**MERIMBULA WATER DRAGONS SWEEP PROTOCOL**

**BOAT SAFETY PROTOCOL ON THE WATER**

1. The Sweep and/or Coach are to nominate the Strokes and organise the seating for the rest of the Paddlers prior to boarding the boat.
2. Once all Paddlers are seated and the boat is floating the Sweep will carry out a final balance of the boat.
3. When the balance is completed the Sweep will ask for a “Number off from the front”. Numbering will start from the Drummer or left side Stroke to the right side Stroke and then so on down the boat with the Sweep been the last to number off. All paddlers should know how many people are on the boat
4. After balancing and numbering off have been completed the Sweep will go through the safety procedure, which will be read out as follows:

“In the unlikely event of a capsize or rollover your first responsibility will be your buddy paddler (paddler seated along side you). Row 1 is buddy to the Drummer and row 10 is buddy to the Sweep. Numbering off will start from the Paddler on the left in the last row and continue down the left side of the boat and then up the right hand side of the boat with the Sweep being the last. Paddlers must stay with the boat at all times and don’t go looking for paddles or personal gear and wait for further instructions from the Sweep”.

1. The Sweep has total responsibility for all Paddlers and the boat and can override the Coach who is the person that controls the training session.