



Surf Life Saving Australia – Circular

June 2010

Patrol Uniforms

Distribution for seasons 2010/11 and 2011/12

Document id	93/09-10	Audience	SLS state offices SLS branch offices SLS surf clubs
Department	Lifesaving		

Summary

This circular details the process by which patrol uniforms will be allocated and distributed for seasons 2010/11 and 2011/12. With the assistance of major partners DHL, Telstra and Westpac Surf Life Saving will continue to supply patrol uniforms for all new Bronze Medallion and Surf Rescue Certificate patrolling members for the next two seasons.

How will allocations by clubs be determined?

The process is significantly different to past seasons with the aim of improving sizing allocation, quantities and distribution methods.

In the past allocations have been based on the average “annual growth rate” of our membership base (6-10% per year over last 4 years) with this % being applied equally across all clubs.

This time round allocations will be calculated on the “annual recruitment rate”. This is the estimated number of new active patrolling members (new Bronze Medallion and SRC holders) that join each year, which is calculated as being a certain % of the previous year’s active member base. For accuracy the % figure being used is based on an average that has been calculated using data from the last 4 seasons. For fairness and to account for variances across the country the figure will be calculated on a STATE BY STATE basis - rates vary by state between 20% and 45%.

For example: *If your state had a total of 5,000 active patrolling members last year, and the state average “recruitment rate” over 4 seasons is 33%, then each club in that state would receive an allocation of uniforms that is 33% of the total number of active patrolling members in that club as recorded in Surf Guard / Surf Mate at the end of the previous season.*

This method has two main advantages, firstly there will be more uniforms available than before for our new members, and secondly the allocation will be fair and take into account differences in membership numbers and recruitment activity across the different states.

However, regardless of better allocation of uniforms, clubs should still attempt to retrieve and redistribute uniforms from patrolling members who leave the club to reduce unnecessary wastage and cost.

How will sizing requirements be calculated?

Sizing needs have been assessed using a combination of data from Surf Guard & Surf Mate, experience gained from previous years, and historical size distribution. There is a bias towards smaller sizing.

To continually improve the ordering of correct sizes it is crucial that clubs encourage their members to enter their uniform sizes into SurfGuard and Surfmate. Members can do this themselves via www.lifesavingonline.com.au.

How will clubs receive their uniform allocation?

Clubs will no longer receive a bulk delivery of uniforms at the beginning of the season. Uniforms will now only be available via the SLSA Surf Shop – www.surfshop.slsa.com.au.

Clubs will be responsible for using the Surf Shop to order their own uniforms in quantities and sizes that they require, and when required. Clubs will be given a dollar amount as a credit in the online shop corresponding to the number of uniforms allocated to them. The cost of uniforms purchased will be deducted from this credit amount. This means that the uniform allocation will still be “free of cost” to clubs.

If clubs do not spend all of their allocated credit amount they can use the remaining credit to buy other gear & equipment from the online shop. Alternatively if clubs exhaust their credit then they will have to purchase additional uniforms at their own expense.

As such clubs are encouraged to find ways to be more efficient in their use of uniforms, for example by retrieving uniforms from departing members and / or creating uniform ‘pools’, etc.

How do clubs access their account in surfshop.slsa.asn.au?

All clubs already have an ‘official’ account for the online shop. Only these ‘official’ club accounts have access to restricted gear such as uniforms, etc. Most club administrators have already used their club account this season to purchase patrol gear and apparel. For those club officials that do not know their account login details please send an email to onlineshop@slsa.asn.au requesting details.

Next season the online shop will also carry an expanded range of rescue gear (tubes, boards, waist bags), first aid equipment (oxy kits, first aid kits, defibs etc), general merchandise that can be custom printed for club use, and other patrol apparel (caps, brim hats, patrol caps, rashies etc).



When will the next uniforms allocations be available?

Uniforms for next season are expected to be delivered from the supplier to our warehouse in August. Clubs will be informed of their credit allocation with the online shop, and will also be given detailed instructions as to how to access this credit in the online shop in September.

Changes to the uniform design

The shorts for next season have been modified slightly. Pockets will be made of mesh material to allow drainage of water and the length of the legs has been increased slightly.

EBAY and retention of uniforms

A large number of old patrol uniforms have been seen for sale on Ebay. The assumption is that current or past members have been able to retain their uniforms, or in some cases a large number of them, and are selling them on Ebay. This represents a serious liability to Surf Life Saving Australia from members of the public who may pass themselves off as qualified lifesavers. Clubs are requested to manage the retrieval of old uniforms and dispose of them responsibly.