



Circular 086:18

Date: 4th October 2018

Subject: No Excuses Campaign

Attention: All lifeguards

Action: Please be aware of local bylaws regarding carriage and wearing of lifejackets

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

Please ensure you are following the local bylaws regarding the carriage and wearing of lifejackets on craft under 6 metres – which includes canoes, surf boats, surf skis and paddle boards if outside of the surf zone.

This is a reminder that there are no blanket exemptions for surf life guards for these rules! Please advise your members of this, as each year we have tickets being issued and people being surprised the rules apply to them!

The only exemptions are where clubs have formally sought Harbourmaster dispensation for organised training events/ competitions and demonstrated that safety processes are in place (e.g. safety IRB's). Please contact me at calvin.hicks@lifesaving.org.nz to begin the process for organizing an exemption.

It is also worth a reminder that even the most prepared are still vulnerable – as last month an experienced surf ski paddler drowned at Tutukaka, despite wearing a lifejacket, having two forms of communication and being relatively close to shore - simply due to getting exhausted trying to get back on his ski in conditions of a sizeable swell and spending too much time in the cold water, dying just minutes before Coastguard was able to rescue him. If anyone wants to see the full report on this incident just let me know, but the key lessons here were:

- Don't paddle alone.
- Always wear a lifejacket/PFD, but don't assume this alone will save you.
- Wear clothing in anticipation of being in the water for an extended period.
- Make sure your two forms of communication are attached to your body, not your craft. Don't rely on bystanders to raise the alarm.
- Make sure you are leashed to your craft.
- Make sure you are capable of remounting in all conditions.
- Call for rescue early!

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If you have members going out on their own or in small groups training, this is particularly relevant.

Calvin Hicks

Lifesaving Manager

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