



Department of  
**Education**

# **CEO Instruction: Temporary ban on Stand-up paddle board use by primary school students**

Effective date: 18 July 2022

## Table of contents

<b>1. Content</b>	<b>3</b>
Context	3
Instruction	3
Definitions	4
<b>2. More information</b>	<b>5</b>
Supporting content	5

# 1. Content

## Context

The Director General of Education has authority, pursuant to section 233 of the School Education Act 1999, to issue instructions to persons performing functions in the Department of Education.

## Instruction

- 2.1 This Instruction comes into effect at the beginning of Term 3, on 18 July 2022.
- 2.2 This Instruction is a temporary measure whilst a review of current policy is undertaken.
- 2.3 This Instruction applies to all staff at government schools in Western Australia.
- 2.4 Staff at government schools may not:
  - 2.4.1 deliver SUP activities to primary school students; or
  - 2.4.2 allow any approved or external provider to deliver SUP activities to primary school students.
- 2.5 Principals must note that the previous terminology 'not recommended' in the [Paddling activity specific](#) document relating to supervision requirements has been amended to 'must not be undertaken'.
- 2.6 Staff at government schools may:
  - 2.6.1 deliver seated Paddling activities to primary school students on all other paddle craft listed in the Group One and Group Two paddle craft categories; and
  - 2.6.2 engage approved and external providers to deliver Paddling activities to primary school students on seated paddle craft listed in the Group One and Group Two categories.
- 2.7 Principals, when approving the delivery of all onsite and/or offsite Paddling activities, must ensure that risk management planning addresses all of the hazards and risks detailed in the Recreation and Outdoor Education Activities for Public Schools Procedures (the

Procedures) [Appendix A: General Requirements \(A.13 and A.14\)](#).

2.7.1 Supporting information and guidance for the completion of risk management documentation can be accessed here:

- The Procedures [Appendix B: Risk Management Plan](#) (includes template examples for Paddling activities).
- The Procedures [Appendix C: Emergency Response Plan](#).
- Online Professional Course [Recreation and Outdoor Education Activities for Public Schools](#).
- Connect community [Support for the implementation of the Recreation and Outdoor Education Activities for Public School Procedures](#).

## Definitions

3.1 Stand-up paddle board (SUP): A long, narrow buoyant board on which a paddler stands and propels themselves through the water using a paddle consisting of a blade, shaft and handle.

3.2 Paddling: The propulsion and steering of water based craft, by a person or persons, using a paddle with either single or double-ended blade.

3.3 Approved Provider: A provider recognised on the Department of Education [approved provider register](#).

3.4 External provider: A business or individual paid by the school to provide a venue, service and/or expertise appropriate to a particular school activity; or a staff member of a TAFE college or a University who delivers an educational program, or part thereof, to students.

3.5 Group One paddle craft: Water craft that are not intended for use with spray decks, do not conceal any part of a person's body and do not pose a potential hazard for entrapments allowing for the immediate exit of a person in the event of a capsize.

3.6 Group Two paddle craft: All water craft that conceals any part of a person's body, can be used with a spray deck and/or have the potential to cause body entrapments in the event of a capsize.

**Jim Bell**

A/Director General

## **2. More information**

### **Supporting content**

No supporting content found.

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