

# Leadership in Surf Life Saving Clubs



## 1 Role of a President

The role of a surf lifesaving club president encompasses:

- **Leadership:** Setting the tone and culture for the club.
- **Financial Stewardship:** Overseeing financial health and sustainability.
- **Board Coordination:** Ensuring all directors have an equal voice and managing board business effectively.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Acting as a figurehead and maintaining communication with members, stakeholders, and the club's operational leaders.

## 2 Leadership in Surf Life Saving

Leadership within surf lifesaving requires alignment with the organisation's mission, emphasizing:

- Supporting volunteers by making their roles more efficient and effective.
- Upholding the purpose of saving lives and protecting the community.

## 3 Organisational Values

Key values such as trust, respect, integrity, innovation, community, and safety must be consistently reinforced within the organisation to maintain a strong and unified culture.

## 4 Challenges in Leadership

Common challenges faced by leaders include:

- Managing the complexity and time commitment of volunteer roles.
- Navigating external pressures such as financial strain and the impacts of COVID-19.
- Establishing strong leadership and support systems to address these demands effectively.

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## Effective Collaboration

Teamwork and collaboration are vital to leadership success:

- Recognise and leverage diverse perspectives within the board and leadership teams.
- Understand the strengths and weaknesses of team members to foster effective collaboration and communication.

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## Leadership Development

Opportunities for leadership growth are essential, including:

- Participating in development programs to enhance skills and confidence.
- Encouraging youth and emerging leaders, especially women, to step into leadership roles.

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## Path to Leadership

Emerging leaders are encouraged to:

- Gain broad experience across the organisation.
- Volunteer for leadership roles and seek diverse opportunities.
- Build a strong foundation by developing a comprehensive understanding of the organisation.

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## Communication Strategy

Effective communication strategies include:

- Targeted and efficient communication to reach all intended audiences.
- Keeping members informed and engaged with the organisation's objectives and updates.

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## Strategic Planning

Strategic plans should be simple, focused, and member-inclusive:

- Address key priorities and ensure they are easily communicated.
- Involve members in the planning process to enhance alignment and engagement.

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## Advice for Emerging Leaders

Emerging leaders are encouraged to:

- Step up confidently and seek mentorship.
- Maintain composure under pressure and embrace opportunities for growth.

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## Respectful Disagreement

Leaders should focus on:

- Understanding and respecting differing viewpoints.
- Avoiding ego-driven decision-making and fostering a culture of mutual respect.

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## Follow-Up Actions

- **Leadership Programs:** Expand offerings to meet demand and include more regions.
- **Communication Strategy:** Refine strategies to ensure clear, segmented communication.
- **Strategic Planning:** Simplify and share a one-page strategic plan for member engagement.
- **Diversity in Leadership:** Encourage diverse perspectives within leadership teams.
- **Mentorship for Emerging Leaders:** Provide guidance and support through structured programs.