



SURF LIFE SAVING AUSTRALIA POLICY

Title:	Patrol Uniforms
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Responsible Portfolio:	Lifesaving
Authority	This Policy is made under clause 39 of the SLSA Constitution. It is binding on all Members of SLSA and is to be interpreted in accordance with the SLSA Constitution.

1. INTRODUCTION

This policy is to set out the requirements for the use of the SLS Lifesaver patrol uniform (the uniform) being one of the most trusted and identifiable rescue service uniforms in Australia.

2. DEFINITIONS

Term	Definition
Aquatic rescue qualification	Surf Rescue Certificate (SRC), Bronze Medallion (BM) /Certificate II in Public Safety (Aquatic Rescue), Silver Medallion Aquatic Rescue (SMAR) or Gold Medallion (GM)
Lifesaver	An individual that undertakes patrols at a beach or another aquatic environment. This is typically a non-salaried member (volunteer), qualified in public safety and aquatic rescue
Lifesaving service	A coordinated group that exists to provide aquatic safety services to the public. This includes Surf Life Saving Clubs, Lifeguards, SurfCom, Rescue Water Craft, Rigid Hull Inflatable Boats, Jet Rescue Boats, Offshore Rescue Boats, and Helicopter and 4WD units.
Patrol	Service undertaken to monitor activities in/around an aquatic environment and respond accordingly through either preventative actions or rescue operations.
Qualified	A lifesaver, lifeguard or other lifesaving service volunteer/employee who holds a proficient aquatic rescue or emergency care award.
SLS	Surf Life Saving

3. PATROL UNIFORM

The uniform consists of the following items:

- SLSA approved patrol shirt
- SLSA approved patrol shorts
- SLSA approved red and yellow quartered patrol cap (Aquatic Rescue qualified only)
- State approved wide brimmed hat / peaked cap or beanie when not in the water

The uniform may also consist of the following recommended additional items:

- Swimming costume

- Approved Level 50 Lifejacket while operating an IRB
- Sunglasses
- SLSA approved rash shirt
- Other items such as SLS approved wetsuits, stinger suits, tracksuit pants and jumpers, helmets and wind jackets are also available to members.

Table 1

SLS Uniform Requirement		
Environment	Minimum Requirement	Recommended Additional Items
Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SLSA approved patrol shirt • SLSA approved patrol shorts • SLSA approved red and yellow quartered patrol cap (Aquatic Rescue Qualified only)** • State approved wide brimmed hat / peaked cap or beanie 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunglasses • State approved tracksuit pants • State approved jumpers • SLSA approved wind jackets
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swimming costume • SLSA approved red and yellow quartered patrol cap (Aquatic Rescue Qualified only) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SLSA approved rash shirt
IRB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swimming costume • SLSA approved red and yellow quartered patrol cap (Aquatic Rescue Qualified only) • Approved Level 50 Lifejacket 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunglasses • State approved wide brimmed hat / peaked cap • SLSA approved rash shirt

** SLSA approved red and yellow quartered patrol cap (Aquatic Rescue Qualified only) to be worn or carried as detailed in 4.d,e & f.

4. USE OF THE PATROL UNIFORM

- The uniforms should be maintained to ensure it is clean, neat and tidy in appearance
- Only qualified and proficient Surf Life Saving members are to wear the uniform
- All current SLS members with a proficient SLS award undertaking lifesaver patrol duties shall wear the minimum required uniform as listed in Table 1. This includes members undertaking patrolling, rescue duties and first aid operations
- Only members holding a current proficient Aquatic Rescue qualification are to wear the red and yellow quartered patrol cap.
- The red and yellow quartered patrol cap must be worn on the head and secured under the chin at all times when on patrol in the water.
- When not in the water the red and yellow quartered patrol cap may be worn on the head and secured under the chin, or carried on their person (subject to the person wearing an approved SLS peaked cap or wide brimmed hat).
- It is highly recommended that a rash vest be worn while in the water.

- h. Any items of the SLSA patrol uniform shall ONLY be worn while on direct travel to or from patrol, while on patrol or when attending official surf lifesaving functions and community education activities e.g. media promotions of surf lifesaving.
- i. Members serving on Helicopter, Jet Boat, Rescue Water Craft, Offshore Rescue Boat (including VMR), Surfcom and Duty Officers or State approved activities, are to abide by State SOP's or uniform regulations.

5. PROHIBITION

- a. SLS members may not sell or trade any item of uniform to any other person including staff and volunteer members of SLS.
- b. SLS uniforms must not be worn into licensed or similar premises with the exceptions outlined under 4.h.

6. RETURN

- a. A member of the SLS who resigns or does not renew their membership must return all items of uniform that has been issued or assigned to them by the club or service.
- b. SLS Uniforms are not to be retained under any circumstances.
- c. The uniform (and other items) are to be returned properly cleaned and laundered to the member's immediate lifesaving service.

7. DISPOSAL OF UNIFORM

- a. Disposal of uniforms that are no longer current and representative of the SLS uniform standard i.e. clean, neat and tidy is the responsibility of the club or service.

8. RELATED INFORMATION

Design and Brand

For the design and branding of the product refer to:

- a. SLSA Gear and Equipment Branding Guidelines
- b. SLSA Procedure – 1.1 Water Safety