

Surf Life Saving New Zealand – Lifesaving Policy Statement

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BACKGROUND

Surf Life Saving New Zealand (SLSNZ) Lifeguards are being asked to provide lifeguard services at external events such as triathlons & open water swims, canoe, rowing competitions, community public events, as well as all other types of other special on or near water events.

The provision of event safety lifeguards is recognised as being beneficial to Surf Life Saving as it raises public profile and awareness, but it also provides confidence to event participants while assisting Surf Life Saving Clubs to raise necessary and required funding.

The object of this policy is to provide guidance on the SLSNZ **Aquatic Safety Management Plan (ASMP)** process, for those organisations & members of SLSNZ wishing to provide event safety lifeguard services, minimise the potential risks to all involved.

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

POLICY

1. An organisation and/or its members must not provide event safety lifeguard services without a SLSNZ sanctioned ASMP (Public Events) or Competition Safety Plan (Internal Events) that has been either produced by SLSNZ Event Water Safety Manager or other appropriately approved delegate or by an organisation and peer reviewed by the Regional Life Saving Manager or other appropriately approved regional/national delegate.
2. An ASMP will not be sanctioned, if the event safety lifeguard services will compromise an organisations abilities to meet the outcomes as set out in the applicable organisations CSOP/NSOP manual
3. The organisation and/or member/s must at all times abide by the Rules, Regulations and Policies of SLSNZ.
4. All lifeguards providing event safety lifeguard services must be refreshed, appropriately qualified (IRB – Driver and Crewperson, RWC operator, Board, Rock module etc.) and experienced.
5. ALL SLSNZ Water Craft and personnel will adhere to SLSNZ appropriate SOP's
6. An organisation and/or its members providing event water safety lifeguard services must complete the appropriate 'Event Lifeguard Agreement' in conjunction with the event organiser and returned by email to SLSNZ before the event starts – event.safety@surflifesaving.org.nz

Standard Operating Procedures.

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

1. All 'event safety lifeguards' must be currently refreshed and active patrolling members and by attending the event will not compromise their normal patrolling duties.
2. Only qualified IRB Drivers, Crewpersons and RWC operators can operate SLSNZ Water Craft. Drivers/operators must have either previous event safety experience or at minimum one full season of driving before assisting at an event.
3. The ASMP has been developed in conjunction with the event organiser and sanctioned by SLSNZ, ensuring the role of the organisation and/or its members is clearly understood by all parties.
4. The organisations members and/or its Appointed Water Safety Coordinator (WSC) have familiarised themselves with the ASMP, environment in which the event will take place including, by way of example, tide time, tidal flows, weather forecasts or seabed type etc.
5. Based on all the information available to the organisations members and/or its appointed WSC, confirm that they are happy to proceed and provide event safety lifeguard services.

6. 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 Manager.

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

1. The WSC upon arrival at the event site, will complete and submit a SiteDocs – External Event – Water Safety ORA or other appropriately required pre event assessment document
2. WSC 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/Manger any additional safety precautions to be made, including delaying the start time, contingency plan or cancellation of the event.
3. Where the WSC considers that the ASMP is not being adhered to on the day by the Event Organiser/Manger, then the WSC should take the following steps:
 - 3.1. Raise the matter with the Event Organiser/Manger as soon as possible so changes can be made.
 - 3.2. If changes have not been made, then provide another warning to the Event Organiser/Manger that the event guards will not enter the water until the issues identified are amended.
 - 3.3. Failing the above two steps the WSC should advise the Event Organiser/Manger that the event guards will be withdrawn from the event.
 - 3.4. Contact or engage the SLSNZ Event Water Safety Manager.
4. Only an official SLSNZ Lifeguard Uniform is to be worn
5. All event safety lifeguards are to act in a professional manner
6. The ASMP is followed and used as the minimum/baseline for the event
7. The event safety lifeguards have suitable clothing, sun protection, are adequately hydrated throughout the event
8. The event safety lifeguards must have suitable breaks during the event

At the completion of the event:

1. All paperwork (patrol captain and if applicable, incident/patient forms) must be completed by the WSC and entered onto the SLSNZ database
2. Where applicable invoices for services are to be completed and submitted to the event organiser for payment by the providing organisation.

N.B.

Under no circumstances are SLSNZ branded equipment and resources, 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.
- On water transport/management roles – competitor and/or event staff for the purpose of around course movement, point to point/position delivery or drop off, ferrying, event photography or videography, course marshalling or management roles other than for event safety.
- Provision of event safety without a sanctioned Aquatic Safety Management Plan or a peer reviewed Completion Safety Plan.