



SURF LIFE SAVING AUSTRALIA POLICY STATEMENT USE OF SLSA EQUIPMENT

**POLICY
NUMBER
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POLICY

All persons using SLSA craft for operational activities (e.g. patrols, lifesaving and competition) must be qualified and currently proficient with the appropriate SLSA award applicable to the craft.

Personnel otherwise using SLSA craft should have met the prerequisites for the training in the appropriate award applicable to the usage of the craft.

Initial instruction/training must include clear instructions or training protocols on how to use the equipment, particularly in regards to injury prevention and survival in the event of a possible accident or loss of craft.

Due to medical advice members under the age of 16 years should not undertake formalised training and are not permitted to compete in surf boats.

In addition, members under the age of 15 years should not undertake formalised training and are not permitted to compete on surf skis.

Formalised competition using surf skis is permissible for members 15 years of age or over (who are proficient Bronze medallion holders) with the proviso that the U/17 Ironman and Ironwoman events will not include a surf ski leg.

In addition, members are not permitted to compete in open age category Ironman and Ironwoman event until they reach 16 years of age.

This does not preclude members under the age of 16 years (surf boats) or 15 years (surf ski) participating in less formal skill based sessions with the added consideration that all members under 16 years of age when skill training in surf boats and members under the age of 15 years on surf skis are supported by a suitably qualified coach.

Where a Club wishes to hold open or social days for the public or for schools or other non SLS clubs, etc. and to use SLSA craft, the Club will need to submit advice to their State Centre, confirm insurance cover, ensure that there is adequate water safety and to undertake a risk assessment to review the safety of users. In such circumstances members operating or supervising the use of SLSA craft must be qualified and currently proficient with the appropriate award applicable to the craft.