



Australian Axemens Association Inc.

Risk Management Plan

Established 2023 | Next Review August 2025

Contents

1. Preamble	1
2. Introduction	1
3. Purpose	2
4. The Risk Process	3
5. Risk Assessment Matrix.....	3
6. Definitions	2
7. Risk Assessment	5

1. Preamble

The Australian Axemen’s Association Inc (ABN 75 407 335 926) is an Incorporated Association who oversee the conducting of competitive woodchopping events within Australia.

The Australian Axemen’s Association Inc public liability and personal accident insurance policies cover all the member states of Australia, those being: Axemens Council of WA Inc, Queensland Axemens Association Inc, Victorian Axemens Council Inc, the Federation New South Wales Axemens Association Inc, Tasmanian Axemens Association Inc and South Australian Axemens Association Inc.

The Public Liability and Personal Accident Insurance policies are with Lloyd's of London UK, through Sportscover Australia Pty Ltd Melbourne VIC.

2. Introduction

The Australian Axemens Association Inc. recognise that a duty of care is owed to all their members and that having an up-to-date, effective risk management process in place is crucial, as well as an important step to establishing quality club governance.

The Australian Axemens Association Inc. recognize the benefits of a risk management plan and its importance to ensure they meet their legal responsibility to take reasonable steps to reduce the likelihood of injury to its members and others involved in the activities as a result in any foreseeable risks. By implementing this plan, the Australian Axemens Association Inc. is committed to establishing a safe environment for the members and has committed to the implementation and ongoing maintenance of this plan.

This plan has been established by the Australian Axemens Association Inc. committee in consultation with relevant officials, volunteers, and members.

The Australian Axemens Association Inc. will hereby be referred to as “the association” or “AAA”.



Australian Axemens Association Inc.

Risk Management Plan

Established 2023 | Next Review August 2025

3. Purpose

The purpose of this document is to assist the association to identify, evaluate and manage risks associated with the event management and operations for a wood chopping competition or exhibition.

A risk is defined as anything untoward that can affect the association by creating exposure to potential loss or damage. The purpose of the association's Risk Management Plan is to create a proactive approach to the identification, analysis, assessment, control and avoidance, minimization, or elimination of unacceptable risks rather than a re-active approach, therefore creating a safer environment for its members.

The association recognise that effective risk management is an ongoing process and must be monitored at all times.

4. Definitions

AAA Refers to the Australian Axemen's Association.

Axemen/axeman refers to the male or female competitor competing in any woodchopping disciplines.

Combination refers to the single axeman woodchopping event where the axeman must successfully cut one underhand and one standing block consecutively.

Committee refers to the committee responsible for the organization and conducting of a Competition.

Handicapper refers to the person appointed by a Committee to grade axemen in accordance with their inherent ability, skills, experience and performance and apply a handicap.

Member refers to all members of the Council's Affiliated Associations.

Open Events refer to all woodchopping events open to all axemen.

Ring refers to the area of the wood chopping arena where the wood chopping equipment is set up for

Ring Steward refers to the judge responsible for ensuring the axemen start on the appropriate count, that the log is cut in accordance with the rules outlined in the *Australian Axemen's Association Competition Rules and Code of Conduct for the Conduct of Woodchopping and Sawing Contests*, and any other duties the committee deems appropriate.

Sawing refers to style of woodchopping in which a sawyer uses a saw to cut through a log.

Standing Block refers to the style of woodchopping in which the axeman stands on the ground and cuts a log fixed in the vertical position.

Tree Felling refers to the style of woodchopping in which the axeman ascends a timber pole for the purpose of chopping a log affixed to the top of the pole.

Underhand refers to the style of woodchopping in which an axeman stands on footholds to cut a log fixed in the horizontal position.

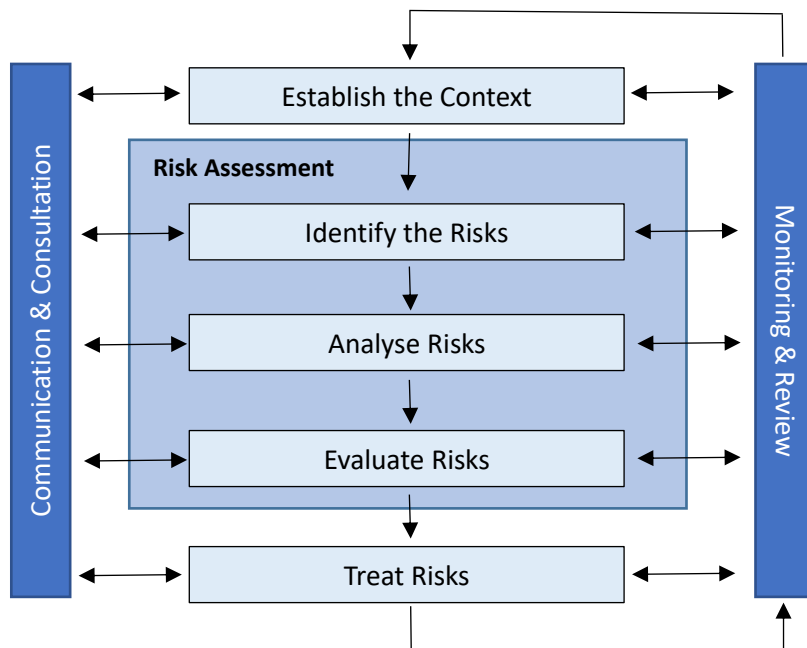
Wood Chopping Members refers to the Axemen, volunteers and family members attending the wood chopping event. These members are authorised to be within the boundaries of the wood chopping arena.



Australian Axemens Association Inc.

Risk Management Plan
Established 2023 | Next Review August 2025

5. The Risk Process



6. Risk Assessment Matrix

Likelihood	Risk Management Matrix				
Almost Certain	5	10	15	20	25
Likely	4	8	12	16	20
Possible	3	6	9	12	15
Unlikely	2	4	6	8	10
Rare	1	2	3	4	5
Consequence	Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Catastrophic

Risk Ranking	
≥ 11	Immediate action is required. Close monitoring required.
7 – 10	Specific monitoring/procedures required.
4 – 6	Management through routine procedures.
1 – 3	Low maintenance/monitoring required.



Australian Axemens Association Inc.

Risk Management Plan

Established 2023 | Next Review August 2025

Qualitative Measurement of Risk – Risk Consequence Level

Rank	Financial Impact	Injuries/Death	Reputation & Image	Activities / Operations
Insignificant	Less than \$1,000	No injuries	Not substantial, low impact, low profile or no news item.	Less than 1 hour
Minor	\$1,000 to \$10,000	First aid treatment	Substantial, low impact, low news profile	1 hour to 1 day
Moderate	\$10,000 to \$30,000	Medical treatment required	Substantial, high public profile, moderate impact, moderate news profile	1 day to 1 week
Major	\$30,000 to \$100,000	Death or extensive injuries	Substantial, high public profile, high impact, high news profile. Third Party actions.	1 week to 1 month
Catastrophic	More than \$100,000	Multiple deaths or severe permanent disablements	Substantial, high public profile, very high multiple impacts, high widespread multiple news profile. Third Party Actions.	More than 1 month

Risk Likelihood

Descriptor	Example Detail Description	Frequency
Almost certain	The event is expected to occur in most circumstances	This event is expected to occur in most circumstances.
Likely	The event will probably occur in most circumstances	This event will probably occur in most circumstances
Possible	The event should occur at some time	This event may occur sometime
Unlikely	The event could occur at some time	This event could occur sometime
Rare	The event may occur only in exceptional circumstances	This event may occur only in exceptional circumstances



Australian Axemens Association Inc.

Risk Management Plan

Established 2023 | Next Review August 2025

7. Risk Assessment

RISK IDENTIFICATION/CONTROLS (Risk Level BEFORE risk controls are in place)							
Hazard/Risk	What could go wrong?	Area of Impact	Consequence	Likelihood	Risk Ranking	Risk Controls	Responsibility
Self-Injury – During Underhand & Standing Block Events.	An axeman may injure themselves during an event.	Participant	Minor - Moderate	Possible	6 – 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Axemen are required to keep axes covered at all times, with the exception of the axe being used during set up and the event. Axemen are required to comply with the safety rules contained in the <i>Australian Axemen's Association Competition Rules & Code of Conduct</i> booklet and the ring steward's instructions. Axemen are responsible for setting up their own log securely. Axemen are required to ensure axes are safely handled at all times. Axemen are required to step forward when they have cut through the log during the underhand events. Axemen must leave the ring once they have cut through their log during an event. The competing Axemen may return to their log once the Ring Steward has given an "all clear" indication by blowing a whistle. Competing Axemen are only permitted one person to assist them during set up. The Assistant must be a member of a registered wood chopping association. Axemen are only allowed in the ring during the allocated time before/after an event. Axemen must leave the ring when indicated to by the ring steward. The ring steward will indicate this by the blowing of a whistle or asking the Axemen to "clear the ring". An Axeman must immediately stop cutting if their log becomes dislodged from the skid/stand. The committee will ensure a first aid kit is in the wood chopping zone. The committee will ensure that a member with an accredited First Aid Certificate will be on site at all times. 	Axemen The Committee



Australian Axemens Association Inc.

Risk Management Plan

Established 2023 | Next Review August 2025

Hazard/Risk	What could go wrong?	Area of Impact	Consequence	Likelihood	Risk Ranking	Risk Controls	Responsibility
Self-Injury – Tree Pegging Events	An Axeman may injure themselves during a tree pegging event.	Competitor/Assistant	Minor – Moderate	Possible	6 – 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Axemen are required to comply with the safety rules contained in the <i>Australian Axemen’s Association Competition Rules & Code of Conduct</i> booklet, <i>Axemen’s Council of Western Australia Inc By-laws</i>, the <i>Western Australian Axemen’s Association By-laws</i> and the ring steward’s instructions. Axemen are responsible for setting up their own log securely. Axemen are required to ensure axes are safely handled at all times. Axemen are required to keep axes covered at all times, with the exception of the axe being used during set up and the event. Competing Axemen are only permitted one person to assist them during set up and during the event. The Assistant must be a member of a registered wood chopping association. Members assisting competing Axemen during an event must sit a safe distance away from the tree pole. Assistants are only allowed to approach the tree when they are required to remove the first tree board as per the requirements of the event. Axemen are required to have experience in tree pegging before being eligible to compete. The committee will ensure a first aid kit is in the wood chopping zone. The committee will ensure that a member with an accredited First Aid Certificate will be on site at all times. 	Axemen/ Assistant The Committee



Australian Axemens Association Inc.

Risk Management Plan

Established 2023 | Next Review August 2025

Hazard/Risk	What could go wrong?	Area of Impact	Consequence	Likelihood	Risk Ranking	8. Risk Controls	Responsibility
Self-injury – Chainsaw Events <i>Not applicable at all events.</i>	A Sawyer may injure themselves during a chainsaw event.	Competitor	Minor – Major	Possible	6 – 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sawyers are required to comply with the safety rules contained in the <i>Australian Axemen’s Association Competition Rules & Code of Conduct</i> booklet and the ring steward’s instructions. Sawyers are required to ensure chainsaws are safely handled at all times. Sawyers are required to keep chainsaws covered at all times, with the exception of the saw being used during the event or when the chainsaw is being maintained or set up. Sawyers are required to have the relevant and current accredited chainsaw ticket. Sawyers must wear appropriate Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). The committee will ensure a first aid kit is in the wood chopping zone. The committee will ensure that a member with an accredited First Aid Certificate will be on site at all times. 	Axemen The Committee
Self-Injury – Cross-cut Sawing Events <i>Not applicable at all events.</i>	A Sawyer may injure themselves during a cross-cut sawing event.	Competitor	Minor – Moderate	Possible	6 – 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sawyers are required to comply with the safety rules contained in the <i>Australian Axemen’s Association Competition Rules & Code of Conduct</i> booklet and the ring steward’s instructions. Sawyers are required to ensure cross-cut saws are safely handled at all times. Sawyers are required to keep cross-cut saws covered at all times, with the exception of the saw being used during the event or during maintenance or set-up. Sawyers are permitted to have one assistant during the event. The assistant is required to ensure they stand on the rear side of the sawing skid. The assistant is required to have experience or be thoroughly briefed on the safety requirements of the role before the event. The committee will ensure a first aid kit is in the wood chopping zone. The committee will ensure that a member with an accredited First Aid Certificate will be on site at all times. 	Axemen/ Assistant The Committee



Australian Axemens Association Inc.

Risk Management Plan

Established 2023 | Next Review August 2025

Hazard/Risk	What could go wrong?	Area of Impact	Consequence	Likelihood	Risk Ranking	Risk Controls	Responsibility
Injuries to the General Public	Members of the General Public may be injured if they enter the arena or by being hit by wood chips.	Spectators & General Public	Minor – Moderate	Unlikely	4 – 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The arena is fenced off to ensure the general public do not enter the arena. Only authorised personnel are permitted to enter the wood chopping zone. This includes the family members of competing Axemen. The arena has a safety zone a minimum of 3 meters between the skids and the general public to reduce the chance of wood chips injuring spectators. The committee will ensure a first aid kit is in the wood chopping zone. The committee will ensure that a member with an accredited First Aid Certificate will be on site at all times. 	The Committee
Injuries - General	Members of the General Public or wood chopping members may be injured if an axe head comes loose and is propelled into the air.	Spectators/Wood Chopping Members	Minor – Major	Rare	2 – 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All axes are required to have the head pinned for general safety requirements. 	Axemen
Injuries – Authorised personnel in wood chopping zone	Authorised personnel may be injured in the vicinity of the wood chopping zone.	Wood Chopping Members	Minor – Major	Possible	6 – 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only authorised personnel are permitted to enter the wood chopping zone. This includes the family members of competing Axemen. The committee will ensure a first aid kit is in the wood chopping zone. The committee will ensure that a member with an accredited First Aid Certificate will be on site at all times. The arena will have an area (“the members area”) designated for the wood chopping members at a safe distance from the ring. All axes and saws must be safely stored and covered when in the vicinity of the members area. Only authorised people will enter the ring when the all clear is given. The ring steward will check the ring before giving the all clear whistle. 	The Committee Axemen



Australian Axemens Association Inc.

Risk Management Plan

Established 2023 | Next Review August 2025

Hazard/Risk	What could go wrong?	Area of Impact	Consequence	Likelihood	Risk Ranking	Risk Controls	Responsibility
Injuries – Wood Chopping members injured during axe/saw maintenance	Wood chopping members may be injured during the sharpening and maintenance of axes or saws.	Wood Chopping Members	Minor – Major	Possible	6 – 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Axemen are required to maintain/sharpen axes/saws in the arena, practice area or change rooms (if applicable). Axemen are required to ensure that the axes/saws are appropriately stored and covered when not in use. 	Axemen
Self-Injury – Junior/Novice Axemen	A junior or novice axeman may be injured during an event.	Junior/Novice Axemen	Minor – Major	Possible	6 – 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The committee will ensure a first aid kit is in the wood chopping zone. The committee will ensure that a member with an accredited First Aid Certificate will be on site at all times. Junior Axemen are required to have a responsible parent or guardian over the age of 18 during the event. Junior & Novice Axemen are required to be coached by an experienced Axeman who will vouch for their ability to compete safely prior to nominating for an event. Juniors are required to wear chainmesh socks when competing. 	The Committee Junior Axemen's Guardians Axemen
Injuries – Volunteers	A volunteer may be injured during an event or clean up.	Volunteers	Minor – Major	Unlikely	4 – 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The committee will ensure a first aid kit is in the wood chopping zone. The committee will ensure that a member with an accredited First Aid Certificate will be on site at all times. The committee will brief all new volunteers on the OH&S requirements before the chop commences. 	The Committee
Heavy Machinery used during preparation and clean up <i>Not applicable at all events.</i>	An injury may be caused by the use of heavy machinery during clean up	Wood Chopping Members	Moderate – Major	Rare	3 – 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All operators of heavy machinery must hold a valid operating ticket for the heavy machine in use. While heavy machinery is in use a spotter will be used. 	Heavy Machinery Operator



Australian Axemens Association Inc.

Risk Management Plan

Established 2023 | Next Review August 2025

Hazard/Risk	What could go wrong?	Area of Impact	Consequence	Likelihood	Risk Ranking	Risk Controls	Responsibility
Injury During Equipment Demonstration	A member of the public or Axeman may be cut when showing a member of the public an axe or saw.	Spectators/ Axeman	Minor – Moderate	Unlikely	4 – 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The committee will ensure a first aid kit is in the wood chopping zone. The committee will ensure that a member with an accredited First Aid Certificate will be on site at all times. The axe/saw is to remain a safe distance inside the arena at all times. The Axeman will ensure that the axe is not touched by a member of the general public. 	The Committee Axeman
Damage to utilities pipe	When the hole for the tree pole is dug or pins for the standing block skids are hammered into the ground it could damage a water or electrical pipe (including reticulation).	Environment/ Event	Moderate	Unlikely	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The event committee will ensure any underground pipes are clearly marked. The standing block pins are short enough to avoid utility pipes. (Approximately 450mm in length) WAAL has standing block skids that use sandbags to weight down the stand to remove the need to have the stand pinned into the ground. 	The Committee Event Committee
Faulty electrical cable	A damaged or faulty electrical cable could result in a person being injured or could cause a fire.	Patrons/ Event	Moderate – Major	Unlikely	6 – 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electrical cords are tested and tagged annually. 	The Committee
Chainsaw Use – General	During the use of a chainsaw the operator or a wood chopping member may be injured by the chainsaw itself or from the wood chips it creates.	Operator/ Wood Chopping Members	Minor – Moderate	Possible	6 – 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The committee will ensure a first aid kit is in the wood chopping zone. The committee will ensure that a member with an accredited First Aid Certificate will be on site at all times. The operator of the chainsaw must have a valid accredited chainsaw ticket. The operator must wear all PPE at all times when using the chainsaw. 	The Committee Operator