

WATER SAFETY REQUIREMENTS JUNIOR ACTIVITIES



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Purpose

To outline water safety requirements for junior aquatic activities.

Introduction

In-water activities create a situation of higher risk to participants due to the variability in environmental conditions and capabilities of individuals. Activities involving junior members who are not yet qualified surf lifesavers (have not been trained and assessed as competent to a minimum level) require appropriate safety measures to be in place.

Policy

- Adequate water safety must be provided before any junior activities can be conducted in the water. This relates to both scheduled weekend junior activities (eg Club Sunday Nippers Program) and aquatic junior activity training sessions.
- A beach safety assessment must be completed before any water activities take place.
- Scheduled weekend junior activities (eg Club Sunday Nippers Program) have the following requirements:
 - A fully operational patrol (a surveillance patrol does not suffice) must be on the beach before any aquatic junior activities take place.
 - On scheduled weekend junior activities (eg Club Sunday Nippers Program) and/or at a carnival, the Patrol Captain is responsible for all water safety on the beach.
 - A designated 'Junior Activities Program Coordinator' (or similar) is required for any junior activities.
 - The Junior Activities Program Coordinator should liaise with the Patrol Captain regarding the safest area to conduct water activities.
 - The Patrol Captain has the authority to cease all water activities, if in his/her opinion the conditions are deemed to be unsafe.

- The Patrol Captain in conjunction with the Junior Activities Program Coordinator must ensure sufficient numbers of water safety officers are available.
- Only qualified personnel i.e. registered members with a minimum qualification of Surf Rescue Certificate are eligible to act as water safety officers for junior aquatic activities.
- Clubs must ensure all water safety officers are proficient in the surf rescue certificate or are bronze medallion holders.
- The orange lycra 'water safety' rash-shirts (long sleeved) or yellow 'surf rescue' rash-shirt must be worn by qualified water safety personnel during all junior activity aquatic programs, training and carnivals.

Water Safety Personnel Ratios

The minimum ratio of water safety officers for junior surf water activities are –

- One (1) water safety officer per five (5) participants in the water at one time (competition/educational activities)
- Approximately 50% of these water safety officers shall be on a rescue craft (IRB, Board)
- All in-water safety officers not on rescue craft shall have a rescue tube (fins are also recommended if swimming)
- The use of IRB's for water safety is strongly encouraged if resources allow.
- An IRB is to be in the water when there are 20 or more participants.

Note: These ratios do not include those members on regular public patrols, as they already have designated duties and obligations.

Patrol Hour Accreditation

Members performing water safety for junior activities at club activities (or at approved Branch or State carnivals) are permitted to have these hours accredited to their club personal patrol hours, if rostered for water safety duty, approved by their clubs and the hours are entered in the log book and placed in SurfGuard.