Adventure Activity Standards (AAS)
Update Number 4
March 2003

Introduction

February has been a very busy and fast month for the AAS project. The second set of workshops proved to be a real test for the flexibility of the AAS template to satisfy the requirements of entirely diverse activities.

News at a flash

- Splitting the climbing workshops in to Natural and Artificial surfaces proved to be a sound decision. Already split in the national training framework for inherently different skills and leadership requirements, the activity standard proved to benefit even more.

- The *artificial climbing structures (ACS)* standards were the first workshop to include a work cover representative and being based on the NSW work cover authority, it is hoped that these standards will be endorsed by work cover Victoria for all commercial artificial structures increasing the consistency between states. The AAS are consistent with the requirements in NSW but contain additional information valuable to operators of an ACS. The AAS are also more widely relevant with more consideration of outdoor ACS such as those used at school camps.

- The *natural climbing surfaces* standards are expected to have excellent Victorian and significant national acceptance. This is partly due to the involvement and satisfaction of the Australian Climbing Instructors Association (ACIA) who have already published an article on Adventure Pro website stating their involvement and that the benchmark accepted for a climbing leader/guides own competence and experience will reflect that of the ACIA 'single pitch' and 'multi pitch' climbing instructors awards. While they acknowledge that there is currently no requirement for such leaders to gain an ACIA qualification it was accepted that the level set by the national body should be reflected in the activity standards.

- The four-wheel drive standards have been written with a slightly different approach. Being an activity which is primarily undertaken by small less formal groups, the attendee's at the workshop considered it possible to document the standards with a focus on all four wheel drive activities without compromising their role as determining the duty of care for groups. This should prove to be a valuable document for land managers, clubs, informal groups and individuals alike.

- The workshop for recreational fishing highlighted significant differences in the awareness of risk management and duty of care issues. There seems to be a lack of information and/or awareness of the responsibilities implied by duty of care with the focus of representative groups being strongly on environmental sustainability. The fishing standards seem likely to be less prescriptive with a focus on the importance of adhering to other relevant standards where applicable (bush walking, four wheel driving)

Review of Draft AAS….

Drafts of the above activity standards are due to be posted on the ORC website by Monday 24th of March for public review till the 14th of April www.orc.org.au

Please forward this information to anyone who you feel will have a reason to view these drafts.

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