the program and Waveski Surfing and Surf Kayaking to increase membership, profile and recognition. The industry will benefit from this affiliation as there will be increased demand for equipment, so they will benefit without having to run the sport to achieve this. We will treat the industry fairly when purchasing equipment and no supplier will be shown favour or advantage as we have for all current and past purchases.

Most importantly, QC and WSA aim to continue the dedicated and fantastic work of the volunteers over the many years and grow the sport and its profile for the future.

All of the above measures are in place for the future of the sport. They are there to develop a collective framework for after each of us has passed the ownership of our sport into the next generation. This is where we start, today, for the future.

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