

PROCEDURE

Bushwalking Adventurous Activities



Issued with the authority of the Chief Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer of Scouts NSW

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Acknowledgement

As Scouts of Australia, we acknowledge Australia's First Nations Peoples. We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians of this land. We pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging. We're grateful to do our Scouting in this country. We commit to using its resources wisely and developing our understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. We also acknowledge any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scouts who are part of our movement today.

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Preface

The Assistant Chief Commissioner, Adventure (**ACC A**) issues and updates *PRO41 Bushwalking Procedure, (Bushwalking Procedure)*. They also issue and update *POL36 Adventurous Activities (The Policy)*, *PRO75 Adventurous Activities Core Conduct Procedure, (The Procedure)*, and related Procedures on behalf of the Chief Commissioner.

Adventurous Activities within NSW follow the *Australian Adventure Activity Standards (AAAS)*. They also follow the *National Adventure Activities Framework (NAAF)*. Read **Bushwalking Procedure** with the *AAAS* and the *AAAS Good Practice Guides* for further information.

Annex D – Procedure Context and Related Documents of *The Procedure* provide information about how Bushwalking Procedure fits into the Scouts NSW Policies and Australian Standards.

1 Formatting Standards

- 1.1 Link or reference to an external document: *External Document*
- 1.2 A defined term that is defined in either the *Glossary* or in the text: **Defined Term**
- 1.3 Another Section in this document: *Another Section*

2 Introduction

2.1 This procedure, **Bushwalking Procedure**, is a support document for *The Procedure* on the conduct of **Bushwalking** and **Light Weight Camping Activities**. It is designed to be read with *The Procedure* and the *AAAS Good Practices Guides (GPGs)*:

- *Bushwalking*
- *Light Weight Camping*

2.2 The material in *The Procedure* and *GPGs* are not repeated except where a definite Scouts NSW position exists. Further support materials and guidance will be published from time to time as Scouts NSW *Activity Practice Guides (APG)* and *Practice Notes*. Ensure that you have all these documents when planning a **Bushwalking** Adventurous Activity (AA). Scouts NSW *APGs* may be published for bushwalking and camping within each environment as defined in *Section 6* below.

Bushwalking and Light Weight Camping Activities

- 2.3 **Bushwalking AA** are defined within Scouts NSW as activities involving foot movement in a diverse range of environments/natural areas, including but not limited to urban, coastal, plains, forest, arid / desert, tropical and mountain areas. **Bushwalking AA** may take a few hours to extended periods requiring overnight camping. Bushwalking generally involves the carriage of all equipment required for survival during the activity. **Bushwalking AA** also includes:
- 2.3.1 Alpine Bushwalking AA are defined as bushwalking in all alpine and snow impacted areas as defined within *PRO33 Alpine and Snow Activities Procedure*. Alpine Bushwalking AA must comply with this **Bushwalking Procedure** and *PRO33 Alpine and Snow Activities Procedure*.
- 2.3.2 Orienteering and Rogaining AA are all track-based or cross-country navigation activities.
- 2.3.3 Horizontal Dry Canyoning and Rock Scrambling/Hopping AA are conducted within canyons, gorges, cataracts or on low-pitch slopes that do not meet the definition of rock, abseiling, or canyoning activities as defined within *PRO43 Rock Activities Procedure*. They do not require PPE or harnessed rope to manage activity risk safely.
- 2.3.4 Other Terrain Negotiation Activities conducted by foot. Activities involving natural environment exploration/games or competitions over extended distances in the bush involve movement and negotiation of natural terrain on foot.
- 2.4 **Light Weight Camping AA** use a temporary or designated site in natural areas for overnight camping in lightweight tents or shelters. Camping may be for one or multiple nights and generally involves the carriage of all camping equipment in a hiking pack. **Light Weight Camping AA** do not include camping conducted as part of Scouting standing camp activity but does include lightweight camping conducted as part of any **Adventurous Activity** disciplines.
- 2.5 **Remote Area Activities** are activities where emergency response, or medical care, is more than 60 minutes away.

Related Activities

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Bushwalking AA can also often combine with other **AA** disciplines. The procedures for all disciplines involved must be followed when this is the case. For example, a bushwalking and lightweight camping activity may be required to reach and conduct a canyoning activity; therefore, the *Vertical Procedure* and **Bushwalking Procedure** must be followed.

Excluded and Controlled Activities

The following Bushwalking activities are not permitted by Scouts NSW unless authorised explicitly by SC AA:

- **Bushwalking AA** outside of the parameters defined within *The Procedure* and **Bushwalking Procedure**.
- **Bushwalking AA** when they are assessed to have high residual risk as defined within the activity risk assessment.

Commercial Activities

Commercial operators may provide some activities, and such instances are exempt from the **Bushwalking Procedure**. Where this is the case, the activity must comply with *PRO63 Commercial Activities*.

3 Management of Risk

3.1 Refer to *The Procedure* for details on how to manage risk in **AA**.

Additional Considerations

3.2 A **Standard Risk Assessment** can be found on the Scouts NSW Webpage for **Bushwalking Activities**. The **Standard Risk Assessment** captures the typical hazards and common risks and appropriate controls associated with **Bushwalking AA**, based on leading practice and experience. It is mandatory to use the **Standard Risk Assessment** as the basis for all **Bushwalking Activity Risk Assessments**, and it should be tailored/customised for the activity/participants.

The bushwalking activity planning, participant composition, environment, equipment, leadership, supervision, conduct and review procedures, and guidelines defined within this **Bushwalking Procedure** are the primary existing risk controls for **Bushwalking AA** conducted by Scouts NSW youth and adults.

4 Planning

4.1 Refer to *The Procedure* for details on how to plan **AA**.

Additional Planning Considerations

4.2 Bushwalking-specific planning considerations are as follows:

- 4.2.1 Activity Aims: **Bushwalking AA** require clear and achievable goals and objectives, with assured trip enrichment as opposed to a journey for the journey's sake (destination, route or accomplishment satisfaction that motivates participants towards further activities).
- 4.2.2 Transport Plan: Arrangements for movement to and from the activity, including early or emergency pickup requirements.
- 4.2.3 Campsite selection: Chose a campsite that is:
 - 4.2.3.1 environmentally appropriate and stable
 - 4.2.3.2 safe from tree fall, vehicle movement, general public impacts, animal impacts, weather impacts, and environmental impacts
 - 4.2.3.3 close to the activity area, vehicle/support access, infrastructure/facilities, and water sources
 - 4.2.3.4 away from areas of aboriginal significance
- 4.2.4 Land Access / Campsite bookings: Landowner/manager authority and compliance must be assured.
- 4.2.5 Timings: Activity-related schedule, including overdue party/emergency call time.
- 4.2.6 Terrain/Activity Area: The route, activity boundaries/geographical controls, and access to water sources. Awareness of the intended activity area and the current conditions.

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- 4.2.7 Communications Plan: Means of communication, who is responsible, conditions/criteria for use and contact details as defined in the Emergency Action Plan.
- 4.2.8 Preparations Required: The actions required in the leadup to a Bushwalking activity in preparation for a safe and well-prepared fun, challenging, rewarding activity. Preparation could include:
- 4.2.8.1 Equipment and kit sourcing, fitting, packing, distribution and kit checks/weigh in
 - 4.2.8.2 Physical participant preparation
 - 4.2.8.3 Preparatory and practice activities, including leadup activities and related skills
 - 4.2.8.4 Refreshers such as first aid (likely injury/snake bite treatment) and navigation (terrain appreciation, compass and map reading skills)
 - 4.2.8.5 Balanced/nutritional menu planning, purchase and portioning/packaging
 - 4.2.8.6 Role and responsibility allocation and preparations
- 4.2.9 Hygiene and Sanitation: Pre-discussion and planning for the disposal or removal/carriage of appropriate sanitary and hygiene products and items, including food waste, packaging and human waste.
- 4.2.10 Emergency Action Plan: A pre-determined Rescue Plan, which details roles and responsibilities in the event of an emergency, including:
- 4.2.10.1 Emergency contact details (phone numbers and locations for emergency services and the closest hospital with an accident and emergency department)
 - 4.2.10.2 Actions to be taken in the event of an emergency or contingency, such as:
 - a serious injury to a participant
 - a lost or separated activity participant
 - a lost, delayed, or overdue activity party
 - severe or adverse weather **Trigger**
 - triggers for activation of a PLB/call to emergency services
 - 4.2.10.3 Go-no-Go criteria and activity cancellation **Triggers** (weather, flooding/inundation, tidal impacts, bushfire risk (Extreme & above), environmental impacts, support arrangements, equipment serviceability/availability, and water source availability.
 - 4.2.10.4 Justifications for splitting activity party
 - 4.2.10.5 Alternate/escape routes, safe havens and emergency service meet-up/rendezvous location

5 Participants

5.1 Refer to *The Procedure* for high-level participant guidance for **AA**.

Additional Considerations

5.2 **AA Party Composition:** The number of participants, ages and mix of **Competent Persons** and **Dependant Persons**. At a minimum, **AA** parties should consist of the **Activity Leader** and at least one other **Competent Person**. Supporting roles (e.g. group management) must be included in the **Activity Plan**. **AA** party composition should consider participant experience and use a risk mitigation approach, including the buddy system and considerations such as:

5.2.1 Party Size - Bushwalking activities should have a party size relevant to the experience and ability of the **AA Leader**. The *AAAS Good Practices Guides* provide further guidance and considerations for determining group size requirements.

5.2.1.1 The minimum required group size for:

- Remote and Indirect supervised Bushwalking OAS Stage 1-5 activities should be five or more youth participants.
- Bushwalking OAS Stage 6 and above activities should be three or more participants.

5.2.1.2 The Maximum party size should be guided by the following:

- The local landholder recommendations.
- Sensitivity and impact on the environment, including track, other people on a route, campsite size, and amenities.
- Generally, party sizes would be fewer than ten.

5.2.2 Party Diversity - The party diversity on a **Bushwalking AA** is subject to informed parental consent and adequate welfare support arrangements.

5.2.3 Participant Abilities - Participant abilities are defined based on the following:

- The physical ability of the participant (distance/terrain capacity, fitness level, medical conditions/health, disabilities and condition/level of fatigue);
- The experience, competency, maturity and judgement of participants and required skills/qualifications (navigation, survival, first-aid, weather awareness, and leadership); and
- OAS Stage accomplishment - **Participant Abilities** should be measured based on the OAS Bushwalking Stage accomplishment requirements as defined by **The Procedure**.

5.2.4 Activity Area, Design and Difficulty - The location, environmental conditions and activity design/difficulty should be appropriate to the **AA** party composition and abilities. Distance, route selection, walking pace, rest break frequency/duration, food/water intake, equipment carriage and type/nature of supervision should be based on the least able participant/s in an activity.

6 Environment

6.1 Refer to *The Procedure* for high-level environment guidance for **AA**.

Additional Considerations

- 6.2 Scouts NSW **Bushwalking AA** can occur worldwide. The trails or routes used on **Bushwalking AA** are classified by the "Grade" or "Class" as defined in Annex A. Annex A also aligns each "Class" and "Grade" of the trail/track with the bushwalking environments defined by *The Procedure*.
- 6.3 Bushwalking AA environmental risk management should consider area-specific risk based on the nature/scope of activity, possible seasonal weather conditions, activity party composition, supervision, etc. Environmental Risks that require particular attention include:
- 6.3.1 Bushfire, backburning and recent fire impact.
 - 6.3.2 Severe/adverse weather (Risks associated with flooding/inundation, lightning, severe winds, snow/blizzard, avalanche risk, etc).
 - 6.3.3 Unpatrolled beach hikes - Risk of hiker drowning/swept away (subject to **Activity Leader** Aquatics qualifications and equipment carried).
 - 6.3.4 Unfenced cliff access and proximity.
 - 6.3.5 River crossings (subject to **Activity Leader** Aquatics qualifications and activity party preparations/rehearsals and equipment carried).
 - 6.3.6 Proximity to firearms / military ranges and areas where hunting and military training exercises are conducted.
 - 6.3.7 Activity exposure to other track users, including vehicle traffic, mountain bikers and wild animals.
 - 6.3.8 Landowner restrictions and controls including:
 - Activity proximity to "no-entry area", "excluded areas", "restricted areas", and environmentally sensitive areas
 - Authorities/approvals for area access and usage
 - Youth supervision in public campsites and compliance with landowner/manager youth supervision policies.
- 6.4 Environmental Impact is controlled through activity movement limitations, party size and supervision controls, route usage control and other controls defined within the Scouts NSW *Bushwalking Environment Code*.

7 Equipment

7.1 Refer to *The Procedure* for high-level equipment guidance for **AA**.

Additional Considerations

7.2 Bushwalking-specific equipment considerations:

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- 7.2.1 Activity Dress: Appropriate clothing (including personal thermal protection) should be worn and carried for the expected and foreseeable conditions.
- 7.2.2 Pack Weight: Pack weight not to be more than 20% of participants' body weight (additional activity support, caching, or participant sharing may be required where participants cannot carry all necessary equipment, food and personal effects within this limitation).
- 7.2.3 What to Bring: Section 7 of **The Procedure** outlines 'Must Have' equipment, and the *Bushwalking GPG* provides a suggested packing list for day bushwalks and overnight/extended duration bushwalks.
- 7.2.4 Environment and activity-specific clothing and equipment: Contingency equipment must be carried for Alpine and Arid / Desert areas.
- 7.2.5 First-Aid: A first aid kit must be carried according to the activity context, training, and qualification level.
- 7.2.6 Communication Equipment: Appropriate communications equipment must be carried, based on the activity location and context (this may include mobile phone, satellite phone, UHF radio or Personal Location Beacon (PLB)).
- 7.2.7 Personal Location Beacon: An emergency locating device such as a Personal Location Beacon (PLB) must be carried for all **Remote area** activities.
- 7.2.8 Navigation Aids: The following table outlines guidance for the carriage of navigation aids by at least two members of a bushwalking activity party:

Trail Grade	Navigation Aids	Comments
1 & 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A hardcopy or electronic map of an appropriate scale to allow navigation. • A route description, with locations and routes, clearly defined. • A basic compass for cardinal point direction finding. • A GPS-enabled device capable of providing direction and location data may also be carried as a backup navigation aid (It is encouraged that start-point and destination waypoints should be entered for ease of navigation). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These navigation aids are based on the assumption that Grades 1 & 2 are well signposted and close to emergency support, with a low risk of participants becoming lost/separated due to route confusion.
3-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A hardcopy topographical map of an appropriate scale that allows map-to-ground navigation (usually 1:25,000 or 1:50,000 scale). • A route card with route locations (Start-point, destination & navigation waypoints on route), directions in degrees, timing and description/going data clearly defined. • An orienteering compass (marked in degrees) • A GPS-enabled device may also be carried as a backup navigation aid (It is encouraged that navigation waypoints as defined in the route card should be entered for ease of reference). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The map should have the route marked and route progress regularly updated to allow hand-over if the activity leader is incapacitated. • GPS should not be the primary source for navigation due to battery or device failure risk.

- 7.2.9 Overnight Shelter / Tent: Overnight shelter/tent selection should be based on the possible weather and seasonal and environmental impacts. It should be affordable, durable, lightweight and of appropriate quality for the nature of the activity. Overnight shelters/tents must be small enough to pack within a hiking pack.

8 Leadership

- 8.1 Refer to *The Procedure* for leadership guidance for AA.

9 Supervision

- 9.1 Refer to *The Procedure* for Supervision guidance for AA.

Additional Considerations

- 9.2 The **Bushwalking AA** direct supervision considerations are as follows:

- Direct Supervision Ratios: Direct Supervision ratios should be determined during activity planning based on the activity and risk. Ratios, as set in the **Activity Plan**, should, as a minimum, be:

Bushwalking OAS Stage	Supervision	Maximum Youth Supervision Ratios	Comments
1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 x AA Leader • 1 x Competent Adult Participant 	2 to 12 youth members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There must be 2 x first-aid qualified participants for all bushwalking activities, with the qualifications appropriate to the activity environment.
Stage 3 and upwards (Overnight and Grade 4 & above Day hikes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 x AA Leader • 1 x Competent Adult Participant 	2 to 16 youth members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower ratios may be required subject to the Activity Party / Patrol Composition and environmental conditions. Generally, younger Sections will require heightened supervision ratios for activity safety and control.

- *Annex A - 'What Activities Can I Run?'* of *The Procedure* provides guidelines regarding participant competency and leader qualifications for Indirect and Remotely supervised activities.
- The *AAAS Good Practices Guides* provide further guidance and considerations for determining supervision requirements

10 Skills Currency

- 10.1 **Bushwalking AA** qualification types, levels and requirements are defined in the *NAAF Appendix 3*.
- 10.2 Bushwalking AA Guides should demonstrate competence in appropriate rescue skills every three years.
- 10.3 Bushwalking AA Leaders exercising Indirect and Remote Supervision of youth must have knowledge of the activity area to advise youth in planning.

11 Conduct of Activities

- 11.1 Refer to *The Procedure* for high-level guidance for the conduct of **AA**, including the management of activity risks, articulation of the emergency action plan and allocation of responsibilities.

Bushwalking Activity Briefing and Safe Activity Practices

- 11.2 Before a bushwalking activity, participants should demonstrate competence in the use of the equipment and have confidence in communication procedures.
- 11.3 All activity participants and supporters should receive an activity and safety brief before stepping off on the activity, as defined within *The Procedure*, with the following bushwalk activity-specific items considered:
 - Activity Plan and Aims
 - Clothing, food, water and equipment required (based on the activity type, location and possible environmental/season/weather impacts).
 - Route, boundaries, timings and/or areas of exclusion/no-go areas
 - Risk Controls specific to the activity
 - Activity roles and responsibilities, including navigation, safety management, first-aid and communications responsibilities.
 - Activity leader information requirements to inform decisions related to changes in participant, weather and environmental conditions
 - Anticipated environmental, seasonal, and weather impacts and considerations
 - The emergency action plan
- 11.4 Bushwalking activity must be conducted in accordance with the controls defined within the activity risk assessment. A sample control framework is provided in *The Procedure*.

12 Activity Review

- 12.1 Refer to *The Procedure* for high-level guidance for the review of **AA**.

Additional Considerations

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12.2 Post Bushwalking activity review should be conducted and recorded to inform future activities. An example of questions that can be used in a participant survey are recommended in *The Procedure*.

13 Glossary

- 13.1 **Activity Briefing:** A comprehensive brief on the activity before it commences. The briefing includes the Leaders and Participants (usually delivered separately). It should ensure that all involved leaders understand the Activity Plan and Activity Risk Assessment well. The Activity Briefing should also detail any previously unknown risks are captured and addressed. It should ensure that roles are understood, and everyone understands the activity objectives, equipment, and techniques.
- 13.2 **Activity Notification:** Historically, the E1 Parts I to III documentation but increasingly provided through electronic means such as Operoo.
- 13.3 **Activity Plan:** A document that outlines how an activity will run and may include details such as location, emergency response, participant roles, logistics, communications, transportation, weather, and budgets.
- 13.4 **Activity Review:** An exercise that occurs at the end of all activities to determine how the participants viewed the activity and improve future activities. It is part of the Scout Method of Plan, Do, Review.
- 13.5 **Activity Risk Assessment:** The specific risk assessment for an activity is developed by adjusting the **Standard Risk Assessment** considering the context of the activity.
- 13.6 **Adventurous Activities (AA):** These are typically outdoor pursuits requiring skill to engage. An activity with inherent risks and uncontrolled hazards, usually in a natural environment. The range of activities covered supported by NSW Scouts Adventurous Activities are based on the Outdoor Adventure Skills (OAS) areas in the Program and, but not exclusively, Archery, Flying Fox, Challenge Ropes and Motoring.
- 13.7 **Adventurous Activity Guide** – a member of Scouts NSW who holds the units required for an Adventurous Activity Guide documented in the NAAF. Ideally, they hold at least a SIS30619 Certificate III in Outdoor Leadership. They must have a Certificate of Adult Appointment (unless they are a Rover) and can mentor and motivate youth members. They must be appointed as a Scouts NSW Adventurous Activity Guide. Certain higher-risk activities must be Directly Supervised by an Adventurous Activity Guide who acts as the Adventurous Activity Leader 'in charge'.
- 13.8 **Adventurous Activities Assistant Guide:** An adult or youth member progressing on a journey to become a Guide. They hold the units required for an Assistant Guide in the NAAF. Ideally, they hold at least a SIS20419 or SISO20421 Cert II in Outdoor Recreation. They should have good leadership skills. Acts as an Adventurous Activity Leader under the supervision of an Adventurous Activity Guide. An Adventurous Activity Assistant Guide will be paired with a mentor Guide to assist their development.
- 13.9 **Adventurous Activity Leader:** They are a member of Scouts NSW who supports an Adventurous Activity.
- 13.10 **Bushwalking:** See [here for definition](#)
- 13.11 **Bushwalking Procedure:** This document
- 13.12 **Competent Adult Participant** - An adult with enough leadership and bushwalking knowledge to support the Activity Leader or to make decisions for the party when the Activity Leader is not available.

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- 13.13 **Competent Person** - A person with enough leadership and bushwalking knowledge to support the Activity Leader or to make decisions for the party when the Activity Leader is not available.
- 13.14 **Dependant Person:** This is a person under the age of 18 or is a participant who has little or no experience in the activity. They depend on the Adventurous Activity Guide or Adventurous Activity Leader for supervision, guidance, and instruction to facilitate their safe participation in the activity.
- 13.15 **Emergency Contact:** An adult member of Scouting who is the nominated person responsible for providing safety watch over an Adventurous Activity. This person is responsible for communication with stakeholders and declaring any emergency responses if contact is not possible with the Adventurous Activity Leader, or the party is overdue.
- 13.16 **Event Management System:** These are systems that allow the advertising of activities and can take participants' bookings on those activities. Often, they capture consent.
- 13.17 **Independent Participant:** A person with enough skills and knowledge to safely participate in an adventurous activity without dependence on an Adventurous Activity Guide or Adventurous Activity Leader. This person understands and acknowledges the inherent risk and assumes responsibility for their safety and welfare.
- 13.18 **Informed Consent:** To attend an activity, the parents of members under 18 must consent to the participant to attend the activity. Informed consent is based on an informed understanding of the activity and what risks the participants will take.
- 13.19 **Light Weight Camping Activities:** See [here for definition](#)
- 13.20 **Outdoor Adventure Skills (OAS):** OAS is the Youth Program adventure skills framework that provides a wide range of activity types with an increasing skill level from the most basic to very advanced. See the Youth Program for more details.
- 13.21 **Personal Activity Logbook:** The logbook is an individual's record detailing involvement in Adventurous Activities. The logbook helps demonstrate currency. It can be a variety of formats but must contain dates, type of activity, participant's role, list other participants, activity descriptions and a validation contact. All experience within Scouting must be recorded. Experience gained externally to Scouting should be recorded.
- 13.22 **Reasonable Adjustment:** These are changes made to enable a participant to participate on an equal basis safely and productively as others. To determine whether an adjustment is considered 'reasonable', the Adventurous Activity Leader must consider the need for the change with the expense or effort involved in making the change and the Impact on other participants. If an adjustment requires a disproportionately high expenditure or disruption, it is not likely to be reasonable.
- 13.23 **Remote Area Activites:** See [here for definition](#)
- 13.24 **Standard Risk Assessment:** This is a risk assessment developed based on leading practice understanding of the key typical risks on a specific activity discipline. Considers what the recommended mitigations and approaches are.
- 13.25 **Supervision – Direct:** The Adventurous Activity Leader can supervise, guide and instruct directly within minutes. Most Adventurous Activities will be supervised directly.
- 13.26 **Supervision – Indirect:** The Adventurous Activity Leader is in the vicinity but is unable to intervene for up to one hour. For example, they are trailing the participants or are in a nearby camp in radio contact. Use Indirect Supervision only where the competence of the

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Adventurous Activity Leader and participants is sufficient to conduct the activity safely. The Activity Risk Assessment and Activity Plan must demonstrate such competence.

- 13.27 **Supervision – Remote:** The Adventurous Activity Leader is not in the vicinity and is unable to intervene for between 1 and 12 hours. Use Remote Supervision only where the competence of the AA Leader and participants is sufficient to conduct the activity safely. The Activity Risk Assessment and Activity Plan must demonstrate such competence.
- 13.28 **Trigger:** A Trigger is typically a defined set of conditions or event that acts as a reason to initiate an alternate plan.

Annex A – Bushwalking Activity Conditions

Different land managers, organisations and websites use different systems of rating tracks. The trail/track grading used within *Annex A - 'What Activities Can I Run?'* of *The Procedure* refers to the Australian Walking Track Grading System (AWTGS). Where a trail/track classified based on AS2156.1-2001 aligned to the *Bushwalking GPG*, Classes 1-5 are aligned to the same Grade level, as per the table below, and Class 6 is considered as Untracked

Alignment of the trail/track grading and classification systems to the defined bushwalking conditions, based on the Scouts Australia and VET Bushwalking Activity qualifications, are:

Defined Bushwalking Conditions	AWTGS ¹	AS Class ²
Urban Parks and Tracks in residential Areas	Grade 1	Class 1
Tracked Environment (Previously known as Controlled Environment)	Grade 2	Class 2
	Grade 3	Class 3
Difficult Tracked Environment (Previously known as the Intermediate Environment)	Grade 4	Class 4
Extremely Difficult Tracked Environment ³ (Previously known as Uncontrolled Environment),	Grade 5	Class 5
Untracked environments (Previously known as Uncontrolled Environment),	Out of Category	Class 6

Notes:

1 Further details on AWTGS can be found here: <https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/safety/bushwalking-safety/australian-walking-track-grading-system>

2 Further details on AS Class can be found here: <https://store.standards.org.au/product/as-2156-1-2001> or <http://www.wildwalks.com/bushcraft/technical-stuff/track-classification-system.html> (Note this is an unofficial interpretation of the standard)

3 This condition classification also includes Remote Arid Climate (desert) and Alpine Bushwalking Area.

Annex A - 'What Activities Can I Run?' of *The Procedure* defines the bushwalking supervision, **AA Leader** qualification and youth OAS requirements for each Grade of trail/track.

An ungraded/unclassified trail/track may be assessed and defined by a Scouts NSW Bushwalking Guide familiar with the area. Assessment is based on the grading/class system definitions and consideration given to the navigation skills required, risks and preparations required compared to similar classified/graded tracks.

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Distance	Up to 5km	Up to 10km	Up to 20km	N/A	N/A
Gradient	Flat	Gentle Hills Gradient less than 1:10	Short steep hills May exceed 1:10 (or 10% or 5.7 degrees) for short sections but generally no steeper than 1:10	Very steep May have arduous climbs and steep sections. May include long steep sections exceeding 1:10	Very steep & difficult May have very arduous climbs and steep sections. May include long steep sections exceeding 1:10

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Path Quality	Flat even surface suitable for wheelchair users with someone to assist.	Formed track with a compacted surface	Formed track, may have a rough surface, some obstacles	Rough track with many obstacles	Rough unformed tracked
Marking Quality	Obvious and regular track marking	Obvious and regular track markings	Obvious but spread-out track markings	Sparse and not obvious track markings	No track markings
Steps	No steps	Occasional steps	Many steps	N/A	N/A
Remote	Medical Assistance less than an hour away	Medical Assistance less than an hour away	Medical Assistance around an hour away	Medical Assistance more than an hour away	Medical Assistance more than an hour away

Table 2: Bushwalk Track Grading Table

Where a track grading is provided through either a landowner (e.g. NPWS) or an organisation like WildWalks, that Grade must be used. Note that WildWalks often provides grades for sections of walks.

In situations where a walk is not graded or a section of a graded track is being used, the track grading table above supports NSW Bushwalking Guides providing a Grade. For Ungraded tracks, Leaders can request the support of a Guide familiar with the local area to provide a Grade for the proposed bushwalk using the table above. The Regional Commissioner (Activities) must approve the proposed Grade.

Suppose a bushwalk is planned on a portion of a Graded track (grading provided by NPWS or Wildwalks, for example). In that case, support can be requested from a Guide familiar with the local area to assess whether an adjusted Grade can be applied. The Guide may need to consult with the landowner to understand the factors considered in identifying the current Grade. Any adjusted Grade requires approval by the Regional Commissioner (Activities).

In their approval, Regional Commissioner (Activities) will be looking for a written assessment of each factor in the bushwalk's track grading table, explaining how the track grade has been applied. Any approved Grades will be submitted to the State Leader Bushwalking, Bushcraft and Camping to make this available for other groups wishing to bushwalk in the area.

In the table, Medical Assistance usually refers to paramedic or emergency support. In some rural areas, Medical Assistance may be provided by a support vehicle with a more comprehensive first aid kit on the approval of the Regional Commissioner (Activities). Ideally, the Leader is qualified in remote first aid (SISOFLD004).