

**Australasian Rescue Organisation (ARO)**  
Australasian Water Rescue Challenge (AWRC) 2025  
Australasian Rescue Boat Challenge (ARBC) 2025

**Frequently Asked Questions**

Updated as at 24 February 2025

- 1. Do I need to be a current individual ARO member to compete?**
  - Yes. Membership period is 1 March to end of February, each year. Individual membership is included in the entry fee this year.
- 2. Does my agency need to be a member of ARO to compete?**
  - Yes.
- 3. How much is it to enter?**
  - \$5,500 per challenge per team. Participation is not confirmed until payment is received.
- 4. What is included in the entry fee?**
  - The challenge is approx. half the cost as compared to Road Crash Rescue Challenges and teams participating receive over ~300% more events. They also have professional development day and complimentary ARO membership for participants. Venue and pump costs attribute to over 95% of the entry fee to participants and agencies. ARO is working with the venue and partner agencies to support this event to reduce costs to agencies.
- 5. What does entry fee get me?**
  - All entry fees and costs to PWS and lake. Entry to your nominated challenge, up to 10 events, separate professional development day, practice session, learning program, individual membership for all team members and access to ARO's membership facilities.
- 6. When is the event on?**
  - AWRC and ARBC dates are Wednesday 12 – Thursday 13 March 2025.
    - i. Wednesday 12 March 2025 (0700 hrs - 1700 hrs) – Professional Development Day, assessor and safety briefings/endorsement, sponsor setup, venue induction for participants, safety briefing, setup.
    - ii. Thursday 13 March 2025 (0700 hrs - 1900 hrs) – AWRC and ARBC
    - iii. Friday 14 March 2025 (overflow day) is no longer required.
  - Teams will only compete for one allocated day, even if the challenge requires two days due to team numbers. The second challenge day (if required) is a mirror of the first challenge day with extra teams. Once teams have registered, ARO will communicate the final days required.
- 7. Why is there two days of Challenges?**
  - Each Challenge is of one day duration. Both AWRC and ARBC will be held concurrently. If there are more than 10 teams (approx.) entered into each challenge the overflow teams will participate on a second day (Friday) and undertake their events.
- 8. What is on the first day?**
  - There will be professional development sessions for participants including new, current, and emerging trends in world's best practice for water rescue and rescue boats. Final schedule will be posted closer to the event. This day also allows for an induction to the site, assessor and safety endorsements, set up and participant safety briefing.
- 9. What does ARBC look like?**
  - The event will feature a series of challenges over one day that will test the team in simulated water rescues using boats in both still and moving water conditions.
- 10. Who can enter?**
  - Any government rescue agency or government authorised rescue agency can enter. Spots are limited.
- 11. Can I have a mixed agency team?**
  - Yes, mixed agency teams are encouraged.
- 12. Can we enter multiple teams?**
  - Depending on the number of entries, agencies may be allowed one spot in the first call. If all spots are not filled, the opportunity may exist for multiple teams. Please indicate how many teams you wish to enter.

**13. What does a team consist of?**

- AWRC teams consist of a maximum of 8: including max of 6 In Water qualified rescuers and 2 Land Based rescuers.
- ARBC teams consist of a maximum of 6: includes max of 3 On Water qualified rescuers (1 of which must be also In Water Qualified), 1 In Water qualified rescuers, and max of 2 Land Based qualified rescuers. Rescuers nominated at a specific level can only work to that level of training.

**14. Can I have a reserve on the team?**

- Yes, each team may nominate one additional person which can be interchanged at any time for safety and fatigue management.

**15. Can I have a team manager?**

- Yes, this is recommended for logistics purposes.

**16. Do I need to be physically fit?**

- Water rescue is a physically demanding capability. The challenge consists of multiple scenarios over the day in the water environment, so participants need to be able to complete all scenarios.

**17. Do I need to be an accredited General Land Rescue Operator to compete?**

- No, but it is recommended.

**18. Do I need to have an understanding of motor vehicles?**

- Yes, rescues from vehicles form a very large part of water rescue in Australasia. It will be assumed that rescuers have knowledge about rescues from vehicles, as well as safe work and entry in and around vehicles.

**19. What minimum qualifications do I need to hold?**

- For In Water rescuer: PUASAR002 Undertake swiftwater and floodwater rescue and recovery, or equivalent.
- For On Water rescuers: PUASES009 Undertake inland floodboat operations, or equivalent.
- For Land Based rescuers: PUASAR001 Perform land based swift-water and floodwater rescue and recovery, or equivalent.
- Evidence of qualifications and a current Fit for Task evolution must be provided upon entry.

**20. What if our agency does not use National units of Competency or different training courses?**

- Please contact ARO via [cmt.water@arorescue.org](mailto:cmt.water@arorescue.org)

**21. Is the water still or moving?**

- The challenge will be held in fast and slow moving water and some still water environments. Moving water will be up to Class 3 Grade. Participants should be experienced in this environment. The ARBC will be held in the lake and moving water.

**22. What challenges will take place?**

- Challenges will recreate actual rescues that water rescue teams have attended in past years. They are designed to emulate time critical rescues of persons from water. Each challenge scenario is timed with a large part featuring a water component.

**23. Can a participant be excluded from the challenge?**

- Safety is paramount during this challenge. An ARO Command / Technical Assessor may choose to halt any scenario for any breaches of safety. Participant's proficiency in and around water will also be constantly monitored for participant's safety. Participants who do not display the ability to work safely in an aquatic environment will be removed for their safety.

**24. Will the challenge allow innovation?**

- New, innovative, and safe techniques are encouraged and will be scored appropriately.

**25. Is Personal Protective Equipment / Clothing (PPE/PPC) supplied?**

- No, agencies are required to bring their own PPE/PPC for their roles, i.e., In Water PPE/PPC, On Water PPE/PPC, and Land Based PPE/PPC.
- Land Based rescuers will not be allowed to wear In Water PPE/PPC (i.e., wetsuits).

**26. Can I bring a new tool/device etc?**

- Yes, but controlled equipment is used at ARO challenges so that all teams have fair and equal use of equipment.

**27. Will rafting be a part of the challenge?**

- Yes.

**28. What types of boat will be used and do agencies have to provide the boat?**

- Inflatable rescue boat style up to 4.4m in length and must be of tiller steer outboard propulsion.
- Outboards can be up to 40hp. 2st or 4st. Environmentally friendly products, including oils, must be used at PWS. Contact ARO if your agency does not or is unable to have a boat present.

**29. What safety equipment is required for ARBC?**

- Agency defined safety equipment.

**30. Will there be a boat safety inspection?**

- Yes, boats will be scrutineered to ensure safety of all participants.

**31. How do i register?**

- Agencies will need to complete the 'Agency Nominations Form' to register their team, which is available on the ARO website [www.AROrescue.org](http://www.AROrescue.org).
- All individuals wishing to attend, whether they're participants, support members, official agency representatives, spectators, or sponsors, must complete the mandatory 'Individual Registration Form', which is available on the ARO website [www.AROrescue.org](http://www.AROrescue.org). Individuals who fail to preregister may not be accommodated for.

**32. Are spectators, media and the public able to come and watch?**

- Yes, this challenge has been designed so that the events are very close, and suitable for those watching and the general public. The event is open and free to the public and any non-participating agency member. Due to safety reasons, restricted areas will be in place for certain areas.
- Media will be required to register with the ARO Media team via [media@AROrescue.org](mailto:media@AROrescue.org)

**33. Is catering provided?**

- Catering will be provided for participants and event organisers. However, attendees and participants are encouraged to bring their own snacks, water, and hydration supplements.

**34. Is transport provided?**

- No.

**35. Is accommodation provided?**

- No.

**36. Is the event sponsored?**

- Yes, sponsors will be invited to the event to showcase innovation and best practice in equipment and services.

**37. Will there be media?**

- Internal ARO media will cover the event along with external networks. Social media, television and radio promotion will occur leading up to and after the event. For media partnership opportunities, please contact the ARO Media team via [media@AROrescue.org](mailto:media@AROrescue.org)

**38. What do I get if we win?**

- Whilst the first-place teams will receive the title of 'Australasia's Best Water Rescue Team' and 'Australasia's Best Rescue Boat Team' for their agency, the goal is a fun, learning and inclusive participation in a challenge environment.

More questions will be added to this list periodically, please check back to ensure you have the most up-to-date information. For any other questions or concerns, please contact [cmt.water@areorescue.org](mailto:cmt.water@areorescue.org) or [admin@areorescue.org](mailto:admin@areorescue.org).