

## Circular

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Reminder – Member Safety and Compliance</b>
<b>Document ID:</b>	<b>18.01.2020</b>
<b>Department:</b>	<b>Club Services</b>
<b>Audience:</b>	All SLSQ Clubs & Branches; SLSQ Officers & State Advisors; Committee & Panel Members; All Branch Directors; All SLSQ Staff;
<b>Summary:</b>	<b>Reminder for clubs and members to ensure appropriate qualifications are met prior to patrolling, operating equipment or training/competing in surf lifesaving sports.</b>
<b>Date:</b>	31 January 2020

### SUMMARY

There have been incidents occur over the past few weeks that have highlighted the need to remind Clubs and members to ensure that they have the appropriate awards and training to operate lifesaving operational equipment – including powercraft. Members that do not hold appropriate awards, or that are non-financial, pose a significant risk to the organisation and the overall safety of our members and also the bathing public.

**Any member who is not proficient (Dec 31 for currently proficient members), not financial (as at Sept 30), or who has not completed the appropriate award, shall not be allowed to perform patrols; operate rescue craft and/or train/compete in surf lifesaving competitions.**

To ensure appropriate member safety, and to minimise organisational risk, Clubs are reminded of the following points from the Patrol Operations Manual:

### **SURF RESCUE VEHICLE OPERATIONS**

Surf Rescue Vehicles shall be driven by qualified personnel, approved by the club and/or patrol captain. All operators should receive an induction prior to operating any motorised vehicle. Patrol members shall have a sound knowledge of the basic lifesaving equipment that the vehicle carries and where the equipment is stored. Local council ordinances on beach operations shall always be observed, particularly with regard to speed limit and the coastal dune areas.

#### **• DRIVER QUALIFICATIONS FOR SSV, 4WD AND TRACTOR OPERATIONS:**

- Operators shall be 17 years of age and shall:
- Hold a driver's license – provisional or open (for provisional license holders 'P' plates must be displayed as per Queensland Transport Regulations);
- Be a financial member of an affiliated Surf Life Saving Club;
- Be a proficient SLSA award holder; and
- Have completed an SLSA -SSV, 4WD and Tractor induction.

### **IRB OPERATIONS**

All Clubs are responsible for operating within the Queensland Transport Guidelines and Regulations, Surf Life Saving Queensland Policies, Powercraft Code of Conduct and other relevant procedures. Failure to do so can jeopardise marine safety, therefore causing injury or death and may result in the operator/club being liable to criminal prosecution and civil litigation. Breaches to the Powercraft Code of Conduct, SLSQ's Powercraft Safety Management System or SLSQ Policies/Procedures will result in a full investigation of the incident or injury as per the SLSQ Powercraft Incident and Investigation Guidelines.

**The following points shall be adhered to during the operation of all IRB's for patrol:**

1. Only a proficient and qualified driver and crewperson are to operate the IRB.
2. All IRB operations must have one (1) qualified and proficient driver and one (1) qualified and proficient crewman at all times for patrol operations.
3. All IRB operators operating in an IRB on patrol must wear a yellow patrol wet shirt/patrol shirt and red and yellow cap tied up under their chin, red and yellow type 50 lifejacket (AS4758) and patrol shorts unless wearing a stinger suit.
4. IRB Patrols must carry an operational radio at all times.
5. The IRB is to be on the water's edge during the specified patrol hours and fully operational at all times with a qualified driver and crew in close proximity.
6. The IRB driver must avoid unnecessary operations in close proximity to swimmers/surfers and/or crowded areas. Drivers must maintain a speed no greater than 6 knots, if within 30 metres of swimmers/surfers unless it is an emergency situation.
7. The patrol IRB shall remain on the beach until the completion of the day's patrol and is the last item to be taken off the beach.
8. Where an IRB driver is not available, the IRB must remain on patrol and the neighbouring club and SurfCom is advised. A substitute IRB driver should then be sought by the club as soon as possible.
9. A fully equipped and operational back-up IRB and motor shall be readily available at the clubhouse.
10. IRB surveillance patrols shall be conducted regularly during patrol times.
11. The designated patrol IRB shall be utilised for patrol purposes only. Additional IRBs are to be set up for different activities such as water safety for Junior Activities.
12. No Junior Activities' members, SRC holders or Bronze Medallion holders (without an IRB Crew Certificate) are permitted in the IRB.

**NEED HELP?**

If you require more assistance please contact your Regional Manager, Lifesaving Services Coordinator, Branch Director of Lifesaving, or refer directly to the Patrol Operations Manual.

**Clint Swanton**  
State Director of Lifesaving

**Nathan Fife**  
A/State Lifesaving Manager

