

Surf Life Saving New Zealand – Lifesaving Policy Statement

CONTENT CODE: SLS008	SUBJECT: Event Lifeguard Policy	
PUBLISH DATE: 2018	VERSION: 3	TOTAL PAGES: 3

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 provision of the contracted lifeguarding services also comes with some risk.

The object of this policy is to provide guidance on the SLSNZ Aquatic Safety Management Process, for those members of the organisation wishing to provide event lifeguard services, while providing appropriate instruction through the event safety process to minimise the potential risks involved.

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 National Lifesaving Manager (NLM) accompanied by an endorsed Aquatic Safety Management Plan that has been produced by the Event Water Safety Officer.
- The NLM 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 have been refreshed annually .They should be suitably qualified, and experienced.
- The Club and/or its members providing the event lifeguard service must have a SLSNZ approved Aquatic Safety Management Plan for the event produced by the SLSNZ Event Water Safety Officer.
- The Aquatic Safety Management 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 all PPE and adhere to SLSNZ Regulations and the IRB Manual, a copy of the IRB Log on that day must be available for inspection by the Event Manager for the event.
- A Club and/or its members providing event lifeguard services must complete the appropriate 'Event Lifeguard Agreement' with the event organiser. The agreement must be sign before the event starts and also a signed copy email to SLSNZ.
- The Club and/or member/s must at all times abide by the Rules, Regulations and Policies of SLSNZ.

Standard Operating Procedures.

• ***Prior to the event, the Club and/or its members, as the case may be, must ensure that:***

1. All 'event lifeguards' must be currently refreshed and active patrolling members and by attending the event this will not compromise their normal patrolling duties.
2. Only qualified IRB Drivers and Crewpersons can operate IRBs at event. Drivers must have at least one season of driving before operating an IRB at an event.
3. The Aquatic Safety Management Plan has been developed in conjunction with the event organiser and 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 members and/or its *Appointed Water Safety Coordinator* 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 members and/or its Appointed Water Safety Coordinator, 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, these must be sent via email to SLSNZ Event Water Safety Officer.

• ***During the event the Club and/or its members must ensure that:***

1. Water Safety Coordinator should always consider the conditions on the day in assessing the risk to the event lifeguards and participants and where required raise with the Event Organiser/Manager any additional safety precautions to be made, including delaying the start time, contingency plan or cancellation of the event.
2. Where the Water Safety Coordinator considers that the Aquatic Safety Management Plan is not being adhered to on the day by the Event Organiser/Manager, then the Water Safety Coordinator should take the following steps:
3. Raise the matter with the Event Organiser/Manager as soon as possible so changes can be made.
4. If changes have not been made, then provide another warning to the Event Organiser/Manager that the event guards will not enter the water until the issues identified are amended.
5. Failing the above to steps the Water Safety Coordinator should advise the Event Organiser/Manager that the event guards will be withdrawn from the event.

6. The official SLSNZ Lifeguard Uniform is worn
7. All Lifeguards act in a professional manner
8. The Aquatic Safety Management Plan is followed
9. The Lifeguards have suitable sun protection and are adequately hydrated during the event
10. The Lifeguards must have suitable breaks during the event

- ***At the completion of the event:***

1. All paperwork (patrol captain and if applicable, incident forms) must be completed and entered onto the SLSNZ database
2. Under no circumstances are our members to be put forward as first aid or medical officers, regardless of their qualifications. It is the Event Organiser/Manger responsibility to provide medical support or first aid service.