



Circular 119:17

Date: 7th September 2017

Subject: National Lifesaving Operational Memo & Policy Update

Attention: Club Chairs, Club Lifesaving Officers / Club Captains, Patrol Captains, Instructors, Lifeguards

Action: As per operational memo & policy statement

Circulars are available at: <http://lifesaving.org.nz/lifesaving/lifesaving-operations-circulars/>

Surf Lifesaving New Zealand have produced four [Lifesaving Operational Updates](#) and the new '[Helmet use in Powered Craft and Lifeguarding around Rocks Policy SLS031](#)' which have operational implications on lifesaving safety. Please follow the hyperlinks to view the SLSNZ documents.

Surf Lifesaving Northern Region will be working to provide support to all Clubs within the region in order to meet the requirements set out by the SLSNZ communication.

- Operational Memo 1: SLS031_Helmet use in Powered Craft and Lifeguarding around Rocks.
 - SLSNR is currently investigating helmet options (that meet standards CE1385) and will be able to provide recommendations on models in the near future.
 - SLSNR is also investigating methods for funding of appropriate helmets for all Clubs to assist in compliance with the new policy.
- Operational MEMO 2: Temporary Ban on all club Rock rescue training for new Life Guards

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- SLSNR will also be working with SLSNZ to find opportunities to continue training lifeguards that have not attended a rock rescue course, ensuring that such training is appropriate.
- Intermediate Lifeguard Schools and a National lifeguard school have been placed on the SLSNR and SLSNZ calendar for the coming season and provide rock rescue training on both of these courses.
- Lifeguards who have previously trained in rock rescue to the appropriate standard are still able to participate in rock rescue training and rescue operations, but are not permitted to facilitate rock training for untrained personnel.
- Operational MEMO 3: Compulsory removal of the right foot strap in IRBs'
 - SLSNR have been in contact with Arancia and can confirm that the process for removal of the foot strap recommended by the manufacturer is:
 - Unscrew and remove strap and all fittings
 - Seal with a marine silicone sealer
 - An example is [Selleys Autofix Marine Sealant](#)
- Operational MEMO 4: Removal of all Stiff Neck Cervical Spine
 - This recommendation is in line with current recommendations from the appropriate agencies (Australian and New Zealand Committee on Resuscitation (ANZCOR)).
 - Patients with a suspected cervical spine injury should be immobilised utilising manual techniques by appropriately trained personnel.
 - C-spine immobilisation is taught at First Aid level 2.
 - Clubs should remove these devices from operational kit.

These Operational Memos and the new Policy will be reviewed by the LAG who will be seeking further ways to support the lifesaving operations for the Clubs within the region.

If you have any questions, concerns or feedback at a regional or national level please make contact through either the Northern Lifesaving Manager or the Lifesaving Advisory Group Chair and these will be addressed appropriately;

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