

Australasian Rescue Organisation (ARO)
Australasian Water Rescue Challenge (AWRC) 2024
Frequently Asked Questions
Updated as at 29 March 2024

- 1. Can I wear lightweight water rescue (In Water) attire that consists of lightweight neoprene pants and a rash shirt as an In Water Operator (IWO)?**
 - a. Yes, as long as it is agency approved and of long pants and long shirt type and designed for In Water use.
- 2. Will there be hydraulic tools used in the challenge?**
 - a. The sponsors will be bringing a new range of battery, underwater hydraulic tools that may be used in a scenario. Teams will have multiple tools to pick from like other ARO events.
- 3. What if I am not trained with the use of hydraulic tools?**
 - a. ARO has worked with the tool suppliers to have a session on the tools during the water session between 1400 and 1600 hrs on Thursday 4 April 2024 at Penrith Whitewater Stadium. Should you wish to learn about the new tools, you are welcome to join this session.
- 4. I'm IWO flood rescue qualified but I haven't been taught how to enter premises like General Land Rescue (GLR) units. Do I need to know this?**
 - a. Flood rescues require checking premises and conducting rescues of flooded homes. It would be very beneficial to know how to enter a premises. ARO will provide a prop to practise entry between 1400 and 1600 hrs on Thursday 4 April 2024 at Penrith Whitewater Stadium.
- 5. Do I need to wear gloves during the event?**
 - a. Yes.
- 6. Is breakfast provided on Friday?**
 - a. No. You are encouraged to bring water in a reusable water bottle, snacks and any energy supplements you may need throughout the event.
- 7. Can I use a whistle during the event?**
 - a. Yes.
- 8. Can our team use radios to communicate during the event?**
 - a. No. No electronic communication devices are allowed during the event.
- 9. What if someone from another scenario enters our area during our scenario?**
 - a. Teams are highly encouraged to ensure safety and control of all their members at all times. Loss of control of members, rafts or other items will not record positively on the assessment sheet.
 - b. Teams that have outside people or items such as rafts enter their area are to treat them as they would treat debris entering their rescue area.
- 10. What if a team member is injured or requires assistance in the water?**
 - a. Safety is the priority of the event, including over and above the challenge or points. Teams must ensure safety of their members at all times and have rescue plans prepared as they would in a normal rescue environment.
 - b. ARO Safety Officers and Assessors can identify and stop unsafe practices if they have time to do so and can work if needed to step in and provide extra rescue resources. However, teams are to work as if they are working a rescue and are not to rely on ARO Safety Officers or Assessors for help.
 - c. If a team member is injured, the Assessor may step in to take control of the removal of the person from the water where medical care will be called.
- 11. If our team has a stop, or someone is injured does the clock stop?**
 - a. No.

12. How much water do we need to bring?

- a. Enough for your team for the day and any support personnel. To reduce our environmental impact, you are encouraged to bring reusable water bottles.

13. What can our team take into the infield?

- a. A single vehicle of ute (not a truck or HCV type), a 3x3 marquee (this must be tied down and secured) per team, foldable chairs, table and any other items that will be placed under the designated team marquee. These cannot be moved until the official bump out period.

14. Do we need to bring a raft?

- a. Yes. Each team has been asked to bring a raft and paddles. This will be allocated to a stand and not remain with the team. This is to ensure all teams have even promotion of their agency raft. Interstate teams do not need to bring a raft.

15. Will we be using different rafts?

- a. Possibly. During flood events you may be required to use other agencies' rafts. As such, different rafts will be placed at different stands to provide an opportunity for all participants to experience these items. Everyone will equally have the same use of these rafts. Some new rafts may be supplied by ARO sponsors providing an opportunity to test and review these rafts and acknowledge the support of sponsors.

16. Can our reserve substitute in for a Land Based Operator (LBO) or In Water Operator (IWO)?

- a. Yes, if they are qualified and have the correct PPE to do so.

17. When can we substitute our reserve?

- a. Initially the reserve was only able to be substituted if a member became sick or was injured. However, ARO has looked at ensuring that all members have the ability to participate on the day and this rule has been updated.
- b. A reserve member can be substituted into the team at any one of the final four events for that team and must remain in the team for the remainder of the challenge. There can be no further changes to the team. I.e., The reserve can be substituted in teams round 7, 8, 9 or 10. The member who leaves the team cannot re-enter the team. Only if a member becomes sick or injured after the substitution change, and with approval from ARO Chief Assessor, will a re-substitution be allowed. The clock will not be stopped at any time for this process.

18. On what occasion will the clock stop or water be turned off?

- a. Only on serious needs of safety. Should there be a need to turn the water off, all Assessors will immediately notify the team to remove themselves from the water without delay.

19. Can our team be disqualified?

- a. Yes. Please consult the rules. Teams and agencies can be disqualified under certain circumstances, it is up to the teams and members of agencies to make themselves aware of the rules of the challenge.