

1.06 Gear & Equipment

Title:	Gear & Equipment Policy
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Responsible Portfolio:	Lifesaving
Authority:	This Policy is made under clause 39 of the SLSA Constitution. It is binding on all Members of SLSA and is to be interpreted in accordance with the SLSA Constitution.

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to ensure that Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA) endorses innovative surf lifesaving and surf competition equipment that:

- is of the highest industry standard;
- fulfils operational requirements; and
- is fit for purpose for all Members and the Australian Lifeguard services (ALS).

2. POLICY

2.1 Equipment Approval

Equipment will go through an application, inspection and certification process (compliance program) to gain approval. Under this structure, products will undergo compliance and quality assurance verification to ensure consistency in manufacturing processes and delivery of fit for purpose equipment to all members and lifeguards.

Gear and equipment used by members and ALS for the purposes of lifesaving operations, or competition must be approved and endorsed by SLSA and listed within the SLSA 'Gear and Equipment List' as published in the Member Area.

All members and ALS using lifesaving and/or competition equipment that is not approved for use should be aware that they may be susceptible to any possible insurance and litigation issues resulting from an incident.

No officer, member, supplier or manufacturer has the authority to change specifications, introduce rescue equipment or modify existing approved rescue and competition equipment without the written approval of SLSA.

2.2 Ownership and Operation

Lifesaving equipment shall be owned by lifesaving services (excluding personal items i.e. swim fins, whistle).

Ownership and authority to operate specialised lifesaving equipment, as defined in the SLSA 'Gear and Equipment List', is subject to approval from the state/territory centre. State/territory centres shall also undertake monitoring of ownership and operation of specialised lifesaving equipment.

2.3 Annual Inspection

Gear and equipment must be inspected annually by the lifesaving service to ensure it remains fit for purpose. Competition equipment should also be inspected through a SLS sport scrutineering program. Any maintenance of the equipment should be undertaken by an authorised agent.

2.4 Termination of Approval

SLSA has the right to terminate the approval for use status and remove any item of equipment from the Gear and Equipment List if the following instances occur:

- a. A manufacturer's agreement is broken or infringed;
- b. The equipment ceases to be manufactured;
- c. The equipment no longer complies with Australian Standards or the SLSA specification;
- d. The manufacturer/supplier does not receive approval from SLSA for any modifications to equipment;
- e. The manufacturer undertakes an equipment trial with members without receiving approval from SLSA;
- f. There is a noted ongoing decrease in the quality of the equipment which impacts performance and safety of members. Decreases in quality are noted through numerous and ongoing reports and complaints from club and service members.

NB: Manufacturers will be given the right and opportunity to amend faulty products in the case of isolated quality issues.

2.5 Re-inspection of Approved Products

At any time SLSA has the right to re-inspect approved equipment within the product compliance program for ongoing quality and safety assurance.

3. RELATED DOCUMENTS

- a. 1.02 - Use of SLSA Equipment Policy
- b. SLSA Product Compliance Program Procedure
- c. SLSA Sport Compliance Program Procedure – Craft approval procedure
- d. SLSA Gear and Equipment List
- e. SLSA Competition approved suppliers
- f. Workplace Health and Safety legislation