



ACT ROWING ASSOCIATION Inc
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TO: ALL CLUB ADMINISTRATORS, COACHES AND ROWERS
RE: LAKE SAFETY

The safety of rowers and associated people taking part in our sport is a primary concern of the Association and, to this end posters detailing the lake rules and traffic flows were distributed to all clubs for prominent display in rowing sheds for the information and advice of all members.

The recent incidences of a number of collisions, capsizes and near misses have been of great concern to the Association and the ACT Water Police. These have certainly given rise to the belief that a major accident is in the offering if rowers and officials continue to show a lack of regard and respect to both the rules and regulations and their fellow rowers.

Offenders of the lake authorised rules and traffic flows are not restricted to any specific group, institution or club. They include male & female, young & old, novice, master, elite, and even the coaches.

ACTRA is compelled to remind all rowers and coaches of their responsibilities in complying with the well established and published safety guidelines. In particular, but not exclusively:

- **TRAFFIC RULES**
- **EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS (lighting and clothing for winter)**
- **SUPERVISION OF ROWERS ON THE WATER.**

Everyone should be aware that when an accident does occur, rowers, coaches, clubs and schools run the extreme risk of being held liable for any damage and most importantly, personal injury.

It is in everyone's best interest that rowers are aware of and observe, the rules and safety skills. In addition that coaches and club administrators make every conceivable effort to ensure their **duty of care** is met in all instances and that their members comply with Lake rules and regulations.

ACTRA's concern is shared by the ACT Water Police, following a number of recent incidents and they are keen to be proactive in ensuring a safe sporting environment is maintain on the Lake at all times and for all concerned.

As the President of ACTRA, I seek your immediate cooperation therefore in ensuring that we, as the rowing community, set the highest standards in maintaining and observing the Lake safety rules and regulation and ensuring that all concerned, be they new to the sport or old hands, pay full homage to their responsibilities in ensuring that the safety message is continually reinforced and applied.

Should you require further copies of the Lake Rules and Traffic Flow Posters, copies will be available at the Regatta Committee Meeting on 14th September or from the Recorder Graham Tanner on Gtanner@cyberone.com.au

Your cooperation in giving this message the widest possible circulation, bothn physical and verbal is greatly appreciated.

Brendon Prout
President
ACT Rowing Association
11 August 2005