

SLSQ Policy

Title: Powercraft Code of conduct	Division: Lifesaving
Policy No: LS10	Version: 1.0
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Introduction

The following policy statement was updated at the State Life Saving Committee meeting May 2017.

Purpose

For the purpose of this policy, the definition of powercraft refers to all Inflatable Rescue Boats; Personal Watercraft (RWC's) and Offshore Rescue Boats. Surf Life Saving Queensland has an obligation to all members of the public who use the aquatic environment, as well as our members and staff to ensure that powercraft operations are operated in a safe and exemplary manner. All SLSQ powercraft are registered with Queensland Transport as commercial vessels, and provided with specific exemptions of operation under the existing regulations of the Queensland Transport Maritime Safety.

Application

As part of the Association's risk management strategies, powercraft operations have been identified as an area of high-risk. The highest risk of accidents in IRB's are predominantly drivers aged between 17 and 25, which is similar to road accident statistics. It is recognised that there may, at times, be an element that puts others at risk because of foolishness, immaturity and non-compliance with standing Marine Safety and Association training and operation regulations and manuals. To minimise the risk associated with powercraft operations, this Code of Conduct has been developed and incorporated into powercraft training, assessment and operations. It should further be noted that the Code of Conduct includes penalties for non-compliance in powercraft operations and enforced in all Surf Life Saving Clubs, Support Services and Lifeguard operations.

Policy

IMPLEMENTATION

- Posters of the Code of Conduct should be placed in powercraft gear sheds and other highly visual areas
within the Club.
- Poster of SLSQ's Powercraft Incident and Investigation flow chart to be placed in the gear shed or
highly visible area within the club.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Powercraft operators are to make themselves aware of the following resources –

- Relevant training manual for the craft they are operating
- Current SLSQ Patrol Operations Manual

- Maritime Safety Queensland regulations
- Powercraft exemptions for SLSQ operations
- Current training and assessing resources

IRB Captains shall –

- Promote awareness of the Code of Conduct to all IRB Driver, Crew and Patrol Captains.
- Promote compliance with the Code of Conduct amongst IRB Drivers and Crew.
- Ensure all operations are within SLSQ's Patrol Operations Manual, current manuals and SLSQs Safety Management system for powercraft operation.
- Treat all breaches of the Code seriously and take follow up and necessary action.
- Ensure they are aware of the SLSQ incident and investigation policy and guidelines for all Powercraft incidents.
- Assist the SLSQ Investigating Officer with obtaining relevant information in relation to a breach of Code of Conduct or for an investigation.

Patrol Captains shall –

- Monitor and promote compliance with the Code of Conduct amongst IRB Drivers and Crew.
- Treat all breaches of the Code seriously and report them to the Club Captain.
- Treat all complaints by the public seriously and report them to the IRB and Club Captain.

Club and Branch shall –

- Monitor and promote compliance with the Code of Conduct amongst all IRB Drivers, Crew and Patrol Captains.
- Treat all breaches of the Code seriously and report them to the Regional Lifesaving Services Coordinator/Regional Manager.
- Treat all complaints by the public as serious and report them to the Regional Lifesaving Services Coordinator/Regional Manager.
- Ensure they are aware of the SLSQ incident and investigation policy and guidelines for all Powercraft incidents
- Assist the SLSQ Investigating Officer with obtaining relevant information in relation to a breach of Code of Conduct or for an investigation.

POWERCRAFT CODE OF CONDUCT

SAFETY

Ensure safety to your crew, self and public. Continually assess risk when operating craft.

LIMITATIONS

Understand the limitation of your crew and yourself in all situations and conditions.

SOPS

Follow operating procedures in the manuals and policies from SLSA.

CRAFT

Understand that your craft is highly visible and we have a responsibility to respect the rights of others when in the water.

DEALING WITH BREACH OF CODE OF CONDUCT OR INJURY

On the initial notification or evidence that a Driver/Operator, Crewman or Club has failed to abide by the Powercraft Code of Conduct, Marine Safety and/or Association training and operation regulations and manuals, an SLSQ Investigating Officer will be allocated by the State Lifesaving Manager or State Lifesaving Officer.

An investigation will be compiled as per the SLSQ Powercraft Incident and Investigation Guidelines and tabled at the State IRB Advisory Panel to review and endorse or imply recommendations. Recommendations will then be referred to the State Lifesaving Committee for endorsement or any further disciplinary action.

Any disciplinary action such as a suspension or probation will directly referred to the CEO.

PENALTIES FOR BREACHES OF CODE OF CONDUCT

Penalties for breaches of the Code of Conduct may include –

- Caution – for minor breaches of the Code, a breach is to be noted in the Club's Lifesaving Committee minutes
- Re-education – involving IRB Drivers or Crew to complete re-education programs and testing as determined by the Club, Branch or State Lifesaving Committee.