



POLICY NAME	Boards and Surf Skis Usage			POLICY NO.	GEN001
EFFECTIVE DATE	9th October 2023	DATE OF LAST REVISION	9th October 2023	VERSION NO.	1
RESPONSIBLE BOARD POSITION	Vice President	CONTACT	vicepresident@williamstownslsc.org.au		

VERSION HISTORY				
VERSION	APPROVED BY	REVISION DATE	DESCRIPTION OF CHANGE	AUTHOR
1	WS&LSC Board	9th October 2023	Final Version	J. Farrow

1.0 AIM

To set clear rules for the usage of Club-owned boards and skis for general use, training and competition purposes, both at Williamstown Beach and other locations. This Policy is implemented to:

- encourage safe use of Club-owned Boards and Surf Skis
- limit damage and associated financial burden on the Club from misuse of equipment

2.0 SCOPE

This policy applies to all members of Williamstown S&LSC . As part of membership, all members of Williamstown S&LSC are bound by the rules, policies and procedures as determined by the Board of Directors.

3.0 POLICY STATEMENT

3.1 Equipment Designation

Every Club-owned Board and Surf Ski will be marked with a coloured sticker to designate the type of usage allowed. This sticker will be located at the tail end of the Board or Surf Ski, either above or below the water line. Allocation of stickers to equipment will be undertaken at the discretion of the Vice President and Director of Competition (or equivalents). Any equipment with missing stickers should be reported immediately to the Vice President.

Colour	Description
Red Sticker	Equipment marked with a red sticker are for use by Competition members for training and competition purposes ONLY. Usage of this equipment must only be undertaken with permission from the Director of Competition (or equivalent) PRIOR to use*
Amber Sticker	Equipment marked with an amber sticker are for use by financial members ONLY who are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SRC/Bronze Medallion (or higher) award holders (ART/FA/SSV awards without an SRC/BM award are not considered as sufficient under this Policy) - Competition Team members & coaches for training purposes ONLY
Green Sticker	Equipment marked with a green sticker are for use by financial members ONLY, during the designated time periods.

* : permission must be granted by the Director of Competition prior to use throughout the season. Permission must only be obtained once and recorded by the Director of Competition in writing. The Director of Competition reserves the right to rescind permission for the use of Red Stickered equipment if it is determined that the usage of the equipment is not in line with this Policy, or is in contradiction to the Member’s Code of Conduct.

Note: any Club-owned equipment may only be used at competitions (carnivals, State and National Championships and any other associated lifesaving sport competition) by financial members who have their competition rights with Williamstown S&LSC, and are not to be used by any member of another lifesaving club/organisation without the written permission of the Director of Competition (or equivalent Board role responsible for Aquatic Sports). This permission is given at the sole discretion of the Director of Competition (or equivalent) and will take into consideration mitigating factors such as (but not limited to) prior contribution to Williamstown S&LSC.

3.2 Age Restrictions

In conjunction with the coloured stickers, different age groups shall be restricted to the usage of certain types of boards for safety, practicality and lifespan of the equipment:

Age	Board Type	Ski Type
0-10 years	Foam Boards ONLY	NOT PERMITTED
11-12 years	Foam Boards Fibreglass Boards	NOT PERMITTED
13-14 years	Foam Boards Fibreglass Boards (including Mals)	NOT PERMITTED
15 years +	Foam Boards Fibreglass Boards (including Mals)	PERMITTED

3.3 Times of Usage

Usage of Club-owned equipment by members who do not hold an Aquatic Rescue award may only occur during the following times:

- when the red and yellow Patrol Flags are on the beach, and with notification to the Patrol Captain
- during Competition Team training, under the supervision of the Coach(es) as nominated by the Director of Competition
- after Nippers Education sessions, providing that Aquatic Rescue award holders are present to supervise
- all Club-owned equipment usage must align with the Equipment Designation and Age Restrictions sections of this Policy

Usage of Club-owned equipment by members who hold an Aquatic Rescue award may use the applicable colour-stickered equipment during daylight hours (between sunrise and sunset) providing that the Safety requirements of this Policy are adhered to. (Access to the Board Shed with individual Access Fob required)

3.4 Offsite/Personal Use

Club-owned Boards and Surf Skis must be stored and returned after use to the Board Shed. Club-owned Boards and Surf Skis may not be stored elsewhere or used away from the immediate area of and around Williamstown Beach, unless:

- for Competition Team group/individual training or competition purposes, with permission from the Director of Competition;
- for Awards Training purposes, with permission from the Director of Training/Chief Instructor;
- for reasonable use related to lifesaving (not specifically identified within this Policy), with permission from the Vice President.

Failure to adhere to these requirements may subject the member to disciplinary action under the Member Code of Conduct.

3.5 Supervision (Safety)

The following supervision requirements apply when using Club-owned Boards and Surf Skis:

Age	Description
0-6 years	Must be in arm's reach of a parent/adult/designated guardian over the age of 15 years at all times
7-12 years	Must be actively supervised (within view) of a parent/adult/designated guardian over the age of 15 years at all times
13 years +	No mandatory supervision required. It is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED that all use of equipment is undertaken with the minimum of another person in view of the activity.

NOTE: On-duty Volunteer Patrollers/Beach Lifeguards are not considered to be adequate supervision of members aged 12 years or younger using Club-owned Boards and Surf Skis as per the conditions of this Policy.

3.6 Visibility (Safety)

As per [SLSA Policy 1.01a - Water Safety Procedure](#), it is recommended that all use of Club-owned Boards and Surf Skis are undertaken whilst wearing either a:

- A. high-visibility fluoro singlet rashie
- B. Nippers rashie
- C. bright-coloured Personal Flotation Device (PFD)

(Fluro singlet rashies are available near the entrance of the Board Shed. It is expected that the user will return the singlet rashie clean and dry after use. PFDs are available in adult sizes ONLY and can be accessed from the Patrol Operations areas)

3.7 Damages and Repairs

It is expected that any damage to Club-owned Boards and Surf Skis, including (but not limited to):

- denting
- piercing of outer layer of material
- broken handles/footstrips
- broken fins
- lifting knee pads

are reported as soon as they are noticed to the Vice President.

If major damage occurs (any of the aforementioned damage incidents that may affect usage of the equipment) that is not reported, and it is determined that the damage is severe enough to impact the ongoing use of the equipment without repair, the user may be considered for disciplinary action under the Member Code of Conduct for failing to 'accept responsibility for their actions and behaviour'. All major instances of damaged equipment will be referred to the Board of Directors for consideration.

4.0 ENFORCEMENT

It is the expectation of the Board of Directors that the rules and parameters outlined in this Policy are followed by all members. Should any breach of this Policy occur, and is reported to a member of the Board, the matter will be brought to the Board of Directors for assessment and resolution.

5.0 REFERENCES

WS&LSC Member Code of Conduct

6.0 TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

TERM	DEFINITION
Aquatic Rescue award	an award issued by Life Saving Victoria for Aquatic Rescue operations, including Surf Rescue Certificate (SRC), Bronze Medallion (BM), Silver Medallion - Aquatic Rescue (SMAR) and Gold Medallion (GM) awards