

Pre Season Information Pack 2011

"There is nothing new except what has been forgotten"
Marie Antoinette



AUSTRALIAN LIFESAVING
ACADEMY
NEW SOUTH WALES



SURF LIFE SAVING
NEW SOUTH WALES

Introduction

Surf Life Saving NSW (SLSNSW) is obligated under Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA) policy to ensure that all active lifesaving personnel complete an annual proficiency test under the direction of an SLSNSW Assessor. This is to prove competency in the lifesaving award/s they hold and wish to remain current in. Proficiency tests are necessary to:

- Ensure ongoing competency of members in their area of training and activities
- Maintain the standards of knowledge and expertise of surf life savers
- Satisfy legal and statutory requirements
- Reinforce and maintain our service commitment to the bathing and beach going community

A member's proficiency is valid until the **31st December each year** unless stated otherwise in SurfGuard or via Circular. For example, Trainer and Assessor awards have a two year proficiency requirement. This is clearly stated in Policy 5.4:

“1.1 Members who are not proficient as at December 31st are not permitted to patrol, or compete in any SLSA competition, until they have obtained the required proficiency.”

This means that any member who is not proficient by the 31st December, or has not completed appropriate awards shall not be allowed to:

- Perform patrols
- Operate rescue craft or
- Compete in surf life saving competitions

In addition, the National Education Committee resolved in November 2010 that if a member remains non-proficient in any award for a period of three continuous years or more, then they are required to either sit an in-depth proficiency, a full assessment, or be retrained in order to be considered proficient in the award. In these situations the Trainer or Assessor must conduct a gap analysis to determine what differences occur between the award as it currently stands and what skill and knowledge the award consisted of at the time the member was last proficient. If the gap analysis determines there is a gap in skill and/or knowledge, the candidate may be required to undertake training and assessment in the gap(s) identified. For example – a member may have obtained their Bronze Medallion when the use of oxygen therapy was not taught therefore the member would have to be trained and assessed in this skill and knowledge.

Proficiency tests may be conducted after 31st December under the requirements/approval of the SLSNSW/Branch. Any member completing their proficiency after 31st January each season shall be eligible to patrol but shall not be permitted to participate in any SLSA Championship competition until 1 May later in that year. For further information on proficiency requirements relating to competition, please refer to SLSA Policy 5.4.

When a proficiency check is successfully completed, or a member gains a relevant award after 30th June in a particular year, the proficiency or qualification is current until 31st December in the following season.

Branch Directors of Lifesaving may include additional checks in cases where there is doubt of a member's proficiency in aspects of another award.

A member may be requested to complete an additional proficiency check by their Club, Branch or SLSNSW delegate. A member who fails a proficiency check at anytime during the season is deemed to be non-proficient until such times as another proficiency check is completed successfully. Further, this member cannot participate in patrol activities or compete at carnivals until the proficiency check has been completed successfully.

A member's proficiency must be entered into Surfguard by 7th January.

Changes this season

Several changes have been made to the National Proficiency requirements in line with SLSA Award Changes. The main changes this year include:

- IRB awareness has been added to the Bronze Medallion proficiency test this season.
- ATV Induction can no longer be issued. Holders should already have been upgraded to the ATV Operators Award in Surfguard.
- ARC and Defibrillation awards can no longer be issued. Holders should already have been upgraded to the ARTC Award.
- As from 1st June 2011, all CPR is to be conducted according to the new CPR protocols, and this should be reflected in all proficiencies that include CPR. Refer to SLSA Circular 62/2010-2011; "Changes to CPR following Australian Resuscitation Council Guideline Changes" dated 24th Feb 2011 for more information.

The following document details the **requirements set for all clubs and branches within NSW** by the NSW Director of Lifesaving in accordance with SLSA minimum requirements.

All the best for a safe upcoming season.



John Restuccia

**Director of Lifesaving
Surf Life Saving NSW**



Michael Bretherton

**Director of Education
Surf Life Saving NSW**

Specific Award Proficiencies



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AQUATIC RESCUE AWARDS

Surf Rescue Certificate

The proficiency test for the Surf Rescue Certificate for the 2011/12 season will be:

1. Run Swim Run (timed)
 - 100m Run / 100m Swim / 100m Run in 5 minutes or less
2. Resuscitation (CPR)
 - A patient assessment on a live patient and demonstration of lateral position.
 - CPR, 1 and 2 people (adult or child or infant) on a manikin. To include resuscitation using a mask with oxygen supplement.*
3. Signals – 10 correct
 - Demonstrate 10 correct signals as determined by the Assessor conducting the proficiency.
4. Rescue (1 of either Board or Tube)

Surf Rescue Certificate and Bronze Medallion holders must demonstrate a rescue, using either a rescue tube or a rescue board, according to SLSA operating procedures in the current Public Safety and Aquatic Rescue Training Manual (33rd Edition). The rescue must consist of the following events being assessed:

 - ✓ Negotiating the surf zone
 - ✓ Securing the patient
 - ✓ Returning to shore with the patient
 - ✓ Calling for assistance

The Assessor may request the candidate to conduct a patient assessment on the beach. The member may choose the rescue equipment and can use flippers during the tube rescue.

***Note:** As from 1st June 2011, all CPR is to be conducted according to the new CPR protocols, and this should be reflected in all proficiencies that include CPR. Refer to circular 62/2010-2011; "Changes to CPR following Australian Resuscitation Council Guideline changes" dated 24 Feb 2011 for more information. National resources have been updated to reflect the new protocols, and these should be referred to including:

- National CPR poster
- Public Safety and Aquatic Rescue Manual 33rd edition. All manuals sold after 1 June 2011 will include an insert with updated information. This insert can also be downloaded as a separate PDF from www.slsa.com.au

Bronze Medallion

The proficiency test for the Bronze Medallion for the 2011/12 season will be:

1. Run Swim Run
 - 200m Run / 200m Swim / 200m Run to be completed in 8 minutes or less
2. Resuscitation (CPR) with oxygen and defibrillation
 - A patient assessment on a live patient and demonstration of lateral position.
 - CPR, 1 and 2 people (adult or child or infant) on a manikin. To include resuscitation using a mask with oxygen and defibrillation supplement.*

3. Signals

- Demonstrate 10 correct signals as determined by the Assessor conducting the proficiency.

4. Rescue (1 of either Board or Tube)

Bronze Medallion holder must demonstrate a rescue, using either a rescue tube or a rescue board, according to SLSA operating procedures in the current Public Safety and Aquatic Rescue Training Manual (33rd Edition). The rescue must consist of the following events being assessed:

- ✓ Negotiating the surf zone
- ✓ Securing the patient
- ✓ Returning to shore with the patient
- ✓ Calling for assistance

The Assessor may request the candidate to conduct a patient assessment on the beach. The member may choose the rescue equipment and can use flippers during the tube rescue.

5. Radio

At least three questions on the use of radio must be asked to each candidate. This may include pre operation checks; knowledge of local operating channels and uses; operating procedures; call signs; rescue techniques etc.

6. IRB Awareness

Each candidate must be asked a minimum of three questions related to safety around IRBs and assisting in the removal of patients from an IRB.

***Note:** As from 1st June 2011, all CPR is to be conducted according to the new CPR protocols, and this should be reflected in all proficiencies that include CPR. Refer to circular 62/2010-2011; "Changes to CPR following Australian Resuscitation Council Guideline changes" dated 24 Feb 2011 for more information. National resources have been updated to reflect the new protocols, and these should be referred to including:

- National CPR poster
 - Public Safety and Aquatic Rescue Manual 33rd edition. All manuals sold after 1 June 2011 will include an insert with updated information. This insert can also be downloaded as a separate PDF from www.slsa.com.au
- Providing water safety for Bronze Medallion proficiencies or other Surf Lifesaving events is not permitted as a proficiency.
 - All members must complete all sections under the supervision of an endorsed SLSNSW Assessor.
 - Run and swim distances for the Surf Rescue Certificate and Bronze Medallion:
 - Be taken from waist deep water, e.g. the run is from a flag, around a marker and to waist deep water, the swim is from waist deep water around two swimming buoys and back to waist deep water
 - Course must be around two swimming buoys

Gold Medallion

The Gold Medallion is only to be assessed by an Assessor appointed on an annual basis by the Branch Director of Lifesaving (or equivalent). Assessors who are appointed must be noted in the Branch minutes annually and the SLSNSW Education Manager advised.

A member must be proficient in ALL of the following awards.

- Advanced Resuscitation Techniques Certificate
- Apply (Senior) First Aid
- Spinal Management

If any of these award proficiencies lapse during the season, even after successful completion of the Gold Medallion, then the member will become non-proficient in the Gold Medallion.

The proficiency test for the Gold Medallion for the 2011/12 season will be:

1. Pool Swim

The member must complete an 800m pool swim in 14 minutes or less in a swimming pool of not less than 25 metres. The pool swim must be completed before any other component of a Gold Medallion proficiency.

2. Mission Test

- The distance will be 400m swim, 800m run, 400m board paddle, and 800m run
- The time will be 25 minutes or less
- The run distance to be taken from waist deep water, e.g. the run is from a flag, around a marker and to waist deep water, the aquatic components are from waist deep water around two swimming buoys and back to waist deep water
- Aquatic course must be around two swimming buoys

3. Rescue

Gold Medallion holder must demonstrate being able to conduct a board and tube rescue according to SLSA operating procedures in the current Public Safety and Aquatic Rescue Training Manual.

- Tube Rescue
Complete a tube rescue of a patient 100 metres out to sea and return. Member may use flippers during this rescue
- Board Rescue
Complete a board rescue of a patient 200 metres out to sea and return.

4. Complex Rescue Scenario (may be included as part of the rescue section above)

Gold Medallion holder must demonstrate being able to conduct a complex rescue scenario as set by the Assessor according to the SLSA operational procedures in the current Public Safety and Aquatic Rescue Training Manual.

The rescue must consist of the following events being assessed:

- Negotiating the surf zone
- Securing the patient
- Returning to shore without losing the patient
- Calling for assistance
- Performing emergency care as required by the patient

EMERGENCY CARE AWARDS

Resuscitation Certificate

Award holders must successfully complete a proficiency check, showing their competence in resuscitation techniques including:

1. A patient assessment on a live patient and demonstration of lateral position
2. DRABCD, CPR 1 and 2 person (adult or child or infant) on a manikin – to include resuscitation methods using a mask. *

***Note:** As from June 1 2011, all CPR is to be conducted according to the new CPR protocols, and this should be reflected in all proficiencies that include CPR. Refer to circular 62/2010-2011; “Changes to CPR following Australian Resuscitation Council Guideline changes” dated 24 Feb 2011 for more information. National resources have been updated to reflect the new protocols, and these should be referred to, including:

- National CPR poster
- Public Safety and Aquatic Rescue Manual 33rd edition. All manuals sold after 1 June 2011 will include an insert with updated information. This insert can also be downloaded as a separate PDF from www.slsa.com.au

Awards involving resuscitation are to be assessed annually. Once proficiency is achieved, resuscitation in other award proficiencies is not required.

Even if a member has been deemed proficient in resuscitation, they must still demonstrate proficiency in conducting resuscitation in conjunction with equipment associated with the award being assessed. i.e. Advanced Resuscitation Techniques Certificate.

Advanced Resuscitation Techniques Certificate (ARTC)

The Proficiency Test for ARTC for the 2011/12 season will include:

1. Resuscitation
 - A patient assessment on a live patient and demonstration of lateral position
 - DRSABCD, CRP 1 and 2 person (adult or child or infant) on a manikin – to include resuscitation methods using a mask.*
2. Oxy Viva Operation
 - Use of air bag resuscitator on conscious/unconscious patient(s) during resuscitation scenario, e.g. therapy and resuscitation.
3. Oropharyngeal Airways
 - Correct measurement and insertion of an Oropharyngeal Airway (on a manikin where possible).
 - Candidates must have an understanding of when and why an airway is introduced into resuscitation.
4. Defibrillation
 - Demonstrating knowledge and skill in safety precautions associated with using a Defibrillator.
 - Simulated use of defibrillator on a manikin as part of a resuscitation scenario.
5. Suction
 - The use of hand held suction apparatus for the removal of fluids from the mouth.

***Note:** As from June 1 2011, all CPR is to be conducted according to the new CPR protocols, and this should be reflected in all proficiencies that include CPR. Refer to circular 62/2010-2011; "Changes to CPR following Australian Resuscitation Council Guideline changes" dated 24 Feb 2011 for more information. National resources have been updated to reflect the new protocols, and these should be referred to, including:

- National CPR poster
- Public Safety and Aquatic Rescue Manual 33rd edition. All manuals sold after 1 June 2011 will include an insert with updated information. This insert can also be downloaded as a separate PDF from www.slsa.com.au

Remember: If a member has already completed an award that required Resuscitation to be assessed i.e. Bronze medallion, they are considered to be proficient in that section of this award.

A member may complete their Resuscitation Certificate proficiency as part of their ARTC proficiency, if not already assessed in another award.

Spinal Management Certificate

All Spinal Management holders must have successfully completed the following proficiency checks:

1. Demonstrating placing a patient on a spinal board in a surf environment and on land.
 - This may require multiple scenarios to enable each person to demonstrate competence.
2. Application of cervical collar on a patient
 - This may occur during the above scenarios clearly identifying how to correctly measure and apply a cervical collar

Note: The use of head blocks is no longer part of SLS spinal protocols and will no longer be included in assessment or proficiencies for this award.

Silver Medallion – Advanced Emergency Care

Introduction of the proposed new Silver Medallion Advanced First Aid has been postponed to allow a detailed trial of the new award to occur during the 2011/2012 season. Information about the new award, transition arrangements and upgrading will be available in 2012.

To remain proficient in the Silver Medallion – Advanced Emergency Care this season, a member must be proficient in:

1. Advanced Resuscitation Techniques Certificate AND
2. Apply (Senior) First Aid certificate AND
3. Spinal Management

Pain Management

Proficiencies for this award will be required at a minimum every two years. Items included in the proficiency will include:

1. Demonstration of set up and simulated use
2. Knowledge of local security and state documentation requirements.

POWERCRAFT AWARDS

One of the requirements from the National IRB Review was for all IRB Crew and Drivers to undergo an in-depth proficiency prior to the start of the season. For further information on the review, please refer to the *IRB Agenda* on the SLSA website.

The aim of an in-depth proficiency is to ensure that all IRB drivers and crew are competent in the full range of IRB skills. It will also allow assessors to identify those candidates that need further training to improve their competency and allow trainers to demonstrate the 'lock-in' position.

It is recommended that there are two assessors per ten candidates being assessed at the same time. The proficiency should be held in surf conditions of minimum 1m breaking waves. Standard patrol IRB equipment and safety signage is required for the proficiency.

IRB In-Depth Proficiency

Proficiency activities: To be eligible for proficiency the candidate must demonstrate competency in all of the following activities:

Both IRB driver and crew	IRB Driver only
Correct set up of an IRB	Turn IRB effectively (including left, right and figure 8 turns)
Safe manual handling techniques	Parallel run
Safe and correct boarding and launching of an IRB	Solo driving
Negotiate conditions safely	
Use and respond to IRB signals	
Communicate effectively with driver/crew	
Perform rescue adequately	
Safely beach IRB	
Understands search and rescue operations	

RWC Operator

The proficiency of this award may be assessed in numerous ways such as through the use of log books and club/service powercraft officer recommendation.

In general RWC Drivers must successfully demonstrate their competence in current RWC driving techniques such as:

1. Knowledge on safety and the SLSA Powercraft Code of Conduct.
2. Demonstrated ability to apply safe driving practice and the ability including but not limited to:
 - Parallel running
 - Figures eight
 - Response to signals
 - Negotiation of surf as required.
3. Other driving skills to be deemed as competent.
 - Demonstrate ability to conduct a patient rescue.
 - Demonstrate ability to carry out a patient lift, exit, carry, lay and assess.

RWC Operators they must also be able to reboard the craft from deep water.

Specialist Powercraft Awards (JRB/ORB)

Proficiencies for specialist groups shall be determined by the individual group and as approved by the relevant Branch Director of Lifesaving. Options provided for in the IRB/RWC should be considered.

ATV Operators

ATV Operators must hold a current, valid state driver's license. A member who loses their state driver's license (whether through cancellation or suspension) is considered to be non-proficient in this award. Once the member's state driver's license is reinstated, they are then required to resit the ATV Operator proficiency.

Clubs should also conduct a proficiency check consisting of:

1. Pre/post operational checks
2. Driving assessment with oral questioning on safety precautions etc
3. The new ATV Operators Award Workbook should be provided to operators for reference and may be used as a tool to assist with proficiency checking.

BEACH MANAGEMENT AWARDS

Silver Medallion (Patrol Captain) OR Silver Medallion (Basic Beach Management)

- No proficiency is required for these awards. Proficiency is required in the pre-requisites for the awards to remain current.
- Members who hold the SM Patrol Captain award should complete the upgrade paper to SM Basic Beach Management. This upgrade paper can be found on the SLSNSW website.

RADIO AWARDS

Radio Operators Certificate

For those who hold the stand alone Radio Operators Certificate (i.e. who do not have their BM/CERTII), at least three questions on the use of radio must be asked of each candidate. This may include pre operation checks, knowledge of local operating channels and uses; operating procedures, call signs, rescue techniques etc. For those who use this award as part of their operation within a SurfCom, additional assessment may be included at a local level.

Junior Assessment, Awards & Competition Requirements



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U/8 to U/14 Membership

Age groups remain a minimum age of 7 years (U/8) up to a maximum age of 13 years (U/14) on a seasonal basis.

The age group for the season is determined as at midnight on the 30th September at the commencement of that season (33rd Edition, Surf Sports Manual).

Listed below are the age groups members will be in for the 2011/12 season if they are born between the following dates.

1 st October 1997 to 30 th September 1998	U/14
1 st October 1998 to 30 th September 1999	U/13
1 st October 1999 to 30 th September 2000	U/12
1 st October 2000 to 30 th September 2001	U/11
1 st October 2001 to 30 th September 2002	U/10
1 st October 2002 to 30 th September 2003	U/9
1 st October 2003 to 30 th September 2004	U/8

Please note: Proof of age/birth certificate must be shown for all new children joining a Surf Club or for any child that has not produced a birth certificate.

U/6 and U/7 Membership

U/6 and U/7 members may participate in activities on an **educational basis only**. Clubs are not compelled to run activities for these age groups. It is entirely up to the individual Club; however, children in these age groups may not compete in any point score/ championship events.

A child may join a Club as soon as he/she turns 5 years of age. **No Club is to accept membership of a child until they have reached the age of five years to comply with insurance requirements.** A child who reaches five years of age after 30th September 2011 may join Nippers at that time; however, this child will be required to stay in the U/6 Nippers age group the following season. It is the clubs responsibility to explain to the parents of each child that if a child reaches the age of five years after 30th September 2011, they may join Nippers for the remainder of the 2011/12 season, however will remain in the U/6 Nipper group in the 2012/13 season.

Listed below are the age groups members will be in for the 2010/11 season if they are born between the following dates:

1 st October 2004 to 30 th September 2005	U/7
1 st October 2005 to 30 th September 2006	U/6

Junior/Nipper Evaluations (Proficiencies)

The Junior Activities/Nippers Preliminary Skills Evaluation and the Junior Activities/Nippers Competition Skills Evaluation may be assessed by a SLS Official (*see table for qualifications*).

SLSNSW recommends a proficient SLSA Bronze/SRC Assessor is in attendance to supervise the evaluation. This is to ensure safety protocols and correct procedures are followed and to sign off the activity.

- **Junior Activities/Nippers Preliminary Skills Evaluation**
Every junior member is required to participate in this evaluation, conducted by the club, prior to any junior activity being undertaken each season (1st July to 30th June).
- **Junior Activities/Nippers Competition Skills Evaluation (Open Water Swim)**
 - The competition skills evaluation (open water swim) must be achieved before members are eligible to compete in any event.
 - The open water swim replicates the junior swim distances specified in the 33rd edition of the Surf Sports Manual
 - This is a minimum standard proficiency requirement.
 - Internal club competition is exempt from the competition skills evaluation

NOTE: U/14 members who have successfully completed the SRC award or SRC proficiency after 1st July 2011 and prior to commencing Junior Activities/Nippers for the 2011/12 season are not required to complete the Junior Activities/Nippers Preliminary Skills Evaluation or the Junior Activities/Nippers Competition Skills Evaluation.

All Junior Awards are to be recorded on SurfGuard. For more information on this process visit – <http://www.slsa.com.au/site/content/resource/00001715-docsource.pdf>

** NOTE: Clubs are able to go over and above the minimum standards set in this document, but are not able to drop below these standards.

Recording Junior Evaluations / Proficiencies

Junior Evaluations / Proficiencies can be completed on the Surf Life Saving NSW Proficiency Test Work Card. The card for the 2011/12 season is LAVENDER and is enclosed as part of this pack.

or

Junior Evaluations / Proficiencies can also be completed by creating spreadsheet from SurfGuard of current, financial Nipper members. This spreadsheet needs to mirror the information requirements on the Lavender cards. This spreadsheet must be signed in hard copy to satisfy the SLSNSW proficiency requirements.

Junior Awards

The Junior Development Program (Surf Education) is an integral part of our Junior Activities Program and must be completed by all participants in Junior Activities every season.

This program is based on clearly defined outcome statements and reflects an exciting change in children's lifesaving development. The requirements of the award are in no way linked with the Junior Participation Skill Evaluation and/or the Junior Competition Skill Evaluation.

All members are required to gain their respective Surf Education award for their age group every season prior to 31st December. These awards are to be entered into SurfGuard by the 7th of January.

All Junior Awards are to be recorded on SurfGuard. For more information on this process visit – <http://www.slsa.com.au/site/content/resource/00001715-docsource.pdf>

Junior / Nippers Preliminary Skills Assessment

	Preliminary Skills Evaluation	Competition Skills Evaluation	Surf Education
Under 6	Nil (shallow water activities only)	Nil (no competition)	Surf Play One
Under 7	Nil (shallow water activities only)	Nil (no competition)	Surf Play Two
Under 8	25 metre swim (any stroke) 1 minute survival float	Nil (no water competition, except for wade which takes place in waist deep water)	Surf Aware One
Under 9	25 metre swim (any stroke) 1 minute survival float	Minimum 150m open water swim (competition course as per competition manual)	Surf Aware Two
Under 10	25 metre swim (freestyle) 1.5 minute survival float	Minimum 150m open water swim (competition course as per competition manual)	Surf Safe One
Under 11	50 metre swim (freestyle) 2 minute survival float	Minimum 200m open water swim (competition course as per competition manual)	Surf Safe Two
Under 12	100 metre swim (freestyle) 2 minute survival float	Minimum 200m open water swim (competition course as per competition manual)	Surf Smart One
Under 13	150 metre swim (freestyle) 3 minute survival float	Minimum 200m open water swim (competition course as per competition manual)	Surf Smart Two
Under 14	200 metre swim (freestyle, in less than 5 minutes) 3 minute survival float	Minimum 200m open water swim (competition course as per competition manual)	SRC *
Assessors	Age Manager Level 1 SLSA Coach Level 1 SLSA Official Training Officer (SRC/Bronze) Assessor (SRC/Bronze) (* Assessment of SRC can only be completed by an approved Assessor)		
Notes	Every junior member is required to participate in this evaluation, conducted by the club, prior to any junior activity being undertaken.	The competition evaluation must be achieved before being eligible to compete. This is a minimum standard water proficiency requirement.	The relevant age Surf Education award must be completed each year prior to 31 st December.

Junior / Nipper Competition

To be eligible to compete, a junior member must have completed the Junior Activities/Nippers Preliminary Skills Evaluation and the Junior Activities/Nippers Competition Skills Evaluation. This is for competition outside of club competition, such as Sunday nipper club races and club championships.

To be eligible to compete at a championship event they also need to have achieved the appropriate surf education award for their age by 31st December.

Any member who has not completed these requirements by the 31st December who seeks to compete must apply in writing to the State Director of Lifesaving clearly identifying reasons for not completing requirements by 31st December.

Water Safety Requirements

SLSA have recently reviewed and updated SLSA Policy 1.1 Junior Activities and Water Safety, which has been re-named 1.1 Water Safety. The policy has been updated to satisfy the need for an all encompassing water safety policy that considers ALL SLS members, and also non members that participate in SLS activities. This policy provides clubs and services with clear instructions on standard operating procedures, minimum standards and standard risk assessment management process. The updated water safety policy is enforceable from the start of the 2011/12 lifesaving season.

The key principles of the policy are:

1. Water safety is to be provided for all SLS aquatic activities.
2. Each activity is to have an appointed water safety supervisor (a leader in the group to oversee safety of all participants)
3. Water safety supervisors must complete a risk assessment process and record the outcome before the event starts (an example form is provided in the policy or your State may have one available)
4. Minimum ratios: [Water safety personnel: participants in the water]
1:5 for groups of unqualified participants (with low/medium risk) and 1:4 for high risk
1:12 for groups of qualified participants (SRC/BM qualified).
5. Follow standard operating procedures relating to use of rescue equipment, uniforms and beach patrols.

This policy is also available on the SLSA website, and a 'frequently asked questions' section has been included in SLSA circular 12/2011-12 to assist clubs and services with the implementation of the new policy standards and operating procedures.

SLSA Policy Statement

No: 1.1
Name: Water Safety

INTRODUCTION

All Surf Life Saving affiliated organisations have a duty of care towards those participating in a sanctioned surf lifesaving aquatic activity.

This policy sets out the risk management procedures and minimum requirements for the provision of water safety for surf lifesaving aquatic activities.

DEFINITIONS

Unqualified participant: An activity participant who does not hold an award in surf rescue (SLSA Surf Rescue Certificate or Bronze Medallion/Certificate II Public Safety – Aquatic Rescue or recognised international equivalent). For example: Bronze Medallion candidates in training and junior members.

Qualified participant: An activity participant who holds an award in surf rescue (SLSA Surf Rescue Certificate or Bronze Medallion/Certificate II Public Safety – Aquatic Rescue or recognised international equivalent).

Water safety: The use of human resources and rescue equipment in aquatic environments to provide a level of safety to activity participants.

Water safety supervisor: A qualified and proficient lifesaver (holding the SLSA Bronze Medallion - Certificate II Public Safety and Aquatic Rescue) with a leadership role within the team of water safety personnel. A water safety supervisor must be 18 years of age or above.

Water safety personnel: Qualified and proficient lifesavers (holding a SLSA Surf Rescue Certificate or SLSA Bronze Medallion - Certificate II Public Safety and Aquatic Rescue) who provide water safety for the activities listed above. Water safety personnel act under the leadership of the water safety supervisor.

Activity leader: A person who exercises control over an activity. Activity leaders must be suitably qualified for the activity they are responsible for. Activity leaders can include accredited Age Managers for junior activities and Training Officers for lifesaving educational activities. The role of activity leader and water safety supervisor may be combined.

SLS sanctioned aquatic activities: An activity that has been endorsed or approved by the relevant/managing organisation. This usually involves the activity being discussed and noted at organisation committee meetings or is a regularly occurring activity on an organisational calendar/diary.

Risk assessment: Is the process of analysing the potential risk of injury or illness from exposure to hazards.

Risk management: The process of recognising situations that have the potential to cause harm to people or property, and the act of doing something to prevent the hazardous situation occurring or the person being harmed.

IRB: Inflatable Rescue Boat

RWC: Rescue Water Craft, commonly referred to as a Jet Ski.

1. WATER SAFETY POLICY

1.1 Surf Life Saving Australia and affiliated State/Territory Centres, Branches, Clubs and Services are required to provide water safety to participants engaging in sanctioned surf lifesaving aquatic activities. These activities include:

- Lifesaving activities for SLS members
- Lifesaving educational activities for non-SLS members
- Junior activities

1.2 All aquatic activities must have an appointed water safety supervisor.

1.3 Prior to the commencement of all aquatic activities, the water safety supervisor must conduct the following:

1.3.1 Conduct a risk assessment to determine if the activity is safe to be conducted;

1.3.2 Adhere to the minimum supervision ratios AND standard operating procedures outlined in this policy;

1.3.3 Employ a risk management strategy if the risk assessment determines any risks that may prevent the safe running of the event.

1.4 In the case where a coastal aquatic activity is run by an external organisation (non-SLS affiliated/sanctioned) and a SLS affiliated club/service is providing the water safety, the Guidelines for Safer Surf Clubs Volume 4 is to be consulted with the event management team. An example is an ocean swim run by a local community organisation and the local surf club has been asked to provide water safety.

1.5 Activity leaders/water safety supervisors who identify reasonable need to deviate from this policy must present an alternative detailed risk assessment and management process and receive written permission from their respective state/territory director of lifesaving.

2. RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

Risk assessment is an important process in determining the adequate level of water safety in relation to the type of activity, beach and weather conditions and hazards, participant ability and age.

Standard risk assessment and management process:

- i. Water safety supervisors are required to undertake a standard risk assessment process prior to the commencement of the aquatic activity and employ risk mitigation strategies to any identified risks (example form included in policy).
- ii. The risk management process must be documented. The water safety supervisor must record and if necessary provide evidence of the outcome/result.
- iii. If the level of risk changes, the risk management and documentation process requires the water safety supervisor to implement risk mitigation strategies and record the change in outcome/result.
- iv. Records of the risk management process outcome/result must be kept on file with the relevant organisation for future reference.

Comprehensive risk assessment and management tools:

Where an activity or situation calls for a more detailed risk assessment and management (E.g. where moderate or high risk has been identified) water safety supervisors are advised to consult the SLSA Guidelines for Safer Surf Clubs volume 4. This is available on the SLSA website.

3. SUPERVISION RATIOS

The following are the minimum standards for the provision of water safety - [Water safety personnel: participants in the water]

SKILL LEVEL	RISK ASSESSMENT		
	Low risk assessed	Moderate risk assessed	High risk assessed
UNQUALIFIED PARTICIPANTS	1:5	1:4	Activity to be cancelled
QUALIFIED PARTICIPANTS (SRC/BM Holders)	1:12	1:12	Activity to be cancelled

- NB:**
- The activity's level of risk will be determined once the water safety supervisor has completed the risk assessment and management form.
 - Where unqualified participants are engaging in an activity with qualified participants, the minimum standards ratio for unqualified participants must be adhered to.
 - For small groups (with less than 5 (unqualified) and 12 (qualified) participants), a water safety supervisor must still be appointed and take responsibility for the risk assessment and management process. However, additional water safety personnel do not need to be appointed.

4. STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

4.1 Activities during patrol hours

- When activities are being conducted during patrolled hours, the beach patrol captain/lifeguard on duty will oversee all aquatic activities. He/she has the right to cancel activities if the conditions are deemed unsuitable or hazardous.
- The beach patrol captain/lifeguard, in consultation with the water safety supervisor, is to decide the most appropriate area of the beach to be used for the activities.
- The beach patrol captain/lifeguard, in consultation with the water safety supervisor, is to ensure that there are sufficient numbers of water safety personnel for the activity.

4.2 Activities outside patrol hours

- When activities are being conducted outside patrolled hours, the water safety supervisor is responsible for all water safety for the activity. He/she has the right to cancel activities if the conditions are deemed unsuitable or hazardous.
- The water safety supervisor is to decide the most appropriate area of the beach to be used for the activity.
- The water safety supervisor is to ensure that there are sufficient numbers of water safety personnel for the activity.

4.3 Roles and Responsibilities of the water safety supervisor

The water safety supervisor must ensure:

- i. A risk assessment has been completed and the minimum supervision ratios and requirements met.
- ii. Before commencement of the activity, they have ensured water safety personnel are:
 - Suitably qualified and competent for the conditions.
 - Briefed water safety personnel on the conditions likely to be encountered during the activity.
 - In good health and that they have been requested to inform the water safety supervisor of any pre-existing ailments that may impact on their participation.
- iii. Before commencement of the activity, they have ensured participants:
 - Have appropriate swimming and self survival skills for the activity and the prevailing conditions.
 - Are in good health and that they have been requested to inform the water safety supervisor of any pre-existing ailments that may impact on their participation.
- iv. The correct rescue equipment and/or patrol is available.
- v. Ensure that water safety personnel are qualified for their role. Please refer to the definitions on the front page of this policy for the minimum award criteria for water safety supervisors and personnel.

NB: Where water safety supervisors and personnel are using rescue equipment that requires a specific award, they must be a proficient operator (e.g. IRB Driver, IRB Crew, RWC Operator).

- vi. If also an active water safety personnel, they carry out search and rescues in line with their SLS training.

4.4 Roles and Responsibilities of the water safety personnel

Water safety personnel must ensure:

- i. The act in accordance with the water safety supervisor's directions.
- ii. Carry out search and rescues in line with their SLS training.
- iii. 100% of minimum required water safety personnel are to be in the water during the activity and using SLSA approved rescue equipment whilst conducting water safety (e.g. rescue board, rescue tube, rescue fins, IRB, RWC). Additional water safety personnel (above the minimum supervision ratios) may be on the beach acting as observers and ready to respond when needed.
- iv. They inform the water safety supervisor of any changes to the activity, environment or participants that may impact the level of risk.

4.5 Rescue Equipment

Rescue equipment used for the purposes of water safety must be equipment from the SLSA approved lifesaving gear and equipment list. This list can be found on the SLSA website.

4.6 Use of power craft

- i. It is highly recommended that an IRB or RWC be used for water safety (where safe and applicable).
- ii. If an IRB is used for water safety, the IRB accounts for 2 members of the water safety ratio (IRB driver and crew). If an RWC is used for water safety, the RWC only accounts for 1 member of the water safety ratio (RWC operator).
- iii. During the activity the IRB and/or RWC must be patrolling the course.
- iv. All care must be taken when using powered craft for the purposes of water safety; especially around junior members in the break.

4.7 General

- i. Members of 'on-duty' beach patrols can only be used as water safety personnel when the minimum patrol requirements have been met and at the discretion of the patrol captain.
- ii. The on duty patrol captain/lifeguard cannot also take the position of water safety supervisor.
- iii. In the case where there is only 1 group participating in the activity, the water safety supervisor may be in the water carrying out water safety duties. Where there are multiple groups participating in the activity, the water safety supervisor must remain on the beach, except in the case of an emergency.

4.8 Uniform

- i. Activity participants:
It is recommended that all activity participants be clearly identified with a standardised rash shirt or swimming cap as a means of easy identification.
- ii. Water safety supervisors and personnel:
All water safety supervisors and personnel must be clearly identified with a water safety uniform. This uniform can be either:

Water safety uniform:

- A brightly coloured cap secured under the chin;
 - An **optional** brightly coloured rash shirt branded with 'WATER SAFETY' on the front and back of the shirt.
- NB: Water safety uniforms for an event are to be consistent for easy identification. I.e. all water safety personnel are to be wearing the same colour.

Patrol Uniform:

- SLSA Red and yellow quartered patrol cap; and
- SLSA patrol rash shirt branded with 'SURF RESCUE' on the front and back of the shirt.

NB: 'SURF RESCUE' branded wetsuits and stinger suits may also be worn where appropriate.

Aquatic Activity Risk Assessment and Management Form

ACTIVITY INFORMATION	
Activity type/name:	
Venue/Beach:	
Date:	/ /
Time:	AM / PM
Number of participants:	

RISK ASSESSMENT		
<p>As a minimum, the following factors must be assessed when determining water safety:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Surf conditions ▪ Weather conditions ▪ Skill/competency levels of participant/s ▪ Number of participants ▪ Patrol on duty and rescue equipment available for use ▪ Local knowledge of the beach and area to be used ▪ Other location specific hazards 		
Potential Risk: (Please tick if risk has been identified)	Specific Details:	Comments:
Surf conditions are considered dangerous	✓ / *	Swell <input type="checkbox"/> Wave type <input type="checkbox"/> Water depth <input type="checkbox"/> Tides/Current <input type="checkbox"/>
Weather conditions are considered inclement	✓ / *	Wind <input type="checkbox"/> Temperature <input type="checkbox"/> Storms <input type="checkbox"/>
Skill/competency levels of participant/s is low or unknown for the type of activity	✓ / *	No level of skill/competency <input type="checkbox"/> Limited level of skill/competency <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed level of skill/competency <input type="checkbox"/>
Number of participants is high	✓ / *	>40 <input type="checkbox"/> >60 <input type="checkbox"/> >100 <input type="checkbox"/>
No patrol on duty and/or limited rescue equipment available	✓ / *	No patrol on duty <input type="checkbox"/> Limited access to equipment <input type="checkbox"/>
No/limited knowledge of the beach	✓ / *	No knowledge of beach <input type="checkbox"/>
Other location specific hazards	✓ / *	Stingers <input type="checkbox"/> Exposed rocks <input type="checkbox"/> Jetty/wharf <input type="checkbox"/> Debris <input type="checkbox"/>
TOTAL NUMBER ✓:	/ 7	

RISK RATING	
A risk management plan must be implemented if low, moderate or high risk is identified:	
Key risk factors:	Level of risk:
0-2 ticks apply to the activity	Low risk
3-5 ticks apply to the activity	Moderate risk
6-7 ticks apply to the activity	High risk

MINIMUM RATIOS (Please circle corresponding ratio)	RISK ASSESSMENT (water safety personnel : participants)			
	Low risk is assessed	Moderate risk is assessed	High risk is assessed	N/A
UNQUALIFIED PARTICIPANTS	1:5	1:4	Activity to be cancelled	Participant number is under 5. Only water safety supervisor required.
QUALIFIED PARTICIPANTS (SRC/BM Holders)	1:12	1:12	Activity to be cancelled	Participant number is under 12 Only water safety supervisor required.

RISK MANAGEMENT		
If any of the above points are assessed as risks, the water safety supervisor must employ actions to minimise or eliminate the risk.		
Please tick the action undertaken to minimise risk		Comments:
Increasing the minimum standard ratios	✓ / ✗	
Moving the event to another location that presents less risk	✓ / ✗	
Delaying, postponing or cancelling the event	✓ / ✗	
Ensuring a full patrol is available	✓ / ✗	
Increasing the number of rescue power craft (as appropriate)	✓ / ✗	
Other (Please state)	✓ / ✗	
Other (Please state)	✓ / ✗	

WATER SAFETY SUPERVISOR INFORMATION	
Water Safety Supervisor Name:	
Water Safety Supervisor Signature:	

Proficiency Requirements and Competition



AUSTRALIAN LIFESAVING
ACADEMY
NEW SOUTH WALES



SURF LIFE SAVING
NEW SOUTH WALES

Who May Compete?

Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA) competition is for registered, qualified and proficient members of surf lifesaving clubs who have fulfilled their Club, patrol, financial and other membership obligations.

All members who wish to compete at any SLSA competition must be registered, proficient and carry out required patrol duties, in accordance with the “*Proficiency and Patrol Hour Requirements for Competition Eligibility*” detailed in **SLSA Policy Statement 5.4**.

For further information on “*Proficiency and Patrol Hour Requirements for Competition Eligibility*” please refer to **SLSA Policy Statement 5.4** on the SLSA website – www.slsa.asn.au

Patrol Hour Checking

Branch Officials may carry out checks on patrol hour obligations on any club within their Branch. Surf Life Saving New South Wales may carry out checks or request a Branch to carry out the check on their behalf.

With regard to entries submitted for competition events, it will be the responsibility of the Club Officer completing the declaration on the form to ensure all members nominated are proficient, financial and have completed the patrol obligations required by the club and are entered in SurfGuard.

There will be a random check of patrol logs for one club from each branch prior to the State Championships.

Clubs Attending Carnivals

Clubs attending a surf sports carnival during the patrol season must:

- Ensure that there is a rostered patrol on the beach that meets the patrol obligations agreed to in the Lifesaving Service Agreement; otherwise the club is ineligible to compete.
- Competitors rostered for patrol duty have a substitution, or are ineligible to compete.

Timetable Of When Hours Are To Be carried Out

Patrol hours and minimum strengths are determined annually in consultation with the NSW Director of Lifesaving, Branch Director of Lifesaving and the Club.

Lifesaving Services are expected to patrol on Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays from the Saturday 24 September 2011 to Wednesday 25 April 2012 as per the Lifesaving Service Agreement.

General Lifesaving Updates for Members



SLSNSW Standard Operating Procedures - Lifesaving Services

The Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) for Lifesaving Services is a comprehensive reference document that aligns with the Australian Coastal Public Safety Guidelines and incident management best practice. Club Captains, Patrol Captains, Support Operation Members and Lifeguards need to ensure that they have a comprehensive understanding of the contents that are relevant to their operations and are following these procedures at all times.

All Lifesaving Services need to ensure that they are referencing the most up to date version of the SOP's and a hard copy should be made available to all patrol members.

The Lifesaving SOP's are available at www.surflifesaving.com.au / lifesaving resources.

SLSNSW Minimum Patrol Requirements 2011/2012

A volunteer SLS patrol must consist of the following minimum personnel:

- 3 x Volunteer Bronze Medallion qualified Patrol Members

The following proficient qualifications/awards must be held by the collective patrol members on any patrol day:

- 1 x Current ART/C
- 1 x Current IRB Crew
- 1 x Current IRB Driver
- 1 x Basic Beach Management

Note:

- These awards may be shared between the three patrolling members on patrol.
- The minimum patrol requirements will need to be followed when configuring patrol rosters for the 2011/12 season.
- Clubs/Branches may set further requirements on top of the SLSNSW minimum patrol requirements.

SLS Patrol Uniform

Patrolling lifesavers should be professional and neat in appearance, as to present the best possible image to the community and be easily be identifiable as an on-duty lifesaver.

It is the responsibility of the Club Captain and Patrol Captains to ensure that their patrol members are in correct uniform at all times whilst on patrol. The mandatory SLSA patrol uniform comprises of a:

- red and yellow quartered patrol cap
- Peaked cap or wide brim hat
- Yellow long sleeved shirt
- Red shorts

Note: Rash-shirts. It is highly encouraged that lifesavers wear a SLSA Red/Yellow Rash-shirt when driving/crewing the IRB and/or when wearing a wetsuit (over the top of the wetsuit). When in the IRB, patrol shirts or jackets are not to be worn under any circumstances, unless wearing a lifejacket.

Note: Patrol Jackets: If wearing a jacket on patrol, a red/yellow jacket which meets SLSA brand guidelines can be worn.

The full uniform policy and details can be viewed at www.slsa.com.au and within the SOP's at www.surflifesaving.com.au / lifesaving resources.

Annual Gear and Equipment Inspections

As a minimum, Clubs and Services are required to annually inspect and update the following lifesaving equipment on SurfGuard: Beach Vehicles/ATV's, Rescue Boards, Defibrillators, First Aid Equipment, IRB's, IRB Motors, Oxygen Kits, Radio's, Rescue Tubes and Spinal Equipment.

Branch Gear Inspectors will mark all approved lifesaving equipment with a SLSNSW gear inspections sticker each year. Equipment that is not 'passed by' the Gear Inspectors is to be recorded and must not be used by members on patrol until the equipment has been passed.

For more information refer to SLSNSW Circular 3225 at www.surflifesaving.com.au / Circulars and Memos.

Surf Rescue Vessel Registrations

Under NSW Maritime regulations it is illegal to operate an unregistered vessel. SLSNSW holds a special exemption which allows Clubs/Branches to register their vessels internally (with SLSNSW) – saving considerable workload on members.

Because of the ongoing great work by Clubs/Branches maintaining effective records of vessels on SurfGuard, and the great work being done by Branches each year to check these within Gear and Equipment Inspections, Clubs/Branches will no longer need to complete a vessel registration form for every vessel annually.

What needs to be done?

- **Existing vessels** – Refer to SOP 6.3 “NSW Maritime and SLSNSW” for Annual Registration Procedure in SLSNSW Circular 3120.
- **Existing vessels which are not on SurfGuard** - Complete the SLSNSW Vessel Registration Application Form and return to SLSNSW.
- **New vessels** – Complete the SLSNSW Vessel Registration Application Form and return to SLSNSW.
- **Vessels being sold or disposed of** - Complete the Transfer of Vessel Registration Form and return to SLSNSW.

For more information refer to SLSNSW Circular 3120 at www.surflifesaving.com.au / Circulars and Memos.

Critical Incident Debriefing Resources



At the beginning of last season Surf Life Saving NSW engaged with AccessEAP to provide a free, fast, professional and confidential service to members who have been involved in a critical incident.

All relevant information can be found at www.surflifesaving.com.au / lifesaving resources

SLS Emergency Response System

The SLS Emergency Response System was introduced by SLSNSW in January 2008 to speed up the tasking time of surf rescue resources in an emergency incident along the NSW coastline. This system enables the on duty SLS State Duty Officer to be contacted 24/7 on one contact number.

All Clubs, Branches, Support Operations and Lifeguard Services affiliated with or employed by SLSNSW fall under the SLSNSW Emergency Response System. This system is critical in reducing the drowning rate along the NSW Coastline.

Club/ Service Equipment Preparedness

Clubs and services should ensure that core items of emergency response equipment are set up and ready to respond 24/7, including; IRB (fully set up with a full tank of fuel), ATV, radios, oxygen equipment, defibrillator, rescue tubes, and rescue boards.

Club/Service Callout Teams

Each Club/Service should also identify and form a team of qualified members who may be available to respond (if available) to incidents at their beach outside of patrol hours and/or in support of an on-duty patrol. This team should be made up of appropriately experienced and qualified personnel who are versed in the relevant SLSNSW procedures and any/all branch/club specific plans/procedures.

These details should be provided to your branch annually and when/if any changes are made, so that Branch Duty officers/Emergency Coordinators are able to rapidly task appropriate resources in an emergency. Clubs should also load these contacts onto SurfGuard as a 'mailing group'.

Night Operations

A search and rescue response that occurs after sunset and before sunrise can be referred to as 'night operations'.

The expansion of the Emergency Response System has prompted SLSNSW to develop procedures and guidelines that will minimise the risk to our members when responding at night.

'Night Operations' can be broken down into 'water based operations (with the IRB)' and /or 'land based operations'.

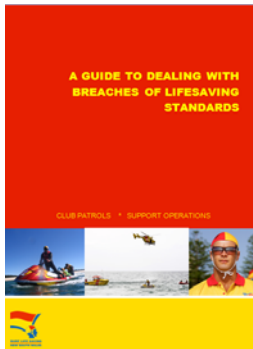
Any Club in New South Wales can participate in night IRB operations if the following is adhered to:

- Club/Service is Branch/State endorsed for night operations.
- The Club/Service holds the minimum required equipment.
- Appropriate members are available and trained in 'Night IRB Operations'.

Clubs interested in becoming night operations capable should contact their Branch Director of Lifesaving and training can be organised.

The Lifesaving SOP can be found on the SLSNSW website as, 'LS 6.9 Night Operations'.

A 'Guide to Dealing with Breaches of Lifesaving Standards'



After Branch consultation the 'Guide to Dealing with Branches of Lifesaving Standards' has been developed to provide a consistent structure/process for Clubs/Branches/SLSNSW to use when dealing with breaches of minimum lifesaving service standards – as they pertain to the SLSNSW 'Lifesaving Service Agreements' and 'Standard Operating Procedures'.

A hard copy has been posted to each club and the document can be accessed at www.surflifesaving.com.au / lifesaving resources.

Incident Report Logs

When an incident is created in the SurfCom Management System, an incident log is created in the IRD/SurfGuard. Clubs still need to go into the IRD/SurfGuard to complete that incident log which has been 'started' by SurfCom. Completion of the IRD by clubs will ensure that the incident is reportable.

Fuel Tax Credit

SLSA has taken advice relating to the Fuel Tax Act 2006 (Commonwealth). Clubs may obtain a tax rebate for fuel used in ATVs, 4WD's, IRBs and other aquatic rescue boats.

The fuel tax credit rate for use in marine transport is currently 38.143 cents per litre. This applies for the fuel used for IRB's, RWC's, ORB's and JRB's. Clubs and services can also claim 19.0715 cents per litre of fuel used for ATV's and 4WD vehicles when they are used "off road" (such as on the beach) for surf life saving business activities.

Clubs and services should retain their receipts for aquatic powercraft and ATVs/4WDs, register to obtain the fuel tax credit and lodge with their Business Activity Statements.

For information on the Fuel Tax Benefit, including the procedure for obtaining this rebate, refer to SLSA Circular 16/08-09 at www.slsa.com.au

National Board of Lifesaving Updates

Beach Flags and Signage Update

The release of the new Australian Standard 2416:2010 Water Safety Signs and Beach Safety flags has meant there will be some changes to the flags and signs we use at the beach.

Here is a summary of the major changes affecting lifesaving services:

- Black-white quartered flags will replace blue board riding buffer (boundary) flags effective at 1st September 2011.
- Feathered flags are now included in the standard and will be implemented under your States own implementation plan.

All flags and signs, including the black and white quartered surf craft boundary flag and red and yellow feather flags are available for purchase through the Surf Shop at www.surfshop.slsa.com.au.

Please contact your SLS State/Territory Office for their implementation plan or for any questions regarding the new standard.



Spinal head blocks

Following advice from the SLSA National Medical Advisor, spinal head blocks are no longer to be used on patrol and are to be removed from club gear and equipment. Reference to the use of head blocks will also be removed from all training resources.

The reason for their removal is:

- There is no evidence that head blocks are an advanced method of immobilization over careful manual stabilisation.
- Spinal head block equipment has very low tolerance to sand and is found to be breaking or malfunctioning easily.

The preferred method for immobilizing patients with suspected spinal injuries includes the use of a spinal collar, spine board and straps and careful manual in line stabilisation.

Phase out of Quad Bikes

From the start of the 2011/12 lifesaving season, the use of quad bikes is no longer permitted for all SLS operations.

This is in line with the decision made at the July 2008 Board of Lifesaving (BOL) meeting. Information on this decision and the 3 year phase out period was communicated to clubs and services in the 2008 and 2010 National Lifesaving Agendas.

From the start of the 2011/12 lifesaving season only side-by-side all terrain vehicles (ATV) may be used by clubs and services.

The reasons for the decision to only use side-by-side vehicles include:

- They can safely carry more than one person at a time – typically two but up to three
- They have more storage space for essential lifesaving equipment by way of a utility tray and racking/ roof space.
- They are more stable and arguably less susceptible to a roll-over.
- They have improved safety due to a roll cage, safety doors and passenger handles.
- They have a greater capacity for towing.
- They are able to safely transport an injured patient either seated or on a stretcher.

Beach Safe Website

www.beachsafe.org.au is the standardised public education portal for all surf life saving in Australia.

All clubs/services and branches are asked to:

- Ensure links to exist Beach Safe from their websites
- Direct all media and promotional enquiries/releases to Beach Safe for further information.
- Reference and align any/all safety information/resources to those in the beach safe website, including fact-sheets, rips, rock-fishing, patrolled beach locations/times.

Note: Based on lifeguard contracts and Lifesaving Service Agreements, all service patrol times are inputted annually into Beach Safe by SLSNSW.

SurfGuard Enhancements

Complete Patrol Service Report

A new report has been created in the Patrol Reports section to cater for more lifeguard services that are starting to use SurfGuard. This report has been tailored to the specific reporting requirements of the lifeguard services, ensuring that the report will contain all of the information that local councils around Australia require their lifeguard services to compile on a regular basis either weekly or monthly. The report can also be scheduled to run on a weekly or monthly basis and automatically provide you with the previous week/month's data.

Although this report has been created for use by lifeguard services from information provided to us by ALS lifeguards, it can be used any SLS organisation to report on the actual lifesaving service they've provided to their community during that time period, rather than the usual patrol hours, awards and membership details.



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