



WATER SAFETY POLICY - PROCEDURES

5. TRAINING SQUADS FOR SRC, BM AND OTHER AWARDS

[Applies to all award training squads where participants are required to enter the water to undertake training in deep water rescues, board paddling skills and general surf skills training]

1. Water safety supervisor to be supervising trainer or other qualified person nominated by supervising trainer.
2. Water safety supervisor needs to be at least 18, hold BM as a minimum and be proficient.
3. Water safety supervisor must undertake risk assessment prior to any water component of the proficiency taking place.
4. Water safety supervisor needs to ensure that –
 - Risk assessment documentation completed
 - Rescue equipment is available – can include boards and tubes being used in the training by others
 - Participants confirm that they are ok to participate and that they are not carrying any injuries that may impact on their ability to participate in the training.
 - Participants capable of coping with the conditions
 - Appropriate water safety personnel are present. Water safety personnel must be qualified (SRC or BM) and proficient and competent for the conditions.
6. If the risk assessment indicates a high risk, the training must not take place.
7. A standardised risk assessment form may be possible but the variable nature and impact of the surf, wind and tide on safety together with the varying levels of competency of the participants means a standardised approach may not be considered appropriate in the event of an accident.
8. If group members already have SRC or BM, water safety supervisor has to ensure that there is at least 1 nominated water safety person for each 12 participants. If participants do not have SRC or BM, the ratio is 1 to 5 (low risk) or 1 to 4 (moderate risk)
9. If the group is made up of less than 12 current SRC or BM holders or 5 unqualified people, the water safety officer can also undertake the water safety person role provided he or she is also in the water with the group.

10. Water safety supervisor and personnel must wear identifying clothing – either a coloured cap or coloured rash vest with “Water Safety” on both sides. If patrol members perform water safety they must wear a red and yellow cap and patrol rash shirt with “Surf Rescue” on both sides. **The minimum number of water safety personnel (i.e. 1 for each 12, 5 or 4 depending on make-up of the squad and risk) must be in the water at all times the participants are in the water.**
11. Water safety supervisor needs to consult with the patrol captain or lifeguard to determine where the training is to take place. Patrol captain or lifeguard has ultimate authority to determine where the training is to occur. Subject to minimum patrol requirements being met, excess patrol members can undertake water safety for the training at the discretion of the patrol captain. **The patrol captain or lifeguard has responsibility to ensure that sufficient water safety is available for the events**
12. If no patrol or lifeguard on duty, the water safety supervisor determines where the activity is to occur.
13. Water safety supervisor is to ensure that all completed risk assessment documentation is returned to the club for filing.