

Waveski Surfing Australia Inc – Safety Requirements, Contests

Objectives

The role of the **Beach Safety Officer (s)** is to ensure that all water based events managed and coordinated by Waveski Surfing Australia are safe and meet the safety requirements as per local council, any other legislative requirement known at the time and community expectations.

The **Role of the lifeguard (s)** is to ensure that they are competent to enter the water and rescue a competitor who has experienced an incident/medical episode eg separated from their craft, unconscious, unable to get back on their surf craft

Minimum qualifications of the Beach Safety Officer

- **Mandatory** – current first aid certificate
- Demonstrated Experience with rescue methodology and practice preferable in a surfing environment
- Able to undertake first aid including assessment of the patient(s); vital signs (pulse, heartbeat, respirations, colour (note any paleness particularly around the lips), blood pressure), operating a defibrillator, application of bandages, conscious level and preventing further injury
- Knowledge and understanding of surf conditions, hazards, risks and concerns
- Communication skills that demonstrate fluency in written and spoken English
- Leadership and decision making regarding the continuation of a surf contest where hazards are present
- Communication with competitors regarding their own health and well being; noting any risk factors which might impact on safety eg known history of cardiac, spinal, neurological and respiratory disease.

Minimum qualifications of the Lifeguard

- Demonstrated experience in contemporary surf rescue methodology
- Can activate safe rescue where there might be spinal injuries
- Can competently swim no less than 200 metres unassisted
- Competent in the use of rescue boards, flotation devices

For any event to run safely the following needs to be adhered to:

Prior to the event

- Full list of competitors noting any high risk competitors. Any allergies such as Iodine, Sulfur Penicillin etc.
- Competitors list is located on Live Heats with next of kin contact details in the event anything untoward happens. The list is to readily available at the event site and information remains confidential to the Beach Safety Officer and authorised personnel.
- Equipment list to be checked off by Beach Safety/First Aid Officer no less than 60 minutes prior to the first heat. Noting that the equipment is to be checked off from the previous contest with any replacement equipment organised.
- All equipment must be in good repair and within use by date ie any creams, medication to be within best before date

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Safety Equipment

First Aid

Hand Sanitiser
Band-aids
Crepe bandages
Betadine swabs,
Alcohol Swabs,
Collar and cuff
Neck brace
Bp machine
Oxygen Saturation machine
Defibrillator
Paper tape
Masks
Portable stretcher
Disposable gloves (small, medium and large)
Blanket to keep victim warm
Dry beach towel,
Fresh drinking water
Sun block SP50
Private allocated tent area readily accessible yet private for any injured competitors
Two collapsible chairs
Pens, pencils, note pad

Safety and rescue equipment - examples

Rescue board

Rescue tube

Nomination of first responder – able to mobilize assistance, takes full control of decision making and direction

Nomination of second responder – access to mobile phone, follows the direction of the first responder

Access to recovery equipment particularly if in remote location

Safety Officer briefing

The Safety Officer is to liaise direct with contest organiser(s) nominated for the event.

At all times the Safety Officer will have discretionary decision making responsibilities with respect to the following:-

- Review of competitors and note any risk factors; titrate against surf conditions.
- Ensure that all safety equipment is readily identified and easily retrievable
- All competitors and contest officials must attend the contest briefing and heats cannot commence prior to contest briefing. Competitors must sign off on the contest event waiver form prior to commencement of the competition.
- If the Beach Safety Officer(s) and Lifeguard(s) are competing at the time, they are to organise a replacement beach safety officer and lifeguard.

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- Beach safety officers are to wear identification vests – such as fluoro green, orange or yellow high Viz jacket

Items to cover

Nomination and identification of first and second responders

The Safety officer nominated for the event takes carriage of responsibility with respect to delegated responsibility and decision making regardless of status. If the safety officer is also a competitor, a nominated safety officer is to be organised.

Competitors are advised what to do in the event that they become separated from their surf equipment or experience difficulties both in and out of the surf.

Eg raising arms, raising paddles

At all times the judging team are to be aware of the competitors, and have access to raising the 'alarm' should an emergency present itself eg continual blasts on the hooter, megaphone, raising black flag.

Should an incident occur; there is to full and complete documentation of the incident with follow up.

Risk Assessment;

The Beach Safety Officer and Contest Officials are to use their duty of care to ascertain the risk and review unforeseen consequences.

Duty of Care in this instance is defined as follows:-

It's a legal duty to provide a reasonable standard of care and to be aware of potential and real hazards consistent with qualifications/experience of personnel. Eg a Registered Nurse (RN) will have higher qualifications than a person with a first aid certificate and thus decision making by the RN will be greater than the decision making capacity of person with a first aid certificate.

While care is taken, the competitors agree to follow the instructions and adhere to any directions as communicated and discussed with the contest committee. Competitors have a responsibility to disclose any medical condition that could affect their participation in the event. This includes – heart, respiratory, asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, bleeding disorders, neurological – eg parkinsons, multiple sclerosis etc. Competitors with recent exposure to community transmitted infectious diseases and still showing symptoms will not be able to compete eg Covid 19, Influenza. Competitors also have the right to withdraw from the event if they believe the conditions are beyond their ability.

Contest Officials have the prerogative to decide whether the capability of the competitor(s) is safe and competent to surf in the conditions. If it is decided that the risk to the competitor is too high they will be withdrawn from the competition.

The competitor has the right to be fully informed and consulted. If the competitor ignores the advice and directive, they are advised that the judges will not be judging them and further they are not to wear a competition singlet nor enter the contest area. If this is breached the competitor is removed from the competition altogether with follow up by the MPIO.

At the conclusion of the event and within 7 (seven) days of the event concluding, the committee and the Beach Safety Officer are to discuss any points, lessons learned, action plans for future events.