

Surf Life Saving New Zealand – Lifesaving Policy Statement

CONTENT CODE: SLS008	SUBJECT: Event Lifeguard Policy	
PUBLISH DATE: 2015	VERSION: 3	TOTAL PAGES: 2

BACKGROUND

Surf Life Saving New Zealand (SLSNZ) lifeguards are being asked to provide lifeguard services at external events such as triathlons, windsurfing competitions, dragon boat festivals, plus water safety for other special events.

Provision of event lifeguards is recognised as being beneficial to Surf Life Saving as it raises public profile and provides a vehicle for the organisation to raise necessary funds.

The object of this policy is to provide guidelines for those members of the organisation wishing to provide event lifeguard services.

For the purpose of this policy, the term 'organisation' refers to an affiliated, Club or Community Lifeguard Service of SLSNZ.

POLICY

- A Club and or it members must not provide event lifeguard services without the prior approval of the appropriate committee and/or relevant governing body (SLSNZ).
- A committee or relevant governing body must not approve the event lifeguard services if it will compromise their ability to meet the outcomes set out in the applicable Patrol Operations Manual.
- All lifeguards providing event lifeguard services must be suitably qualified, experienced and refreshed.

The Club and/or its members providing the event lifeguard service must have a SLSNZ approved Aquatic safety plan for the event.

- The safety plan must meet the requirements as specified in the SLSNZ Open Water Event Safety Guidelines.
- If an IRB is used, all personnel in the IRB must wear lifejackets and adhere to SLSNZ Regulations and the IRB Manual.
- A Club and/or its members providing event lifeguard services must complete the appropriate 'Event Lifeguard Agreement' with the event organiser. An 'Event Lifeguard Agreement' template is available from SLSNZ.
- The Club and/or member/s must at all times abide by the Rules, Regulations and Policies of SLSNZ.
- Prior to the event, SLSNZ ,the Club and/or its members, as the case may be, must ensure that:-
 1. The event organiser has complied with all the requirements of any government, local body or regional authority.
 2. The event organiser has all necessary consents and permits for the event.

3. The SLSNZ Aquatic safety plan has been developed in conjunction with the event organiser the Club and SLSNZ. This must be signed off by SLSNZ and that the role of the Club and/or its members is clearly understood by all parties.
 4. The event organiser has sufficient insurance of the relevant type to cover the services being provided by the club and/or its members.
 5. The Club and/or its members have familiarised themselves with the environment in which the event will take place including, by way of example, tide time, tidal flows, weather forecasts or seabed type etc.
 6. Based on all the information available to the Club and/or its members, the lifeguards confirm that they are happy to proceed and provide event lifeguard services.
 7. The event organiser has signed the 'Event Lifeguard Agreement' with the Club and has completed and attached all relevant schedules.
- During the event the Club and/or its members must ensure that:
 1. The official SLSNZ Lifeguard Uniform is worn
 2. All Lifeguards act in a professional manner.
 3. The event safety plan is followed.
 4. The Lifeguards have suitable sun protection and are adequately hydrated during the event.
 5. The Lifeguards must have suitable breaks during the event.
 - At the completion of the event, all paperwork (patrol captain and if applicable, incident forms) must be completed and entered onto the SLSNZ database.