

# WATER SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

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Water safety is required for specific activities conducted by surf lifesavers, such as club and junior activities, mid-week training, surf carnivals and assessments etc. A surf patrol does not constitute water safety, however at the discretion of the duty Patrol Captain some patrol members may be used as water safety personnel.

## MINIMUM WATER SAFETY GUIDELINES

The minimum number of proficient Water Safety Officer/s is calculated using the table below for all water based training. This includes enclosed calm water training areas. However, as this is a minimum requirement, the SLSNSW Director of Lifesaving or the Branch Director of Lifesaving (or equivalent) may prescribe additional water safety requirements.

| Equipment                      | IRB | Board | Tube | RWC (incl. crewperson) |
|--------------------------------|-----|-------|------|------------------------|
| Number of participants covered | 15  | 5     | 5    | 10                     |

For example for a group of 21 participants you could have any combination of the above

i.e. 1 IRB, 1 board & 1 tube = 25

1 IRB & 2 tubes = 25

***NOTE: This is a minimum requirement and the Water Safety Officer in Charge may increase number of water safety officers depending on participants abilities and conditions.***

If all participants are proficient SRC or higher award holders (eg Bronze Medallion) and 100% are using craft capable of making a rescue, this is considered to meet the water safety requirements for club training.

Club officials, in conjunction with the appropriate Lifesaving officer, shall decide the area to be used for water activities. The Patrol Captain/Lifesaving officer has the authority to cease these activities if, in their opinion, the sea conditions deteriorate to an "unsafe" situation at any time.

Further, they have the responsibility to ensure no activities take place without adequate water safety.

An IRB is required to lay buoys and should remain by the buoys during events to provide water safety. All water activities must cease if adequate water safety is not available or is called away.

All activities must have at least two buoys. No participants shall swim around a single buoy as collisions and injuries may occur.

- 1) A designated club officer must be in charge of the water safety team for the Junior Activities and be in attendance during all water activities.
- 2) All Water Safety Officers must be proficient. A Water Safety Officer is a person holding the Surf Rescue Certificate or Bronze Medallion.
- 3) The number of water safety officers should be calculated using the minimum water safety guidelines table above.
- 4) A minimum 50% of Water Safety Officers must be on a rescue craft (SLSA policy).

- 5) Water safety personnel are to wear orange caps for identification. Patrol members who are on patrol do not count as water safety personnel unless designated by the Patrol Captain. In this situation, the patrol members are to remain wearing the red and yellow quartered cap for identification by the Patrol Captain.
- 6) Water safety personnel must sign either in the voluntary section of the Club Patrol Log Book or in a separate Water Safety Log Book before performing water safety duties. In this situation personnel rostered to water safety may count these patrol hours towards their own patrol hour obligations.
- 7) Personnel crewing an IRB specifically for water safety may be included in the water safety ratio and shall wear orange caps for easy identification. However, in the event of the IRB being used for patrol duties and assisting in water safety it shall not be included in the water safety ratio.  
It is highly recommended that a club official is available at the location in case of an emergency situation.

For more detailed information, refer to the NSW Circular No. 1050. 2004/2005 Lifesaving Requirements season 2004/2005.)

<http://www.surflifesaving.com.au/news/index.html>