

SLSA POLICY



1.01 Water Safety

Title:	Water Safety
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Last Review Date:	July 2024
Next Review Date:	July 2025
Responsible Portfolio:	Lifesaving
Authority:	This Policy is made under clause 39 of the SLSA Constitution. It is binding on all Members of SLSA and is to be interpreted in accordance with the SLSA Constitution.

Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA) is committed to the safety, health and wellbeing of its members, employees and the wider community who visit Australia's beaches. This policy is to set out the requirements for providing water safety for aquatic activities.

All Surf Life Saving affiliated organisations have a duty of care to ensure the safety of their members while participating in aquatic activities.

SCOPE

This policy covers regular aquatic lifesaving activities organised by a club, branch or state for Surf Life Saving members. This includes (but is not limited to) activities such as nipper training, member award training, surf sports training and club championships.

- Major events, such as surf sports carnivals, should follow the special events process outlined by state/territory bodies.
- Lifesaving patrols should be delivered in line with the state/territory standard operating procedures.
- Events that are provided by Surf Life Saving organisations for members of the public, such as swim events should also follow the special events process outlined by state/territory bodies.

For members undertaking personal training, all responsibility for safety is taken on by the individual/s. Personal training is considered as any aquatic activity that is not supervised or endorsed by an SLS organisation. This activity may occur individually or in a group.

KEY PRINCIPLES

To ensure that a safe environment is provided for the duration of all aquatic activities, the following key principles should be applied:

- All applicable state workplace health and safety legislation must be followed.
- Risk Assessments must be completed prior to the commencement of aquatic activities and continue throughout the duration and at regular intervals of the activity. All risk assessments must be recorded and kept in line with documentation management guidelines.
- A Water Safety Supervisor must be appointed for all aquatic activities.
- Water safety should be delivered in line with the water safety procedure and any relevant state standard operating procedures as appropriate for the specific requirements of the activity being undertaken.

- Members assisting with water safety should be provided with appropriate training with all reasonable efforts to ensure competence is maintained and requirements of their role can be fulfilled.
- All incidents, near misses, and safety concerns must be reported promptly to the Water Safety Supervisor.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Members: Must comply with all water safety policies and procedures and report any safety concerns to the Water Safety Supervisor.

Water Safety Supervisors: Responsible for the implementation of this policy during activities, ensuring all procedures are followed, and safety measures are in place with appropriate consideration for factors specific to the environment and conditions on the day.

Clubs/Branches/States: Ensure appropriate training, resources and support are available for members and water safety supervisors.

WATER SAFETY PROCEDURE

All members must follow the SLSA Water Safety Procedure as a minimum when providing water safety services for members activities, in addition to any relevant state standard operating procedures.

Please refer to the SLSA 'Water Safety Procedures' for further details, www.sls.com.au.

DEFINITIONS

Term	Definition
Aquatic Activities	Activities that take place in or around water, including nipper training, member award training, surf sports training, and club championships.
Duty of Care	The legal obligation of Surf Life Saving affiliated organisations to ensure the safety and wellbeing of their members during aquatic activities.
Major Events	Significant events such as surf sports carnivals that require adherence to special events processes outlined by state/territory bodies
Personal Training	Personal training is considered a personal or leisure aquatic activity that is not supervised or endorsed by an SLS organisation. This activity may occur individually or in a group. All responsibility for such activity is taken on by the individual/s
Risk Assessment	Standards Australia defines a risk assessment as the overall process of risk identification, risk analysis and risk evaluation (AS/NZS 31000:2018).
Water Safety Procedure	A set of guidelines and practices that must be followed to ensure water safety during Surf Life Saving activities.