

	Gasóga na hÉireann/Scouting Ireland			
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Scouting Ireland – Water Safety Policy				
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Scouting Ireland recognises the importance of water safety in terms of its Youth Programme in the provision of the nautical framework, adventure skills and Sea Scouting symbolic framework.

Scouting Ireland gives effect to this recognition by:

1. Incorporating the best practices that exist in Scouting and the best practices accepted in the relevant national water authorities.
2. Producing a schedule of water activity “type specific” guidelines as approved by the National Youth Programme Committee in line with and validated by a variety of applicable external agencies and competent individuals.
3. Ensuring that schedule of water activity “type specific” guidelines are maintained by the National Youth Programme Committee in consultation with the Programme Commissioner (Sea Scouting).
4. Ensuring the guidelines outline the best practice and operational procedures and that they remain relevant and are treated as live documents, being adjusted as required to statutory changes.
5. Putting in place provisions and resources to ensure that the guidelines are followed by all members of Scouting Ireland when undertaking activities on the water.

In terms of Health & Safety, it must be noted that the guidelines developed under this policy are by their nature “guidelines” and the Scouters and Youth Members must always use sound judgment and experience in following the guidelines correctly, allowing for various situations and conditions that may be encountered during these activities.

Proper RISK assessments must be carried out in all cases before allowing activities to take part in or on the water. The guidelines emphasise and encourage the highest levels of training and equipment is used at all times in activities afloat and that activities do not take part where the appropriate training, certification or conditions cannot be met.