



# SURF LIFE SAVING AUSTRALIA POLICY

<b>Title:</b>	Use of SLSA Equipment
<b>Document Number:</b>	1.02
<b>Last Review Date:</b>	May 2021
<b>Next Review Date:</b>	May 2022
<b>Responsible Portfolio:</b>	Lifesaving
<b>Authority</b>	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. SLSA AWARD HOLDERS:

All persons using SLS (owned) craft for operational activities (e.g. lifesaving and surf sports) must be qualified and currently proficient with the appropriate SLSA award applicable to usage of the craft.

## 2. NON SLSA AWARD HOLDERS:

Persons who are not the holder of a current SLSA award and wish to use SLS (owned) craft must have met the prerequisites for the training in the appropriate award applicable to the usage of the craft. Should a person not gain the required award (e.g. SRC for Boards or BM for Skis and Surf Boats) within 120 days, the prerequisite requirements (i.e. swim assessment) must be reassessed for the individual to continue to use SLS craft.

## 3. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Initial instruction/training must include clear instructions or training protocols on how to use the equipment, particularly in regard to injury prevention and survival in the event of a possible accident or loss of craft. Members under the age of 15 years must not undertake high intensity training and must not compete in surf boats or surf skis.

## 4. SUMMARY

	Competition	Training *
Surf Boats	Minimum 15 years of age as 30 September <u>and</u> Eligible for U/17 age group Proficient BM holders <u>or</u> Met prerequisite for BM	14 years of age as 30 September Proficient SRC holders <u>or</u> Met prerequisite for BM Non-high intensity training Qualified sweep
Surf Ski	15 years of age as 30 September Proficient BM holders <u>or</u> Met prerequisite for BM	13 years of age 30 September Proficient SRC holders <u>or</u> Met prerequisite for BM Non-high intensity training Qualified Coach

\* Training is focussed on building competence and confidence in/on these craft and should be undertaken in calm surf conditions or still water conditions.

Competition in IRB events or as a Surf Boat Sweep is not permitted until a Member has met the appropriate competition prerequisites.

## **5. DEFINITION OF HIGH INTENSITY:**

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For the purposes of this policy 'high intensity' refers to training and activity that would exceed skill development and/or cause the body to be exposed to forces that require the individual to exert more force or strength that is not suitable to their age, gender or experience. Examples include:

- a. activity in surf where the potential to be exposed to risk situations may occur due to skill level, development of participant and risk of injury; or
- b. training which exposes individuals to stresses that are not developmental or skill based.