KRI NON- SWIMMER and LIFE JACKET POLICY:

Wednesday, 7 October 2026

It is KRI policy that any non-swimmers wear an approved lifejacket in accordance with the World Rowing minimum guidelines for the safe practise of rowing.

All athletes at KRI events must be able to swim 50m in light clothing and keep their head above water unassisted for three minutes OR wear an approved lifejacket.

"Approved" at KRI is a lifejacket, flotation device or buoyancy garment that complies with New Zealand Standard NZS 5823: 2005 AND does not require manual activation. Examples are below.

Lifejackets for inshore waters

Type 402

A type 402 lifejacket:

- must have a buoyant collar
- is not guaranteed to keep an unconscious person's face above water
- provides at least 71 newtons of buoyancy (adult size)
- is comfortable and convenient to wear all the time
- is compatible with a crotch strap
- is not suitable for rough conditions.



Standards that substantially comply with type 402 include: ANSI/UL 1123 and 1177 type II PFD near-shore buoyant vest; AS 4758 level 100; AS 1512 PFD type I; ISO 12402-4; EN 395.

Specialist lifejackets and personal flotation devices

Type 403

A type 403 lifejacket:

- has no collar
- is lower buoyancy than other lifejackets
- provides lower levels of support and safety than other models
- usually has no reflective or bright materials
- is useful for some aquatic sports for example, sailing dinghies, kayaking and stand-up paddle boarding and jetskis
- must provide at least 53 newtons of buoyancy (adult size).



Standards that substantially comply with type 403 include: ANSI/UL 1123 and 1177 type III PFD; AS 4758 level 50; AS 1499 PFD type 2; AS 2260 PFD type 3; ISO 12402-5; EN 393.

Buoyancy garment – Type 405

A type 405 buoyancy garment:

- has no collar
- has lower buoyancy than other lifejackets
- provides lower levels of support and safety than other models
- useful for some aquatic sports, for example sailing dinghies, kayaking, stand-up paddle boarding
- has reflective material and bright colours.



Standards that substantially comply with type 405 include: ANSI/UL 1123 and 1177 type III PFD; AS 4758 level 50; AS 1499 PFD type 2; AS 2260 PFD type 3; ISO 12402-5; EN 393.

Please ensure your entries for any event at KRI are compliant OR advise me of the process you have put in place to comply with our policy.

All rowers and coxwains should demonstrate the ability to swim 50 meters in light clothing and to demonstrate within that test competence under water and in treading water. If a person cannot meet the requirements of the swimming test for physical or other reasons, an approved lifejacket or buoyancy aid should be worn when in a boat.
https://worldrowing.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/FISA%E2%80%99sMinimumGuidelinesfortheSafePracticeofRowing_Neutral.pdf

Swimming Ability All rowers competing in World Rowing Championship and World Rowing Cup regattas and qualification regattas for the Olympic, Paralympic and Youth Olympic Games shall be able to swim 50m and keep their head above water unassisted for three minutes.
FISA-rule-book-EN-2024-update-final-1.pdf

1.7. Conduct and document a Safety Induction with all members which covers the clubs waterway plan, hazards, emergency procedures and considers a person's swimming ability (it is recommended that they are able to swim 50m in light clothing). The Club Safety Officer should be notified of anyone unable to swim adequately in order to mitigate this issue.
Water Safety Code 2016 - Approved 30th September 2016.pdf

CREW MEMBERS

1. All crew members must be in good health and be able to swim a minimum of fifty metres dressed for competition. Crew members who do not meet these requirements may be allowed to compete subject to an assessment of the risks involved.

NZSSRA Constitution: Safety System

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