



POINT LEO SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB INC.

# Personal Protective Equipment Policy for Water Activities

As lifesavers it is essential that water activities are conducted with a strong focus on risk assessment and safety. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) can have a significant impact on minimising risk in water activities. As such Point Leo SLSC has developed a policy around PPE for water based activities. The policy should be implemented by coaches and club leaders and adhered to by all members of the club.

## Mandated policy

Coaches and club leaders should be fully aware of mandated policy from Surf Lifesaving Australia (SLSA) and Lifesaving Victoria (LSV) and comply with these requirements. As of August 2013 the following equipment based risk minimisation strategies are mandatory:

- Completion of the Water Safety Checklist before all club authorised training sessions (most easily done using the smartphone app available from SLSA)
- Wearing of a portable floatation device (PFD) that is high visibility (or in combination with a high visibility vest) and yellow/red patrol cap for IRB drivers and crew at all times when in the water (from October 2014)
- Wearing of helmets for boat crew at all times when in the water (from January 2014)
- Wearing of high visibility vest for all water based competition for senior (SLSA) and all water based activity including training for juniors (LSV)

All PPE should meet the relevant Australian Standard specified by SLSA or LSV.

Note that SLSA is the highest governing body regarding mandated PPE policy. Lifesaving Victoria can only mandate policy to further increase safety.

Club authorised training is defined as formally timetabled sessions publicised internally through the club (as per the Board and Ski Policy).

## Club policy

Point Leo SLSC may develop additional policy to that mandated by SLSA and LSV to further manage risk factors in water activities. As of August 2013 the following policy applies:

- Competitors (senior) undertaking club authorised training must wear a high visibility vest at all times when in the water
- Members on patrol will wear high visibility garments when in the water. This should include club red shorts/bathers and red/yellow patrol cap which are a standard part of patrol uniform
- Given the liability issues at stake all club coaches and leaders will take a zero tolerance approach to compliance of members. If the relevant PPE is not worn then participation in the water activity cannot occur
- Random audits of water activities will occur once a month in summer and autumn with a report provided to the committee every quarter regarding policy compliance