



SLSQ Policy

Title: High Visibility Clothing Policy	Division: Membership/Sport/ Education/Lifesaving
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Introduction

Surf Life Saving Queensland (SLSQ) is committed to ensuring all aquatic based training and events are conducted to the highest standards; whilst ensuring the participant's safety remains paramount at all times. This policy defines the requirements for all person's participating in ocean or open water-based surf lifesaving events and training held in Queensland, to wear high visibility garments - lycra/long sleeve rash shirt/singlet/stinger suit/buoyancy vest.

Purpose

This policy supplements SLSA Policy and Procedures to clarify the requirements relating to the wearing of high visibility clothing during patrol, junior activities, water-based events (competition) and water-based training in Queensland.

Application

This policy applies to anyone who participates in surf lifesaving ocean or open water-based activities endorsed by SLSQ or affiliated Clubs and Branches. This includes members from a club outside of Queensland or members of the public who participate in a Queensland based event. High visibility garments must be worn in all ocean-based events, with the exception of beach events, march past, first aid competition, reelmen in Belt races (linesmen are not exempt). High visibility garments will not be required for pool-based events.

Legislative Framework

Work Health and Safety Act 2011, QLD

Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011

Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2017.

Policy

SLSQ will adopt the colours outlined below. The colour will be strictly enforced, and variations of the identified colour are not permitted.

Table 1 – Permitted Colours for Activities	
The colour that is permitted for use in Queensland for Patrolling Operations is:	Fluorescent Yellow (PMS #13-0630 TN 'Safety Yellow')



The colour that is permitted for use in all Queensland Surf Sport competition is:	Fluorescent Pink (PMS #16-2130 TN 'Knockout Pink')
The colour that is permitted for use in all Queensland Water Safety based activities is:	Fluorescent Orange (PMS# 15-1360-TN 'Shocking orange')
Any approved colour for events or training	Includes colours above and following - Fluorescent Green (PMS#13-0340 TN 'Green Gecko') - Fluorescent Red (PMS#485C)

Please note: that the PMS (Pantone Matching System) is the international authority on colour and is not a specific manufacturer code.

Note: Exemptions maybe granted by the SLSQ Sport Committee for use of a different Hi Visibility colour where competitors are competing in a National Series and the National sponsor is supplying the Hi Visibility garment.

The requirements for the wearing of high visibility clothing are detailed in table 2 below

Table 2 – High Vis Requirements			
EVENT TYPE	HIGH VISIBILITY LYCRA CLOTHING	SWIMMING CAP	CAP & LIFEJACKET
Surf Sports (Competition)	Mandatory (Fluorescent pink)	N/A	Club Cap
Sanctioned Events	Mandatory (any approved colour)	Recommended	N/A
Ocean Swims	Mandatory (any approved colour)	Mandatory	N/A
Junior Activities Program and Junior Sport Training (Nippers)	Mandatory (any approved colour)	N/A	Club Cap or Hi Vis Cap Mandatory
Member Training (Sport)	Mandatory (any approved colour)	N/A	N/A
Member Training (Lifesaving / Award)	Mandatory (any approved colour)	N/A	Club Cap or Hi Vis Cap – Mandatory



Powercraft Operated on Patrol	Mandatory (Long sleeve yellow patrolling rash shirt or patrol shirt and shorts)	N/A	Quartered Red and Yellow Cap – Mandatory Red and Yellow Lifejacket Mandatory
Powercraft Training (Award)	Mandatory (any approved colour, Long sleeved high-visibility rash shirt and suitable shorts)	N/A	Club Cap or Hi Vis Cap – Mandatory Lifejacket Mandatory
Powercraft Training (Sport)	Recommended (any approved colour, Long sleeved high-visibility rash shirt and suitable shorts)	N/A	Club Cap or Hi Vis Cap – Mandatory Lifejacket Mandatory
Water Safety Powercraft operations	Mandatory (Long sleeve orange rash shirt and suitable shorts)	N/A	Mandatory - Orange Cap Red and Yellow Lifejacket Mandatory
Water Safety - general duties	Mandatory (Long sleeve orange rash shirt and suitable Shorts OR Full patrol uniform with cap)	N/A	Orange Cap – Mandatory OR High-visibility Orange peaked cap.
Nipper Adult Assistant (NAA)/ Nipper Safety Assistant (NSA)	Mandatory (green garment with NAA on front and back and suitable shorts)	N/A	Green Cap – Mandatory OR High-visibility Green peaked cap

IRB PATROL OPERATIONS

In all forms of IRB patrol operations, training and competition it is compulsory for drivers, crew and patients to wear high visibility (conspicuous colour) SLSA approved level 50 Australian Standard (AS4758) lifejackets or Type 2 (AS1499-1996) lifejackets. High visibility garments shall not be worn over the top of lifejackets. During competition, to assist with judging purposes the driver will be provided with further identification corresponding with the turning buoys.

BOARD RIDING EVENTS

For board riding events to assist with judging purposes all competitors will be provided at the event with different coloured high visibility garments.

MANDATORY ACTIVITIES



The wearing of high visibility garments during all award training, competition training and all junior activities is mandatory as per Table 2 of this policy. The high Visibility garment must be the outermost layer.

The competition & training garments can be purchased from a supplier of the Club's choice, provided the supplier can create an exact match of the colours required above. Long sleeve options are also permitted.

There will be occasions when a sponsored competition garment will be provided for an event which may be one (1) of the three (3) approved colours being Pink, Yellow & Orange; in these situations, the supplied competition garment must be worn. If a competitor chooses to wear a rash shirt or other item of clothing, the high visibility garment must be worn as the top layer of clothing.

Definitions

1. **Patrol Operations** are defined in SLSQs Patrol Operations Manual and Patrol Service Contracts.
2. Surf lifesaving ocean-based events are defined in the [Surf Sports Manual](#).
3. **Junior Activities** refers to members in the Under 6 to Under 14 Age Categories. Whether it be weekly nipper education programs conducted on weekends and or any sport/educational training mid-week.
4. **Water-based activity** refers to any activity in a body of water (natural or manmade).
5. **Surf Sports Training** refers to any member sport training endorsed by the club.
6. **Surfboard Riding Events** refers to board riding events outlined in [Section 7 – Surfboard Riding Events](#) in the SLSA Surf Sports Manual.
7. **Nippers** refers to Junior Activities education programs conducted on a regular basis (traditionally weekends).
8. **Member Training** refers to any award or education training undertaken by members including but not limited to: new awards, training, skills maintenance etc.
9. **Sanctioned Event** refers to any activity run by SLSQ or any of its affiliates that has been approved under the SLSQ special event process.
10. **PFD** – the acronym used for an SLSA Approved (conspicuous colour) Type 50 (ASN:4578) Personal Flotation Device.
11. **IRB** – the acronym used for an SLSA approved Inflatable Rescue Boat.
12. **High Visibility Cap** – the cap/s approved by the club's management committee for use as a cap for defined activities, typically the club cap, variations of the club cap or solid colours.
13. **Suitable Shorts** - During RWC operations all personnel must wear neoprene shorts or pants. For IRB and water safety duties the patrol uniform shorts or similar are acceptable, this may include Lycra shorts or pants.

Consequences

IRB Operations

If high visibility clothing requirements for IRB operations are not met, as outlined in this policy, the craft can not be deemed operational and/ or signed onto patrol until such time as all requirements are met, noting this could result in a patrol breach against the club.



Patrol Operations - This area's Hi-Visibility clothing is subject to Trademarks and Local Government By-Laws and is thus the remit of the State Lifesaving Committee. All requests and approvals shall be made through this Committee.

Surf Sport Competition - If a competitor is not wearing an approved high visibility garment then they will not be allowed to commence any ocean or open water-based surf lifesaving training or competition / event.

Compliance of the garment at the start of the race (wear & tear, fading etc.) will be at the discretion of the Referee.

Member training

Failure to do so may result in verbal or written warnings, exclusion from training, or further disciplinary action.

Water Safety - If Water Safety personnel are not dressed in the approved Hi-Visibility clothing, then the event shall not start until this requirement is met.

Junior Activities – Junior members not wearing approved clothing will not be allowed to commence water-based activities. (Training or competition)

Additionally, non-compliance could impact insurance coverage, potentially making the individual personally liable for any injuries sustained. Adhering to this policy is essential for maintaining a safe and compliant training environment.

Related Policy Instruments

The following documents can be found on the Members Portal (<https://portal.sls.com.au>):

- SLSA Surf Sports Manual and Bulletins
- SLSA Policy 1.01 Water Safety – July 2025; SLSA Procedure 1.01a Water Safety – August 2024
- [SLSQ Surf Sports Manual](#)

Review

This Policy will be reviewed at least every three years, or sooner if there are changes to applicable legislation, regulations, standards, organisational structure or operational requirements.