



Western Australian Adventure Activity Standard

Mountain Biking

(off - road cycling)

Version 1.1 October 2009



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Mountain Biking

Adventure Activity Standards benchmark the minimum industry requirements and responsibilities for organisations and leaders conducting outdoor adventure activities for commercial and non – commercial groups.

The Adventure Activity Standards are designed to be applied when the participants are, for the purposes of participating in the mountain biking activity, either

- In a pre-existing group
 - Where either the group members (and or its representative third party) have made a collective purchase of / collective decision to participate in the activity (ie a school, corporate or community group); or are
- Formed into a new group
 - Where the participants have purchased / made the decision to participate in the activity as individuals or smaller groups, but having done so become a part of a new group (ie citizens or tourists who, having purchased an activity from an organisation or leader individually, are formed into a group for the purposes of participating in the activity provided).

In all cases the relationship between the group of participants and the activity provider is one based upon dependence by way of contract and or duty of care.

The existence of other types of groups where the group is less defined and NOT dependent as a group upon an activity provider for the conduct of the activity is acknowledged. (ie independent club members participating in an activity). It is intended that such less defined groups of independent participants are not “captured” by the AAS.

The Western Australian Adventure Activity Standards were developed by an industry wide consultative process coordinated by Outdoors WA following the recommendations of the 2006 State Government Adventure Tourism Visitor Safety Task Force Report. The Project received grant funding via the Department of Sport and Recreation.

The development and implementation of the AAS allows the outdoor adventure industry to demonstrate its collective integrity and agreed standards. This, in turn will provide a measure of quality for the purposes of assisting

1. Consumers of our services to make informed choices about the services they select
2. Training organisations to produce graduates who understand and meet industry standards
3. Media, insurance and legal scrutineers of our industry and its members, to understand what is acceptable practice and what is not
4. The development of sustainable use practices that consider the specific natural and cultural heritage values of areas in which we conduct outdoor activities

The AAS are a critical component of the **industry quality framework** comprising four aligned and inter-connected components

1. **Accreditation** - the required business operating standards for businesses and organisations
2. **Adventure Activity Standards** - the minimum standards to which an activity must be conducted by a provider to dependent groups of participants
3. **Leader Competency / Registration Scheme** - the responsibilities and competencies required of the leaders conducting the outdoor activities
4. **Codes of Conduct** – the behavioural expectations of persons operating as outdoor leaders

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INTRODUCTION

The Western Australian Adventure Activity Standards (AAS) have been developed to assist organisations and leaders to plan and conduct outdoor adventure activities with commercial and non-commercial dependent groups of participants where there is a duty of care based in contract and or in authority.

The purpose of the AAS is to maintain the perception of adventure whilst simultaneously reducing / managing the real risk for participants. Increased outdoor physical activity with reduced incident and accident rates will be the ultimate performance indicators of the value of the AAS.

The AAS provide a valuable resource for the development of operating procedures, and or for the purposes of comparing existing operating procedures to industry agreed benchmarked standards. All groups differ in their collective skills and experience and in their degree of dependence upon the leader. They participate in outdoor activities at a range of sites with varying conditions (including weather). It therefore **remains the responsibility of the leader to make the professional judgements and decisions concerning the conduct of the activity to ensure the safety of the group.** The AAS are designed to assist such judgements and decision making.

The AAS are also designed to promote knowledge and awareness of the broad and activity specific impacts increasing recreation and travel opportunities place upon the natural environment. The AAS are designed to assist the protection of biodiversity values and the preservation of cultural sites balanced with the increased access demands. The 7 Principles of Leave No Trace are imbedded within the AAS.

Whilst not statutory standards, the AAS provide the basis for policy formation and decision making by jurisdictions external to the outdoor adventure activity industry including, but not restricted to, licensing, insurance and legal jurisdictions.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

The activity of mountain biking involves off – road* cycling in the natural environment for pleasure, challenge, experience and / or educational outcomes. For the purposes of this Standard, the term ‘mountain biking’ is appropriately applied to group rides that are led by an outdoor leader, be they long (multi day) or short (an hour or two) rides that can be experienced in diverse environments including metropolitan, coastal, outback and remote regions.

This Standard recognizes that some rides may include sections on sealed road joining off road sections, sealed road crossings etc. Where these are apart of a broader off road cycling experience they shall be captured by this Standard.

It is not intended that competitive and sporting events (and or the training relevant to them) will be captured by this Standard.

** off road may include unsealed roads, single tracks and disused railway / forestry tracks*

PLANNING AND PREPARATION

The AAS provides a planning and preparation framework considered critical in maximising participant safety and enjoyment. All planning must be finalised and the relevant components documented before the activity is undertaken. A suggested planning and preparation framework includes

- Preliminary Information
- Route / Campsite Plan(s)
- Risk Management Plan
- Emergency Response Plan
- Minimal Environmental Impact Plan

Samples and suggested templates are available at www.outdoorswa.org

Preliminary Information

The following are the minimum information requirements for conducting a mountain biking ride

- Objectives / desired outcomes of the session (recommended only)
- Planned start and finish times (may also include sector times)
- Leader to participant ratio and group size (refer Leader : Participant Ratios and Group Size)
- Profile of the group (age range, fitness level / capability, experience)
- Land / campsite manager requirements including
 - Access restrictions
 - Group sizes
 - Booking and permit requirements
 - Regulations with regard to fire and the conduct of activities
 - Current environmental management policies and biodiversity issues effecting the region (refer to www.naturebase.com.au)
 - Regulations in regard to fire restrictions, restrictions, bans, local conditions
- Availability of suitable maps
- Equipment requirements (refer Equipment)
- Dependent participants' names and emergency contact details
- Medical information advised by dependent participants which may be relevant to the activity
 - Conditions – EG asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, fainting, allergic reactions, blood conditions which may effect bleeding/ blood clotting, recent or long-standing injuries, (eg back, knee, ankle), disability, psychological conditions
 - Medications - what is it / why is it required / how is it administered?
- Group members are advised, in writing and or in a verbal briefing, of
 - Potential risks associated with the activity
 - Zero tolerance requirements re drugs and alcohol other than prescription drugs NOT effecting the participant's ability to participate
 - The requirement to conform to responsible and attentive behaviour
 - Suggested physical requirements for the ride (EG “*must be able to ride 20 kilometres a day*”)
- RECOMMENDED - Participant signed legal liability disclaimer (informed consent) / waiver to sue / authorisation to seek / provide emergency medical treatment (retain for a time frame as dictated by the Statute of Limitations Act 2005); dependent participants under the age of 18 must have the signature of a parent / guardian if required by the organisation that has legal responsibility for them
- An understanding of the natural and cultural history / diversity of the site(s) / location(s)

Route / Campsite(s) Plan

The purpose of the route / campsite(s) plan is to assess issues regarding access, environmental impact, risk and emergency communications relative to a particular site. The route / campsite(s) plan shall provide details of

- Assessment of the suitability of the route / campsite(s) for the size and ability of the group
- Access to and along the route / campsite(s)

- by vehicle (2WD / 4WD) including emergency services vehicles
- on foot including the best routes to take to minimise environmental impact
- Where is / are the best place (s) to make an emergency contact (by mobile or satellite phone if coverage available, by radio or by a runner party to a land line, by EPIRB/PLB) and where is the best place to make these calls from
- Route / Campsite(s) characteristics
 - Weather forecast (temperature, wind, rain)
 - Potential risks; how these risks can be managed
 - Specific terrain / route characteristics – grade, technical difficulty, distance, known key hazards / technical features
 - Availability of drinking water
 - Availability of shelter
 - Surface type & suitability
- Contingency plans for forecast / foreseeable weather conditions
- Opportunities for rest breaks and availability of shaded areas / shelter
- Toileting facilities and appropriate waste disposal options
- Location of any water sources
- Location of any culturally significant areas, structures, artefacts or rock art that need to be avoided
- Location of any rare or endangered plants or animals, or sensitive areas
- Ability of route / campsite(s) to withstand visitation with minimal impact upon vegetation

Samples and suggested templates are available at www.outdoorswa.org

Risk Management Plan

The purpose of the Risk Management Plan is to identify the human, route / campsite(s) specific, equipment and environmental risks for the safe conduct of the activity. By identifying, analysing and evaluating these risks, appropriate strategies to reduce / manage the risk can be developed and implemented. Mountain biking leaders must assess the chosen route / campsite(s) for potential hazards and adapt the planning of the activity as required. Information with regard to any new hazard must be made available within the group / organisation and to the relevant land manager where appropriate.

Samples and suggested templates are available at www.outdoorswa.org

The Risk Management Plan must consider

- Leader(s) have the required authorisation, skills, qualifications and experience to
 - conduct the ride in the selected environment(s)
 - satisfy the planned objectives
 - effectively manage incidents (refer Requirements of Leaders)
 - preserve the environmental integrity of the route and campsite(s)
- Leader : Participant ratio (refer Leader : Participant Ratios and Group Size)
- Group size (refer Leader : Participant Ratios and Group Size)
- Group profile including
 - Skill / fitness / experience levels
 - Needs / requirements
 - Knowledge of environmental minimum impact strategies
 - Methods for managing the group at all times including riders at the front, in the middle and at the end of your line of riders

Emergency Response Plan

The purpose of the Emergency Response Plan is to provide a set of steps for leaders to follow in the event of an emergency which may include injury or death. The plan must include information to assist the leader to minimise the escalation of the situation, the injuries incurred and how to reduce the likelihood of further incidents occurring. The Emergency Response Plan must be route / campsite(s) specific and document current details including

- Access and egress options from the route / campsite(s) including sectors

- Contingency plans for effective rescue with minimum environmental impact to the route / campsite(s)
- Group assembly points
- Emergency contact details which may include
 - Next stage of definitive medical care (hospital, doctor)
 - Police
 - Relevant Agencies (EG Department of Environment and Conservation, land owners, rescue services, Department of Planning and Infrastructure)
- Specific communication requirements / available networks

ALL leaders must carry a copy and be fully aware of the emergency response plan (often included as a part of the “route plan”). A copy of the emergency response plan must also be kept (with other documentation) with a non-participating contact and be readily accessible by the leader via an available telecommunication method in the event of an emergency.

The leader is to communicate with the relevant external contact at a designated time(s). Upon failure to do so the external contact must action the emergency response plan which may include contacting the police. In situations where there is only one leader, the emergency response plan shall have been introduced to, and be available to members of the group so that it may be actioned in the event that the leader becomes unfit to do so.

Samples and suggested templates are available at www.outdoorswa.org

Leader : Participant Ratios and Group Size

Whilst it is acknowledged that the characteristics of the route / campsite(s), the profile of the group, the purposes of the ride, and the experience of the leader will influence the ratios of leaders to dependent participants, the minimum ratios considered acceptable are

- ***Day Rides – easy to intermediate to difficult terrain***

Minimum Operational Ratio for up to 6 dependent participants – applicable for recognised leader to actual dependent participants 1:6 (maximum group size = 7)

Minimum Operational Ratio for 7+ dependent participants – applicable for recognised leader with additional responsible adult to actual dependent participants 1:1:7+ (maximum group size = 25)

It is further recommended that ALL groups of dependent participants be lead by 2 leaders being a recognised leader with additional responsible adult

- ***Multi Day Rides – easy to intermediate to difficult terrain***

Minimum Operational Ratio for o/18 year old dependent participants – applicable for recognised leader with additional responsible adult to actual dependent participants 1:1:6

Group sizes will be determined by route and campsite(s) characteristics, land manager restrictions, environmental considerations and the application of the above ratios. Maximum group size is 25 including participants and leaders.

Minimal Environmental Impact Plan - Leave No Trace 7 Principles

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare

- Be aware of the regulations for and special concerns of the area(s)
- Check with land managers or owners for information and special considerations
 - Fire Bans / any controlled burns
 - Group size requirements
 - Restricted areas
 - Access permits
- Prepare for isolation, weather hazards and emergencies
- Prepare maps and compass (GPS - multi day trips only)
- Pack appropriate emergency communication equipment appropriate to the situation
- Carry a First Aid Kit

- Carry food for longer rides and repackage food to minimise waste
- Carry plenty of water / water purification tablets
- Pack clothing to cater for possible conditions
- Carry a small trowel for emergency toileting

2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

- Ride only on the designated track
- Never create unnecessary new tracks
- Don't detour - dismount and walk instead
- Brake gently before corners and avoid skidding to protect the track surface from erosion
- Avoid regeneration areas and places where impacts are just beginning
- Avoid cutting corners and widening tracks
- Avoid mud and soft entrances / exits around water to reduce erosion
- Use established campsites otherwise camp in already disturbed sites to reduce impact
- Actively manage your group at the site to minimise trampling and damage to the surrounding vegetation
- Avoid digging, landscaping and trenching around tents
- When leaving a campsite, "naturalise it" by fluffing up flattened grasses, brush away boot prints and replace any rocks that have been kicked or moved
- Avoid damaging live shrubs, woody plants or branches
- Protect water sources by camping at least 20 metres from rivers, streams and billabongs
- Keep your group size small

3. Dispose of Waste Properly

- Pack and carry out all packaging rubbish and leftover food in sturdy bags including organics
- Inspect your campsite and rest areas for rubbish and spilled food before leaving
- Do not burn rubbish
- When available, use established toilet facilities; in other situations, carry a trowel and deposit solid human waste in cat holes dug in topsoil – usually 10-15cm deep and at least 100m from water, camp and tracks (if toilet paper use is necessary, use it sparingly and bury it deeply or preferably, carry it out; cover and disguise the hole when finished)
- In water catchment areas, human waste should be carried out
- Urinate in toilets provided or otherwise on bare ground 100m away from vegetation, campsites and tracks
- Pack out all hygiene products in a suitable container
- To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 100 metres from streams and pools. Avoid using any soaps or detergents; if they must be used, use only small amounts of biodegradable soaps and detergents; scatter strained dishwater
- Hand sanitisers are a good alternative for personal hygiene
- All campsites must be located at least 20 m from any waterway

4. Leave What You Find

- Do not excavate, disturb or remove archaeological, historical and cultural artefacts
- Avoid indigenous sites to respect culture and to ensure their protection
- Do not touch rock art which can be damaged by the natural oils from human skin
- Do not touch cultural or historic structures and artefacts
- Avoid areas where rare and vulnerable plants or animals are found
- Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them
- Do not build structures, furniture or dig trenches
- Never remove obstacles such as rock and logs from the track surface
- Do not transport flowers, weeds, wood or aquatic plants into or out of the wilderness
- Identify non-native species and report sightings of them to appropriate sources
- Do not travel through quarantine areas without permission

- If a trip crosses areas known to contain pathogens, visit the un-infected area first
- Avoid transporting mud in boots, equipment and tyre treads which may contain Phytophthora (dieback fungal spores) by washing thoroughly before and after travelling; use wash stations immediately where provided
- Check clothing and all gear and burn or dispose of all hitchhiker type seeds before and after travelling in different areas
- Help landowners and managers initiate control efforts by alerting them to infested areas
- Use a lightweight fuel stove for cooking and enjoy a candle or gas lantern for light
- Avoid lighting an open fire (even if permitted)
- Where fires are permitted, use established fire rings, fire pans, or mound fires; dismantle and naturalise any extra fire rings; do not dig fire-pits
- Choose small dead pieces of wood that are found on the ground; do not break off branches from trees or bushes
- At least three (3) metres around the fire must be clear of flammable vegetation
- Keep fires to a minimum size
- Burn wood down to ash; fires must be completely extinguished with water before leaving the campsite
- Clean out campfires rings after use
- Ensure proper cigarette butt disposal; take butts with you

5. Minimal Impact Fires

- If fires are permitted and it is important to you, then build a small minimal impact mound or pan fire
 - Carry a large ground cloth or metal pan as a base for your fire
 - Lay down a large ground cloth or metal pan and collect sand, gravel or soil with a low organic content with a stuff sack and a trowel (mineral soil can often be found where large dead trees have fallen and their roots are exposed)
 - Construct a pedestal approx. 25 cm thick by 75 cm in diameter on the ground cloth or fire pan. (The pan could also be placed on stable flat rock or raised to avoid contact with vegetation)
- Burn all wood to ash and extinguish completely with water
- Scatter cold ash widely and disperse the soil or return to the base of the upturned tree

6. Respect Wildlife

- Observe wildlife from a distance; do not follow or approach them
- Understand the role each species plays in each environment in order to realise the importance of its position within an ecosystem
- Travel quietly
- Avoid wildlife during sensitive times including mating, nesting, and raising young
- Avoid touching nests or young animals which may cause their parents to abandon them
- Do not feed wild animals or birds.
- Leave pets at home
- Report any injured animals to the local land managers; do not attempt to handle the animal

7. Be Considerate of Your Hosts and Other Visitors

- Ensure that your group behaves with respect for the hosts and other users
- Learn about the cultural history of the land; recognise, acknowledge and respect local knowledge
- Respect the wishes and regulations of all hosts including indigenous, pastoral, land managers and locals
- Seek permission and / or a permit before visiting
- Respect signage and follow rules
- Respect others' wilderness experience
- Make reasonable efforts to minimise the impact of the group on others
- Travel in smaller groups
- Assist other parties in difficulty

- Yield to descending cyclists
- Slow down where there are blind spots
- Be courteous; give way to other users
- Stop, talk quietly and move off the track if there are horseback riders
- Don't race on recreational tracks
- Do not block paths with people or equipment; have rest breaks in discreet places to minimise impact on other groups
- If possible camp out of sight and sound of other visitors
- Keep noise to a minimum; avoid the use of bright lights, radios, electronic games, mobile phones and other intrusive urban devices

Further information is available at Leave No Trace Australia www.lnt.org.au

REQUIREMENTS OF LEADERS

The performance of the leader is a critical factor in the safe conduct of a mountain biking activity. The leader is required to

- Accept responsibility for the planning, preparation and conduct of the activity
- Maintain current skills, qualifications and experience as required
- Accept responsibility for the environmental preservation of the sites and surrounding areas

This does not exclude the fact that dependent participants are responsible for their own actions in relation to the potential risks that may be encountered by choosing to participate in a mountain biking activity.

Responsibilities of Leaders

Leaders are required to accept the following responsibilities

- To ensure that ALL required competencies as outlined in “Competencies of Leaders” are available to the group for the ride, if not within his / her competency profile then within the collective of his / her co-leaders
- To use their judgement to make decisions that will ensure the safety of all group members and maintain the integrity of the environment including matters relevant to
 - People based risks*
 - Collect all documentation / forms signed by all dependent participants / parents or guardians (or ensure data is collected by the third party responsible for the group)
 - Communicate the anticipated risks relating to the activity to the group in a pre-activity briefing, and others that arise during the ride
 - Match the experience / capabilities of the group to the activity
 - Be aware where participants have stored / are carrying their personal medications
 - Ensure all significant incidents and accidents are documented and reported in writing to the organisation sanctioning the ride within seven (7) days of the completion of the ride or as soon as is practical
 - Ideally the sanctioning organisation will in turn communicate such incident(s) or accident(s) to Outdoors WA in writing
 - Site / route based risks*
 - Be familiar with the selected site(s) / route(s) and the scope of variation of conditions likely to be encountered; be aware of the location of the route in relation to associated trails
 - Check weather forecasts and water obstacles pre - departure
 - Appropriately manage hazards that are encountered
 - Consider the availability of drinking water on route and have appropriate contingency plans
 - Be aware of and comply with the land / site manager's guidelines including minimal impact
 - Notify nominated external contacts of safe return / completion when appropriate
 - Equipment based risks*
 - Check suitability, condition and instruct correct use / fit of all equipment prior to

departure

- Helmet
- Seat height
- Brakes
- Gears
- Tyres
- Ensure that a First Aid Kit and communication equipment suitable for the route are in good order
- Environmental based risks*
 - Apply Leave No Trace Principles
 - Comply with the land / site manager's guidelines including minimal impact principles relative to flora, fauna and rubbish removal
 - Report all environmental damage to the appropriate land manager
 - Report any perceived breaches of the Mountain Biking AAS to Outdoors WA

Competencies of Leaders

Leaders require a range of technical and group facilitation skills to effectively conduct group mountain biking activities. Leaders are deemed to be competent to the national standard to lead mountain biking activities if

- They are currently registered in the National Outdoor Leader Registration Scheme (NOLRS)* as a mountain biking guide or instructor (NOLRS is administered by Outdoors WA on behalf of the Outdoor Council of Australia) which requires
 - A recognised qualification or skill set
 - Sufficient current experience
 - Appropriate first aid qualifications
 - Within one hour from definitive medical care – Senior First Aid required
 - Beyond one hour from definitive medical care – an advanced / wilderness / remote First Aid qualification is required

*** registration with NOLRS must be achieved by 31 January 2011**

*** further information about NOLRS including how to register is available at www.outdoorswa.org**

***the registration achieved must align with the specific form of mountain biking to be undertaken ie. Mountain Biking Guide – Intermediate to Difficult Terrain**

NOTE – for rides of up to 2 hours on easy terrain and where an emergency vehicle has access to within 0.5km of the track, the above competencies are recommended but not required

FIRST AID REQUIREMENTS

Mountain biking groups require leaders with first aid qualifications in addition to the competencies listed above. The following framework guides the level of first aid qualification required for different types of rides.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| ▪ Less than half a day urban rides | - Basic first aid knowledge |
| ▪ Half to full day | - Senior First Aid (or equivalent) |
| ▪ Multi day rides | - Senior First Aid (or equivalent) |
| ▪ Remote Wilderness Rides | - Advanced, Remote or Wilderness First Aid |

REQUIREMENTS / RESPONSIBILITIES OF ORGANISATIONS

Organisations sanctioning the conduct of mountain biking activities for dependent groups of people are required to

- Maintain current appropriate insurance
- Report incidents and accidents to relevant jurisdictions in writing within seven(7) days
 - Insurers
 - Land Managers
 - Outdoors WA (recommended)

- Provide leaders with the necessary resources to conduct the ride in accordance with all aspects of this Standard
- Notify nominated external contacts of safe return / completion when appropriate
- Verify and accept responsibility for the current competence of leaders selected for mountain biking activities
- Ensure all equipment is used and maintained in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations

EQUIPMENT

Equipment requirements vary with the objectives of the activity, the group characteristic profile and the environmental conditions likely to be encountered. When planning equipment requirements for a ride it is important to consider all possible eventualities and to select equipment that will maintain safety and minimise cultural and environmental impact of the activity.

Participant's Equipment*

The following equipment requirements apply to all dependent participants

- Correctly fitted helmets compliant to AS / NZS 2063 – 1996
 - Helmets to be in sound condition with effective straps
- Puncture repair kit including spare tube
 - Half – full day rides – recommended
 - Multi day rides - required
- Clothing appropriate to the requirements of the route and potential weather conditions with particular emphasis upon protection from the sun, wind, rain, cold, heat, insect bites and vegetation cuts (denim is NOT advised)
- Appropriate footwear (enclosed)
- Participant's personal medication including sun and insect protection
- Suitable and sufficient water carrying capability
- Bike suitable for off road use / compliant with licensing regulations
 - Off road tyres
 - Front and rear brakes
 - Gears
 - Mountain bike handle bars

Leaders' and Group Equipment*

The following equipment is required for all dependant group mountain biking activities; equipment list may vary if participants all bring personal bikes as opposed to a group set of same bikes

- A copy of the emergency response plan
- Communication radios
- Emergency communication equipment (EG. mobile phone, satellite phone, details of nearest land line, radio, EPIRB / PLB if in remote area etc.)
- A First Aid Kit appropriate for the level of training completed, the location of the activity and the size of the group
- Tools for proper waste disposal (ie trowel if necessary – multi day rides)
- Tools for bike repair
 - Chain breaker and piece of chain
 - Spoke key
 - Spanner(s), Allen key(s), screwdriver(s)
 - Pump
 - Puncture repair kit including tyre levers
 - Inner tubes (2)
 - Brake cable inners (2) – multi day rides only
 - Gear cable inners (2) – multi day rides only
 - Break pads
- A whistle

- A relevant map and compass
- Equipment to clean footwear and other items that may carry soil borne pathogens such as phytophthora (excludes disease risk free areas or if such equipment is available “on track”)
- Support vehicle equipment – multi day rides
 - Lubricant
 - Specialist spanners
 - Spare pedals
 - Extensive First Aid Kit

DEFINITION OF TERMS

- **Activity Provider** – an entity, person or group of persons assuming the role of providing the activity (the activity provider) for a dependent group of participants for a specific commercial or not – for – profit purpose
- **Dependent Group / Participant** – a group or individual within a group whose welfare associated with participating in the activity is in part the responsibility of the leader; who is dependent upon the leader for their safe participation in the activity which may be so deemed by law or contract
- **Outdoor Leader** - term for an individual accepting the roles of leading and managing the outdoor activity; can be a guide or instructor; can be paid or voluntary
- **Registered Leader** - currently registered in the National Outdoor Leader Registration Scheme
- **Recognised Leader** – outdoor leader recognized as suitably experienced and skilled by an organisation
- **Competency** - minimum industry agreed standard of skill and knowledge necessary for a specific activity being conducted at a specific level
- **Responsible Adult** – adult person deemed, by the outdoor leader, as adequately capable of accepting responsibility for selected aspects of the management of the group and or its participants in conjunction with the safe conduct of the activity
- **Phytophthora** – Phytophthora Dieback: is a microscopic soil borne water mould that attacks plants. It impacts 40 percent of our native plant species and threatens whole communities including animal habitats. It is spread in the movement of infested water, soil or plant material. As the name water mould suggests, it requires moist conditions to thrive. Its food source is the root and basal stem tissue of living plants. It is currently the biggest threat to biodiversity in Australia and it is spread extensively by human activity. More information is available online at www.dieback.net.au
- **Route** - includes all intended and emergency routes, rest stops and campsites

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Adventure Activity Standards initially developed by The Outdoor Recreation Centre in Victoria proved to be an invaluable resource in the development of the Western Australian Adventure Activity Standard for Mountain biking.

FEEDBACK, REVIEW & APPEALS

The AAS are designed to be ‘living’ standards with feedback, requests for review and/or appeal against aspects of a standard considered to be healthy part of the development process, one that will ensure the currency & relevancy of the standards. Feedback, requests for review and/or appeals will be managed by the Industry Standards Panel. Details and proformas are available at www.outdoorswa.org / industry quality framework / Industry Standards Panel.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact Outdoors WA for further information or to obtain contact details of the organisations conducting abseiling activities and training.

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