

DRAFT POLICY

Title:	Draft Surf Life Saving NSW COVID-19 Vaccination Policy – Members
Date:	15 December 2021
Responsible Portfolio:	Governance
Authority:	This Policy is made under clause 43 of the SLSNSW Constitution. It is binding on all Members of SLSNSW and is to be interpreted in accordance with the SLSNSW Constitution.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to facilitate the protection of the health and safety of members who attend and participate in front line volunteering activities at any of Surf Life Saving NSW's (SLSNSW) facilities, activities and services (including work in public areas) by requiring all such persons to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

This policy is in addition to other COVID Safe measures to protect public health and ensure the safety of all members, employees, industry and community partners, contractors and visitors, as well as the communities we live in and serve.

Application

This policy applies to SLSNSW members (or Surf Life Saving members visiting from other states) who are:

- 13 years of age and above; and
- who hold a SLSNSW award; and
- are undertaking Frontline Volunteering Activities for a club, branch or SLSNSW in person or are participating in a club, branch or SLSNSW activity in person.

Members who are undertaking tasks related to SLSNSW business activities are included in the Surf Life Saving NSW COVID -19 Vaccination Policy – Employees Policy.

Definitions

In this policy, the following terms have the meaning as set out below:

Approved Vaccine means any COVID-19 vaccination that have been provisionally registered for use in Australia by the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

Frontline Volunteering Activity means involvement as any of the following:

- I. Members aged 13 years of age and above where the SLS activity being undertaken requires the member to be the holder of a SLS Lifesaving, Emergency Care or Powercraft Award (including holders of: Bronze Medallion; SRC; ARTC, IRB Driver, IRB Crew, RWC Operator; radio operator, UAV Operator)

- II. Members enrolled in a training course or assessment for any SLS Award (excluding Junior [i.e. Nipper] Awards)
- III. Support Operations Personnel
- IV. Surf Sports Officials
- V. Trainers, Assessors or Facilitators
- VI. Age Managers
- VII. Surf Sports Coaches

Surf Sports Competitors, for the avoidance of any doubt, means all surf sports competitors (including boat sweeps). Surf Sports Competitors must be a holder of an SLS award in order to compete, therefore this policy applies to them. At the point you are enrolled in an SRC course, you must be double vaccinated to participate in competition.

Fully Vaccinated means having obtained the manufacturer's recommended dosage of any Approved Vaccine. For example, where a two-dose schedule is recommended by the manufacturer, a person will be considered fully vaccinated when they have received both doses of the vaccine.

Recognised Contraindication means a Medical Condition or reaction to an Approved Vaccine that is recognised by the manufacturer of that vaccine and has been confirmed and documented by an approved medical practitioner.

Requirement to be vaccinated

As of **1 February 2022**, it will be a requirement for any Frontline Volunteer Activity (including those in public areas and those under the direct control of any Surf Life Saving NSW, or any Surf Life Saving NSW Branch, Club or other affiliated entity) that the Member must be Fully Vaccinated against COVID-19, unless they have been granted an exemption by SLSNSW in accordance with this policy. Vaccination must be undertaken on the advice of an accredited health practitioner (including health practitioners at any authorised COVID-19 vaccination centres).

All those undertaking Frontline Volunteer Activities will be required to provide evidence acceptable to SLSNSW of being Fully Vaccinated.

We will accept for these purposes

- I. From 1 February 2022 to 30 March 2022, presentation of a copy of your COVID-19 Digital Certificate, or if you do not have one, your Immunisation History Statement (which must have your IHI [Individual Healthcare Identifiers] and other vaccinations redacted). These documents should be presented to the supervisor at the SLS activity you are undertaking (eg Patrol Captain, Officials Co-ordinator at surf sports events, training activities etc)
- II. By 30 March 2022, your 12-digit COVID-19 Digital Certificate number, or if you do not have one your Immunisation History Statement must have been entered via your SLS member portal (update details) page. Or emailed to covid19@surflifesaving.com.au If you require assistance in obtaining this evidence, please contact covid19@surflifesaving.com.au

Note: At a future date, Surf Life Saving NSW may require the lodgement of individual members Vaccination Certificate or IHI.

Exemptions

We understand that not all members will be able to receive an Approved Vaccine, due to medical conditions for which there is a Recognised Contraindication to receiving any of the Approved Vaccines.

Any members who have such a medical condition are required to provide a medical contraindication certificate. SLSNSW reserves the right to contact the issuing medical practitioner to verify the authenticity of any such medical contraindication certificate.

Any member who is unable to become Fully Vaccinated for any other reason, including by reason of a sincerely held religious belief, religious practice or religious observance, must email covid19@surflifesaving.com.au prior to 30 January 2022. Requests for an exemption will be considered by SLSNSW on a case-by-case basis.

In order to ensure the health and safety of members at SLSNSW's activities and events, members granted an exemption may be subject to conditions or restrictions related to their role.

Information provided to SLSNSW

Any information provided to SLSNSW in accordance with this policy will be treated confidentially and will be used only for determining compliance with this policy,

Any Member who provides information to SLSNSW in accordance with this policy is expected to provide accurate and truthful information to us. Failure to do so will be considered serious misconduct and may result in breaching the SLS Code of Conduct which may result in disciplinary action as per the Complaint Resolution Policy.

Obtaining information about vaccination

We advise you in the first instance to consult with your accredited health practitioner about any concerns you may have in relation to receiving an Approved Vaccine, including the process for obtaining an Approved Vaccine.

Information about making a booking to receive an Approved Vaccine can be found:

New South Wales	https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/health-and-wellbeing/covid-19-vaccination-nsw/get-your-covid-19-vaccination-nsw
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Compliance

While we hope that all members will comply with this policy to keep themselves, each other and the public safe, we do recognise and respect the fact that some will choose not to be vaccinated.

Unfortunately, this may mean that those participating in Frontline Volunteer Activities 13 years of age and above who fail to comply with this policy will be subject to restrictions around what roles and tasks they can do as a Member of SLS (eg Patrolling, Surf Sports Officiating and participation, Training & Assessing etc.).

If a Member is not vaccinated, we reserve the right to refuse access to SLS activities, events and services.

Operation of this policy

SLSNSW will be continuously monitoring and assessing the operation of this policy in line with the latest information from Government and health authorities. SLSNSW may amend, withdraw or replace this policy from time to time at its sole discretion.