



Circular 025:18

Date: 15th February 2018

Subject: Use of Helmets in IRBs & when operating around rocks

Attention: All members

Action: Please adhere to the new policy

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

Wearing of helmets in IRBs

SLSNZ recently issued a revision to the decision to implement the mandatory wearing of helmets in IRBs ([Policy No: SLS031](#)), delaying the introduction until Labour weekend 2018. However, the SLSNR Ops Committee considered the report and recommendations by the SLSNZ Medical Director together with the risks to the members, Clubs and to SLSNR and recommended to the SLSNR Board that the policy is implemented **with immediate effect**. This was discussed at the recent Club Delegates meeting and the Board then ratified this as a **policy decision** at their meeting on 22nd January. SLSNR has already provided a significant number of helmets through the Foundation North equipment allocation programme and will continue to seek funding to provide more helmets for clubs. If clubs require information on where to source their own helmets then please contact SLSNR. However, for the avoidance of doubt, **the wearing of helmets in IRBs is now mandatory for all SLSNR clubs.**

Wearing of helmets when operating around rocks

SLSNZ [Policy No: SLS031](#) also **mandates the use of helmets whilst conducting lifesaving operations around rocks**. The Ops Committee and SLSNR Board also supports this policy, although recognises that in some rescue situations some degree of flexibility is required because of the immediacy of the situation.

Adam Wooler

Operations Manager

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