

## Circular 160:17

**Date:** 21<sup>st</sup> December 2017

**Subject:** SafeSwim 'Red' Protocols – **RED means RED**

**Attention:** All members

**Action:** Follow the new protocols

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

Following the implementation of the SafeSwim programme, Clubs have again asked for guidance on the protocols to adopt if their beach, or a beach on which they are to carry out Event Water Safety, is showing as 'red' on the SafeSwim website.

### **General water use by Clubs**

[Ops Circular 142:17](#) said;

*If your beach is showing 'Red' then please advise the public that swimming is not recommended. In addition, please ensure the standard SLSNZ 'No Swimming' Red Flag is flown and the red/yellow patrol flags are taken down.*

For the sake of clarity, this guidance also applies to all club members.

**When the water quality is 'Red' club members should not enter the water.  
Red means Red!**

### **Junior Surf & Sport training**

It is imperative that members, especially children are not exposed to potentially harmful water and so clubs must have a back up plan or venue to conduct Junior Surf or Sport training if the water quality is showing as 'red'.

### **Event Safety**

If a Club is providing event water safety then the event organiser should be aware of the water quality status and plan accordingly. However, the Club also needs to advise the event organiser that

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their members are not permitted to enter the water, which will clearly have an impact on the events viability.

### **Rescue Response**

Naturally, the prevention of loss of life is primary reason we provide patrols, and so the Patrol Captain should use their discretion if entering the water when the water quality status is red, would save a life. Ideally, the use of a rescue craft such as an IRB will limit the rescuer(s) exposure to the contaminated water. However, if a member does enter the water and feels they would like to receive medical advice or a check-up, then they should contact SLSNR via the Duty Officer (Delta 1).

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