



OUR MISSION

To connect people with dragon boating across Australia.

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ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	DATE	REVIEWED	APPROVED
Previous	Nil			
Current	Personal Flotation Devices Guideline	Jul 2023	DBWA	
Review		2026		

Personal Flotation Devices (PFD) Guideline

Information can be found on the AusDBF website Risk Management Advice Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs). [Risk Management Advice PFD's - 2021](#)

Some States have Marine Legislative and Government Regulations which require the wearing of PFD's. Western Australian rules are:

A lifejacket must be carried for each person (over the age of 12 months) on board a recreational vessel when operating in unprotected waters. Unprotected waters are WA's navigable waters that are not contained:

- in a lake;
- in a river;
- in an estuary; or
- by any breakwater.

So, any recreational vessel in the open ocean must carry (not necessarily wear) for each person in the boat.

DBWA's Health and Safety Manual requires Sweeps and Drummers to wear PFD's when within 3 m of water.

There are different types of PFD's

Type 1 is also known as Level 100+. Recommended for coastal waters.

Type 2 is also known as Level 50. Recommended for enclosed waters.

Type 3 is also known as Level 50S. Recommended for inland waters.

The table on the following page is **suggested as a guide** to the use and selection of PFD.

Note Sweeps, Drummers, persons unable to swim 50 m and children under 18 years must wear PFD as per the DBWA's Health and Safety Manual.



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Activity	PFD Type (Min)
More than one dragon boat with an experience crew and safety boat on inland waters with little or no current and good weather conditions.	Not required
More than one dragon boat with an inexperience crew and safety boat on inland waters with little or no current and good weather conditions	Type 3
More than one dragon boat with an experience crew on inland waters with current and public vessels using the water that the Sweep is experienced with and good weather conditions.	Not required
One dragon boat with an experience crew on inland waters with current and public vessels using the water that the Sweep is experienced with and good weather conditions.	Not required – poor swimmers recommended.
One dragon boat with an experience crew on inland waters with strong current and large public vessels using the water that the Sweep is experienced with and good weather conditions.	Not required – poor swimmers recommended
One dragon boat with an experience crew on inland waters with strong current and large public vessels using the water that the Sweep is inexperienced with and good weather conditions. Not required – poor swimmers recommended	Type 2
One dragon boat with an experience crew on inland waters with strong current and large public vessels using the water that the Sweep is experienced with and poor weather conditions .	Type 2
One dragon boat with an experience crew on inland waters with strong current and large public vessels using the water that the Sweep is experienced with and dark conditions	Type 1
One dragon boat with an experience crew on enclosed waters with strong current and large public vessels using the water that the Sweep is experienced with and good weather conditions.	Type 2
One dragon boat with an experience crew on enclosed waters with strong current and large public vessels using the water that the Sweep is experienced with and poor weather conditions.	Type 1
One dragon boat with an experience crew on coastal waters with strong current and large public vessels using the water that the Sweep is experienced with and good weather conditions.	Type 1

The table above is a **guide only**, individual sweeps and crew members must make their own assessment depending on the length of time, weather conditions, lighting, public vessels etc.

If the Sweep's assessment requires the crew to wear PFD's then the crew **MUST** wear PFD's.