



POLICY STATEMENT

DATE: 26 August 2006
SUBJECT: SLSQ PATROL HOURS AND COMPETITION RIGHTS POLICY
DEPARTMENT: Surf Sports / Lifesaving

A. INTRODUCTION

This policy complies with the principles contained in the SLSA Patrol Hours Policy, and has been developed to clarify and set out clear rules and procedures applicable to SLSQ members and Clubs.

It should be particularly noted that the SLSA policy is silent on the issue of where a member must do their patrols. To avoid any uncertainty, this policy clarifies SLSQ's position which requires a member to fulfil patrol hour obligations for the Club he/she wishes to compete for.

This does not necessarily mean that a member must carry out all of their patrols at his/her Club's beach(es). Provisions are made in this policy to allow (and indeed encourage) members from Clubs with larger active membership to carry out patrols for other Clubs or SLSQ Operations Support Services, i.e. to improve our collective lifesaving/patrol services.

B. WHO MAY COMPETE?

A member who wishes to compete must be a current, proficient and financial member of the Club he/she wishes to compete for. Each member must also have satisfied his/her patrol obligations for the Club he/she wishes to compete for.

To be eligible to compete, a member shall be of the membership categories of Active Senior, Active Junior, Active Cadet, Active Reserve, Long Service, Life, Award or Associate (with the relevant current/proficient SLSQ award). In the case of all competing members, they must hold and be proficient in the relevant SLSA award(s).

The above membership categories cover the following competition categories.

- ◆ Under 15 yrs
- ◆ Under 17 yrs
- ◆ Under 19 yrs
- ◆ Under 21 yrs
- ◆ Senior
- ◆ Open
- ◆ Restricted (over 24 yrs)
- ◆ Masters (over 30 yrs)

In the case of Junior Activity members (Nippers), to be eligible to compete in Under 15 events, they must be 13 years of age, hold a current/proficient Surf Rescue Certificate, and have completed the required number of patrol hours as per this policy.

C. ANNUAL/SEASON PATROL CALENDAR

The annual calendar of patrol times for all Clubs and Operations Support Services will be determined by the State Life Saving Committee which comprises the SLSQ State Life Saving Officer and all Branch Directors of Life Saving. All Clubs' patrol obligations will be as laid down in the current SLSQ Patrol and Operations Manual, Circulars and/or individual Club Patrol Service Agreements endorsed by the State Life Saving Committee.

D. WHO SHALL DO PATROLS?

Clubs may require all or any of the above membership categories to do patrols; **however** the following categories of members **must do patrols if they wish to compete:**

Active Seniors/Active Juniors (Under 17/19), Active Reserves, Active Junior/Active Cadet (Under 15), Award and Nippers (Under 14) who wish to compete in "Senior" carnivals.

Members in the foregoing categories who hold a Club and/or Branch position must still do the required number of patrol hours.

It is SLSQ policy that members involved in Operations Support Services (e.g. helicopter, jet rescue boat, rescue water craft, SurfCom) can and should have these voluntary patrol hours credited to their Club patrol hours.

Members who work as Lifeguards, Beach Inspectors, etc. are **not** exempt from obligations to satisfy their Club's voluntary patrol requirements for the purpose of being eligible for competition.

E. UNDER 13-14 AND UNDER 15 MEMBERS

Junior Activities Members or 'Nippers' (Under 13 and Under 14) and Active Cadet (Under 15) members who wish to compete at a "Senior" carnival must complete their patrol hours obligations as per this policy.

F. PATROL HOUR OBLIGATIONS

Except as provided below, the minimum number of personal patrol hours **for Active Members** must not be less than **25 hours** for each calendar year, i.e., 1st January to 31st December of the same year.

The minimum requirement for **all Active Reserve** members will be **12 hours**.

NEW, REJOINING AND TRANSFERRING MEMBERS – PRO RATA PATROL HOURS

New members are required to perform **four (4) hours patrol per month**, from the month they achieve the relevant SLSA award.

Members re-joining or members returning after a leave of absence or members transferring to a new Club are required to do **four (4) hours patrol per month from the time of submitting a membership application form** to the Club they wish to compete for.

Pro-rata patrol hours shall be calculated in accordance with the following table:

<i>New Members or Returning Members</i>	<i>Patrol Hour Requirement</i>	<i>Patrol Hour Requirement (Active Reserve)</i>
January	25	12
February	24	12
March	20	12
April – September	16	8
October	12	8
November	8	4
December	4	4

Example A: Sally joined as an Active Junior in September 2006. She completed her award on the 20th October 2006. Sally is required to complete 12 hours of patrol during 2006 to be eligible to compete in the 2007 State and/or Australian Championships.

Example B: Joey has been a member in Nippers since he was an Under 8. He completed his SRC when still an Under 13 and wants to compete in the U15 age group at the Senior Carnivals. Joey completed this award in February 2006, he therefore needs to complete a minimum of 24 patrol hours to be eligible to compete in the U15 age group at the 2007 State and/or Australian Championships.

PERSONAL PATROL HOURS SHALL ONLY BE CALCULATED ON THE FOLLOWING TERMS:

- ◆ Rostered patrols
- ◆ Substitute for another member (these hours will be credited to the member who actually performs the hours)
- ◆ Voluntary patrols
- ◆ Water Safety patrol hours for Junior Activities at Club level which have been documented in the relevant Water Safety Log (Club management to confirm in Club minutes)
- ◆ Operations Support Services (e.g. helicopter, jet boats, etc.)
- ◆ Approved patrols for a 'needy Club' (see 'G' below)

Notes:

1. **Penalty patrol hours shall not be used in calculating personal patrol hours.**
2. **Water Safety patrol hours at carnivals shall not be used in calculating personal patrol hours.**
3. **Personal patrol hours do not transfer with a member when they transfer Clubs for competition purposes.**

G. PATROL HOURS FOR OTHER CLUBS

A member performing patrols for another Club (for example, a Club experiencing difficulty maintaining minimum patrol strengths due to a low active membership) can have his/her patrol hours performed at the other Club counted towards competition rights if endorsed in writing by the member's home Club and Branch and the Branch which controls the other Club.

Note: The Approval Form to confirm these arrangements is attached.

H. WHO SHALL BE EXEMPT FROM PATROLS?

Only Long Service and Life Members can be automatically exempted from the minimum patrol hour requirements.

A Club may give special consideration for full or partial exemption from patrol obligations to other Active members (in addition to Long Service members and Life Members) who are on special Association assignment, e.g. members of SLSQ/SLSA representative teams, instructional teams etc. Any such exemptions need to be minuted in the minutes of the Club Management Committee meeting, and copied to the Branch for approval.

In such cases, minimum patrol hours need to be calculated using the pro-rata schedule.

The holding of a Club and/or Branch position is not considered as a special Association assignment.

Members on holidays or involved in school or university exams or due to work commitments are not eligible for exemption from beach patrols with their competitive club for competition eligibility purposes.

All exemptions must be applied for annually.

I. PATROL OBLIGATION DECLARATION LETTER - CLUB RESPONSIBILITY

Clubs are requested to submit (on Club letterhead) details of any exemptions.

Remember: Clubs are not required to list Life Members or Long Service members in the Club exemption letter.

In all other cases where a member is requesting a full or partial exemption, the Club letter must state clearly the reason for the exemption, along with the member's details regarding joining and/or re-joining date.

The letter is to be completed and forwarded as follows:

By Clubs to Branches (for review and endorsement) NO LATER THAN 3rd January
By Branches to SLSQ (for ratification) NO LATER THAN 20th January

Please be sure that these requirements have been fulfilled when nominating competitors for all Championship competitions.

J. CLUBS ATTENDING CARNIVALS

A Club shall not compete at a carnival (during the patrol season) unless there is a full and competent patrol, including equipment as per the SLSQ Patrol and Operations Manual, on duty on their own beach.

K. PROFICIENCIES

All Association members shall pass the annual proficiency test and carry out the necessary patrol duties as determined by their category of membership.

It will be the direct responsibility of the competitor/Clubs to ensure these requirements are met.

Members becoming proficient or obtaining a new Bronze Medallion or Surf Rescue Certificate during the period 1st July to 31st December in a particular calendar year shall be deemed proficient until 31st December the following year.

The cut off date for proficiencies for members wishing to compete in a State and/or National and/or World Championships is 31st December in the preceding year..

However, and subject to the following conditions, in cases which are considered to be of exceptional circumstance, a member may be allowed to complete a proficiency test after 31 December for the purpose of becoming eligible to compete in State and/or National and/or World Championships, pending:

- Approval of the Branch; and,
- Approval of the State Life Saving Officer and State Surf Sports Officer; and,
- The proficiency is completed by 31 January

L. CHECKING

Branch officials shall carry out checks on patrol hour obligations on any Club within their Branch. SLSA and SLSQ shall also carry out checks or request a Branch to carry out checks on their behalf.

M. ABSOLUTE MINIMUMS

The minimum hours listed in this policy are absolute minimum requirements and even minor shortfalls will not be accepted for the purpose of determining competition eligibility.

N. PENALTIES

Breaches of this policy will be dealt with severely.

Penalties include, but are not limited to:

- Exclusion of members failing to meet their minimum patrol hours from the championship carnival;
- Exclusion of the member's Club from participation in the championship carnival;
- Exclusions of the member and/or Club from participating in other carnivals;
- Fines.

Attachment:

- Approval to Perform Patrol at Another Club Form.



The life of the beach.

APPROVAL TO PERFORM PATROLS AT ANOTHER CLUB

This is to certify that approval has been granted to _____, a member of _____ Surf Life Saving Club to perform voluntary patrols for _____ Surf Life Saving Club.

It is acknowledged that the patrol hours carried out at the second Club will be credited to the aforementioned member for competition rights eligibility.

Authorisations:

Member's Club:

NAME

POSITION

SIGNATURE

DATE

Member's Branch:

NAME

POSITION

SIGNATURE

DATE

Branch controlling Club where patrols will be carried out:

BRANCH

NAME

POSITION

SIGNATURE

DATE

Please send copies of this form to:

1. Member's Club
2. Member's Branch
3. Branch Controlling Club where patrols will be carried out
4. Surf Life Saving Queensland (Attention: Surf Sports Manager).

NOTE: This form must be lodged with SLSQ before patrols are carried out at the second Club. Any patrol hours performed at the second Club before this form has been endorsed will not be counted towards Competition Rights Eligibility criteria.