



Bulletin

Title:	Mandatory Surf Helmets for Patients in all Powercraft Activities
Document ID:	SLSA Bulletin 02/15-16
Department:	Capacity and Capability
Audience:	Powercraft Operators, Club Captains, State/Territory Centres
Summary:	This bulletin outlines the implementation timeline for policies mandating the wearing of surf helmets by members acting as patients in all powercraft activities

Related documents

- SLSA Bulletin 5/12-13: Mandatory Use of Helmets for IRB Patients in Surf Sports.
- SLSA Approved Gear and Equipment and equipment manual

Background:

SLSA mandated the use of surf helmets for IRB patients in SLSA competition training and events commencing 1 October 2013.

It was noted by the lifesaving Member Advisory (LMAC) and Lifesaving Management Committees (LMC) that in November 2014, there was an inconsistency between requirements for powercraft training (surf sports, lifesaving skills maintenance and member education training & skill/craft demonstrations) with members acting as patients.

After consideration of the issue, the LMC and LMAC resolved to mandate the use of surf helmets by members acting as patients while undertaking powercraft training.

Where possible and practical, substituting members acting as patient with a water rescue manikin such as the *Lifetec water rescue manikin* is preferred option to remove any risk.

The use of an approved surf helmet may help reduce the possible risk of head injury caused by a possible collision between the member and any powercraft in the water.

The LMC and LMAC resolved to mandate the use of surf helmets by members acting as patients while undertaking powercraft training.

Powercraft refers to Inflatable Rescue Boats, Rescue Water Craft, Jet Rescue Boats and Offshore Rescue Boats.

Decisions:

- 1) SLS Members acting as patients in all powercraft operations must wear an SLSA approved surf helmet from 1st May 2016.

Approved Surf Helmets:

A full list of SLSA approved surf helmets is available in the SLSA Approved Gear and Equipment Manual available [here](#). Both *Lifesaving PPE* and *Competition Surf Sports Helmets* are acceptable.

Further Information Contact:

In the first instance contact the your State Centre or contact SLSA via

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