

Annexure B- Bailers, lights and ropes information

Section 67 and 84 of the Australian Capital Territory National Land (Lakes) Ordinance 2022 relates to lights on a dragon boat and required safety equipment.

Section 67 (3) states that we are required to display a white light on the fore (front) end of the boat. There is no reference to any other light being required.

Please note that Subsection (2) states that if we do not have this light on the boat, we commit an offence of strict liability. Simply put, this means that such offences are prosecuted without the need to prove any intention of wrong doing. So, we can't just say we forgot to put the light on.

Section 84 outlines the required safety equipment needed for a dragon boat. To simplify, we can't use the stated "general safety equipment" as this would involve each boat having to have an anchor with a chain or line (as per the Ordinance definitions). Instead, we have to ensure each boat has a bailer or bucket attached. It makes sense that a bailer would be easiest to ensure compliance. To clarify, each dragon boat is now to have:

- A (singular) bailer with a lanyard or rope securely attached to it (NB: You can have as many bailers as you would like in a boat; only one has to be secured by a lanyard or rope)
- A rope that is at least 25 metres long and 12 millimetres in diameter, is of the type known as "silver rope", and is securely attached to the boat for towing
- If the boat is operating at night—flares, or a mobile telephone, in a waterproof container

To allay concerns about the potential hazards of the bailer with rope attached, being in the boat, it is suggested you secure the bailer to the 25m tow rope. Individual clubs are to determine the most suitable location to secure the tow rope. This may be dependent on crew numbers etc.

DBACT still require all boats to have a Safety Bag on board. The list of required contents is found on the DBACT website under Policies/Safety. The current requirement to have a 3 metre (minimum) rope secured to the boat for 'man overboard' situations, will be removed. This is now replaced with the Lake Ordinance requirement to have a 25 metre (minimum) rope secured to the front of the boat for towing.

67 Lights for rowing boats, dragon boats, kayaks and canoes

Boats less than 4 metres in length

- (1) The master of a rowing boat, dragon boat, kayak or canoe commits an offence if:
 - (a) the boat is less than 4 metres in length; and
 - (b) the boat is under way on a lake at night or when visibility on the lake is restricted because of a weather event; and
 - (c) the boat does not:
 - (i) have on board an electric torch or lighted lantern that shows a white light and is ready for immediate use; and

- (ii) show the illuminated torch or lantern in sufficient time to prevent a collision.

Penalty: 15 penalty units.

Boats at least 4 metres in length

- (2) The master of a rowing boat, dragon boat, kayak or canoe commits an offence of strict liability if:
 - (a) the boat is at least 4 metres in length; and
 - (b) the boat is under way on a lake at night or when visibility on the lake is restricted because of a weather event; and
 - (c) the boat does not show lights in accordance with subsection (3).

Penalty: 15 penalty units.

- (3) The boat must have a white light-emitting diode (LED) on the fore end of the boat. The LED must show light over an arc of visibility of 360 degrees, either continuously or flashing at least once per second. The LED must be visible at a distance of 1 kilometre from the boat in any direction.

84 Required safety equipment for recreational boats

Dragon boat

Either:

- (a) the general safety equipment for the boat; or an anchor with a chain or line;
 - (b) the following equipment:
 - (i) a bailer or bucket;
 - (ii) a rope that is at least 25 metres long and 12 millimetres in diameter, is of the type known as “silver rope”, and is securely attached to the boat for towing;
 - (iii) if the boat is operating at night—flares, or a mobile telephone, in a waterproof container
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Bailers

- (4) A bailer must:
 - (a) be suitable for bailing water from the boat on which it is carried; and
 - (b) have a lanyard or rope attached to it.
- (5) The lanyard or rope must be:
 - (a) securely attached to the bailer; and
 - (b) of a length that will allow the bailer to be cast over the side of the boat and retrieved.