



SURF LIFE SAVING®
NEW ZEALAND

Date: 20 May 2025

To: All Clubs

From: Lewis McClintock – National Sport Manager

Subject: Surf Ski Weights

Summary

SLSNZ will follow Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA) in progressively reducing the ski weight from 18kg to 16.5kg over a nine year period.

Background

In March 2025, SLSA endorsed a staged reduction of the weight of single skis to 16.5kg over a nine (9) year period. The reduction of weight over an extended time provides for the following:

- No change in design or manufacture to surf skis except the reduction of weight.
- The 3-year period between weight reductions provides a reasonable “usable life span” for skis for serious competitors. This eliminates the potential for members to believe they need to purchase a new ski each year.
- The extended period of the time (3-year increments) between the staged reductions allows better time for all manufacturers to experiment and change processes as required to build craft to the new specification.
- The extension of time also reduces the potential for unnecessary financial burden on members and families by allowing for craft to have a reasonable competitive life of 3-years.

Implementation

That the schedule of reduction will be implemented as follows:

- The ski weight will reduce progressively from 18kg to 17.5kg to 17kg to 16.5kg in 3-year increments.
- The commencement of the process will be after 1 May 2025.
- The weight specification schedule will then progress across a nine (9) year period as follows:
 - 17.5kg minimum from May 1, 2025 to April 30, 2028
 - 17.0kg minimum from May 1, 2028 to April 30, 2031
 - 16.5kg minimum from May 1, 2031 until any further notice

SLSNZ acknowledges that it currently does not have the resource for regular scrutineering and so will still rely on the integrity of manufacturers, clubs, coaches and athletes to adhere to these specifications. If, through random scrutineering, a Surf Ski is found to be underweight for that particular season, it will be deemed non-compliant and athletes will not be permitted to race on these craft.

<ENDS>



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