



Members of the Seaplane Pilots Association of Australia have, in the interests of promoting safety and the respectful use of Australian airspace and waterways, adopted the following Code of Operation and general policy for seaplane operation in Australia.

Training:

In accordance with CASA and Australian Federal Aviation law, all seaplane pilots are required to undertake additional, specialised flying training to ensure safe air and water operations.

Licensing:

All seaplane pilots must hold a license or certificate to operate a seaplane (in accordance with Australian Federal Aviation laws) and must additionally hold a maritime license to navigate watercraft in excess of 10 knots.

Approval to Operate:

Seaplanes are generally approved to operate from Australian waterways and in doing so must observe all the CASA and RAAus regulations regarding safe operation of aircraft. Seaplane pilots must also observe all Maritime regulations regarding safe operation of watercraft including “distance off”, speed limits and giving way to other watercraft in accordance with local boating regulations.

General Operations:

Association members agree to:

- Belong to and be current members of the Seaplane Pilots Association of Australia.

- Observe the state, federal and international laws relating to the safe operation of marine-craft.
- Be vigilant and consider it as operational practice to maintain a safe distance from other water users.
- Provide assistance to other persons or vehicles in distress where it is safe to do so.

When taking off and alighting:

- Maintain reasonable clearances where possible to avoid residential areas.
- Brief passengers fully on emergency procedures.
- Consider possible wind shear, downdrafts and hazardous conditions in the lee of terrain.
- Be aware of and anticipate the movements of other watercraft.

On the ground/beach:

- Be aware of public safety and ensure safe movement of persons around a seaplane.
- Appoint a beach marshal where appropriate to ensure safe movement of a seaplane in congested areas.

Aircraft Maintenance:

- Ensure seaplanes are maintained to the highest practical degree of safety and condition.

Safety Equipment:

- SPAA encourages all pilots and their passengers to **wear** a Personal Floatation Device (PFD) as directed by aircrafts regulatory authority when operating over water. SPAA recommends use of CASA approved manual inflation PFD's.
- A quality first-aid kit.
- Seaplane pilots will, wherever practical, carry a VHF marine radio.

Environmental:

- Ensure all re-fuelling and maintenance does not present a risk of pollution to waterways.
- Observe awareness of noise produced in the environment and practice NOISE ABATEMENT.
- Pilot at all times to “Fly Neighbourly” and avoid concentration of operations where possible (e.g. overuse of a single waterway)
- In keeping with the outstanding environmental track record of seaplanes worldwide, our members agree to follow sound operating practices with utmost regard to the environment at all times to protect our unique waterways.

Community:

- Seaplane pilots, whenever called upon, lend assistance to Water Police, State Emergency Services, and Voluntary Rescue Organisations when it is safe to do so.
- Handle complaints courteously and respectfully even when the complaint appears unreasonable.
- Seek advice from local community and relevant authorities when planning to operate in waterways wherein seaplanes are uncommon.

Special Operations:

- Pilots are expected to investigate special operational requirements when operating in built-up and control areas.
- Make use of SPAA's network of State Co-Ordinators and pro-actively obtain appropriate briefings on any special requirements **before** operating in sensitive or built-up areas. To access this network, click the following link:

<https://www.seaplanes.org.au/Contact>