

Beach Closed Patrol Setup Requirements

After recent weather and dangerous surf conditions there have been several requests to clarify patrol requirements when the beach is closed. In response to these requests, we advise as follows:

- Beach Closures are governed by the SLSNSW's SOP LS3.3 which can be viewed here: <https://www.surflifesaving.com.au/sites/site.test/files/LS3%20OBLIGATIONS%20AND%20STANDARDS.pdf>
- Our SNB Lifesaving Guide clarifies our responsibilities to our tent sponsors. In this case Page 5 states *"the patrol tent should only be taken down during patrolling hours if it is deemed unsafe to stay up"*. As part of our agreement with tent sponsors, Clubs that cannot erect their tent, or must lower the tent due to high wind, must notify Surfcom.

In view of the above we confirm that the following will apply:

1. The starting point for all Patrols is to setup the beach as per the Base Patrol requirements in the SOP ie. all rescue equipment on the beach, the tent erected and patrol members performing normal patrol duties.
2. If the beach is closed due to surf conditions, the weather is fine and there are people on the beach then the flags come down, but all other base patrol requirements are maintained ie. rescue equipment on the beach, tent up, patrol monitoring the beach.
3. If the beach is closed due to surf conditions and we have foul weather (extreme wind and rain) then the beach should be set up as follows:
 - a. IRB must be rescue ready on the beach
 - b. Boards and Tubes on the beach (we recommend using board racks)
 - c. No Tent or Flags. When you take down your tent, advise Surfcom
 - d. First Aid equipment in the SSV ready to go. If a club does not have an SSV then it should be available in an easily accessible location
 - e. Patrolling members can shelter in the Club assuming the Patrol has a full view of the beach and is able to monitor all members of the public who may be on the beach and respond accordingly.

Where the location of the Club does not provide a full view of the beach, then the Patrol will need to provide an outpost patrol with a radio in a location where they can monitor the whole beach. The Patrol should rotate their members through this position.

Any members who wish to clarify any of the above are welcome to contact Cameron Powell, SNB Director of Lifesaving on lifesaving@surflifesaving.net.au.