

SLSQ Policy

Title: Lifesaving Activities at Closed Beaches	Department: Club Services – Life Saving
Policy No: LS09	Version: 3
Effective Date: 22.06.2020	Approved Date: 25.07.2020
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Introduction:

As Surf Lifesavers our members are called upon to conduct rescues in varying conditions, sometimes in hazardous seas. When the sea conditions are extremely hazardous and have been judged unsafe for the public to swim, the beach will be closed however there may be incidents where Surf Lifesaving Queensland (SLSQ) members are required to perform rescues etc. in these conditions.

In order to ensure that members have the required skills and abilities to work in such environments, members may wish to conduct activities in hazardous conditions

Purpose:

If a Patrol Captain deems the beach conditions too dangerous for the bathing public he/she will close the beach and continue to advise the public not to enter the water.

As surf life savers may one day be required to perform rescues etc. in hazardous and potentially dangerous conditions some members may wish to conduct Lifesaving training to ensure they have the skills to negotiate potentially dangerous conditions.

This policy has been broken into four areas to assist our members in understanding the actual activities that can be carried out on our beaches. The four areas of this policy are:

- I. Training of club members for a Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA) award;
- II. Training conducted for Maintaining Skills of Patrolling Lifesavers in awards currently held;
- III. Training/Maintaining Skills of Operations Support operators ;
- IV. Training Conducted for competition purposes.

If Lifesavers wish to conduct activities at beaches that have been closed due to hazardous surf conditions then the procedures outlined in the respective area **must** be adhered to at all times.

No Junior Activities are to be conducted at Closed Beaches.

No Lifesaving Activity is to ever be conducted at beaches closed due to Dangerous Marine Creatures (Sharks, Crocodiles, Marine Stingers etc), debris in the water or electrical storms.

Definitions:

- CEO Chief Executive Officer
 IRB Inflatable Rescue Boat
 SLSA Surf Life Saving Australia
 SLSC Surf Life Saving Clubs
 SLSQ Surf Life Saving Queensland

Policy:

I. Training of club members for a SLSA award.

If the beach is closed, training of members for new SLSA Awards (i.e. an award not currently held) is not permitted.

II. Training conducted for Maintaining skills of Patrolling Lifesavers

Members who wish to carry out lifesaving activities for the purpose of maintaining surf skills or improving surf skills must adhere to the following procedure:

1. Members must be financial members of the association and be eligible and proficient to conduct patrol operations.
2. Inform Patrol Captain that you wish to conduct lifesaving activities for the purpose of maintaining skills for an award currently held.
3. Advise SurfCom and the Duty Officer in the region that training is being conducted. If Surfcom/Duty Officer are not applicable then advise the area Branch Director of Lifesaving and/or Lifesaving Services Coordinator.
4. Wear the club training cap or patrol cap.
5. Prepare appropriate Water Safety;
 - a. If tube rescue or board rescue training is being conducted there is to be a minimum of one (1) fully equipped IRB on standby as Water Safety. The crew of the water safety IRB must be aware of the training being conducted and agreeable to acting as Water Safety personnel. Patrol IRB can be used with approval from both Patrol Captain and IRBD.
 - b. If IRB rescue training is being conducted there is to be a minimum of a one (1) fully equipped IRB, (not being used in the training) on standby as Water Safety. The crew of the water safety IRB must be aware of the training being conducted and agreeable to act as Water Safety personnel.
6. The relevant training signs are to be erected as per normal training procedures.
7. Once the training is completed advise Surfcom/Duty Officer or Director of Lifesaving and/or Lifesaving Services Coordinator in the region that training has ceased.

NOTE: The above procedure also applies for members who are in the process of up grading their Powercraft Surf Accreditation as well adhering to the Powercraft Surf Accreditation Policy.

III. Training / Maintaining of Operations Support Personnel

Members who are involved in Operations Support and wish to carry out lifesaving activities for both SLSA award training and members maintaining skill level must adhere to the following procedure:

1. Members must be financial members of the association and must hold the appropriate pre requisites for the activity they wish to conduct.
2. Members must seek approval from the State Operations Support Officer and/or respective State Advisor or delegate.
3. Inform Surfcom and the Duty Officer in the region that training is being conducted. If Surfcom/Duty Officer not applicable to the area, the Branch Director of Lifesaving should be advised.
4. Wear the appropriate uniform for the activity being conducted.
5. A fully equipped RWC or IRB that is not involved in the training must be in a position that it can respond to the area if needed.
6. The relevant training signs are to be erected as per normal training procedures.
7. Once the training is completed advise Surfcom/Duty Officer or Director of Lifesaving in the region that training has ceased. Operations Support Officer and/or respective State Advisor or delegate should also be advised on completion of training.

IV. Training/Up skilling for Surf Sports Activities

Clubs who wish to carry out Training/up skilling activities for members for the sole purpose of competition must adhere to the following procedure;

1. Training Session must be endorsed by club management committee.
2. Accredited and endorsed Coach must carry out a risk assessment prior to the commencement of the session.
3. Coach must consult with the patrol captain prior to the commencement of the session to make sure that there is an appropriate rescue response in place if needed.

Note: If the Patrol Captains deems that there is not an effective rescue response the training session must not proceed.

If any member fails to comply with the appropriate procedures, relevant to the actual activity they intend to partake in as shown above they risk the possibility of facing SLSQ judicial procedures. Members who also fail to comply with the above procedures risk the possibility of negating their workers compensation benefits.

NOTE: If the planned session is to be conducted at a closed beach that is not under SLSQ control the club/members must still adhere to the above listed procedures and they must consult with the authority that is controlling the beach.

Adverse Weather Conditions

During times of natural disasters or wide spread server weather SLSQ may be required to impose temporary closures on beaches based on the advice of the State Disaster Coordination Centre, Queensland Police Service or Local Government. If such a decision needs to be made the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) will gather all the required information and make an informed decision prior

to communicating to SLSC's. The CEO has the full discretion to close all beaches and suspended Lifesaving, Surf Sports and Nipper activities until such time the weather situation has passed and it has been deemed that waterways and beaches are again safe for our members and members of the bathing public. The CEO can lift the closure at any time based on updated weather forecast and impacts being recorded. Communication will be sent to all clubs with as much notice as possible to ensure that it can be communicated to all members.

During time of disasters it is important that all members adhere to these directions to provide a consistent message to members of the public. SLSQ has the safety of all its members and bathing public as its number one priority during a server weather event.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D Whimpey".

Dave Whimpey
Chief Executive Officer
Surf Life Saving Queensland