

SORRENTO SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB SURF SKI EQUIPMENT POLICY



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1.0 OVERVIEW

This policy outlines the purpose and principles for the use of Sorrento Surf Life Saving Club (SOSLSC) surf skis, paddles and other related equipment (surf ski equipment).

The purpose of the club providing surf ski equipment for member use is to encourage as many active Bronze Medallion holders and youth development program members to participate in the sport of surf ski paddling. The club also aims to enable maximum participation in surf competitions where members can represent the club in surf ski events.

The club seeks to make the best use of the surf ski equipment; maximising its availability for the youth ski development program and competition athletes as a priority, and also encouraging other members who hold a Bronze Medallion and are interesting in surf ski paddling to get involved through access to the equipment.

In recent years, the growth of the club's ski program has increased demand for the use of surf ski equipment. This is a tremendous reflection on the success of the program and suggests a promising future for member participation and performance in the sport, however, it is necessary for the club to outline a clear, fair and practical policy that supports the club's purpose in providing this equipment for use by members.

2.0 USE OF EQUIPMENT

The use of club surf ski equipment is managed by the Ski Captain or their delegate, in consultation with the Ski Committee.

Members must ensure that they have approval from the Ski Captain prior to the use of any surf ski equipment for training, competition and other use.

2.1 TRAINING

The following direction is provided for the use of surf ski equipment for club sanctioned training:

- 2.1. (a) Active members who hold a Bronze Medallion may use the club's surf ski equipment for club sanctioned training.
- 2.1. (b) Youth members that have completed the club's 'introduction to ski paddling' program may use the club's surf ski equipment for club sanctioned training.
- 2.1. (c) At a minimum, members are to wear a fluorescent top for safety when using the club's surf ski equipment. Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) are encouraged.
- 2.1. (d) If there are more members wishing to participate than equipment is available, the Ski Captain, Coach or Youth Manager of the session is to allocate the equipment; prioritising youth ski paddlers and members who are actively representing the club in surf sports competition.

2.2 SLS COMPETITION

The following direction is provided for the use of club surf ski equipment at Surf Life Saving (SLS) sanctioned competitions:

- 2.2. (a) The Ski Captain or their delegate is responsible for approving the allocation of surf ski equipment to ensure that it is in accordance with this policy and that the club knows who is using what equipment. The Ski Captain will consult with the Head Ski Coach¹ and/or the Competition Director regarding the appropriate allocation of equipment.
- 2.2. (b) Eligible Youth and Open athletes wishing to use club surf ski equipment must notify the Head Ski Coach or their delegate no later than the last training session prior to the competition. The Head Ski Coach or their delegate will then allocate the equipment and communicate a consolidated list to the Ski Captain prior to the competition.
- 2.2. (c) All other eligible athletes wishing to use surf ski equipment for SLS competition must contact the Ski Captain a minimum of one day prior to the date the equipment is required, confirming approval to use the equipment before doing so.
- 2.2. (d) It is the responsibility of the athlete to ensure that the equipment is safely transported to and from the competition, washed, and put away correctly in the boat shed.

2.3 OTHER USE

The following direction is provided for the use of club surf ski equipment outside of club sanctioned training and SLS sanctioned competitions:

- 2.3. (a) Members who meet the pre-requisites of 2.1 (a) or (b) may request to use the club's surf ski equipment outside club training and SLS sanction competitions (such as independent / casual training, downwind training and events). Members are to contact the Ski Captain at least one day prior to use. Each case will be considered and subject to approval of the Ski Captain. The member may be required to complete a written undertaking, accepting financial liability for any damage to the equipment, particularly if the ski is to be transported away from the club. If repairs are required, they will be arranged by the club at the member's expense.
- 2.3. (b) Members who do not meet the criteria at 2.1 (a) or (b) may not use the equipment unless they have sought and received prior approval from the Ski Captain in accordance with 2.3 (a).
- 2.3. (c) Members must use the equipment within their capabilities; taking into account weather and ocean conditions. Paddling with a buddy is strongly encouraged.
- 2.3. (d) At a minimum, members are to wear a fluorescent top for safety. Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) are encouraged.

¹ The Head Ski Coach appointment may be combined with the Head Surf Sports Coach.

3.0 EQUIPMENT ACCESS, MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE

3.1 INVENTORY

3.1. (a) The club has a variety of surf ski equipment available for member use in accordance with this policy.

3.1. (b) The current inventory includes the following equipment:

Equipment	Manufacturer / model
Spec skis	Fenn LS, Epic
Double skis	Interceptor / BOS / Brainwave
Plastic skis	Finn Endorphin
General use paddles	Various
Competition paddles	Z & J Sport, Gara

3.2 ACCESS

3.2. (a) Given the increased demand for the use of club skis, it is strongly recommended that Open athletes (19 years and older) purchase their own SLS spec ski and paddle. This will support the club's objective to maximise equipment availability for the youth ski development program and ensure there is sufficient equipment available to enable active Bronze Medallion members to get started in the sport.

3.2. (b) The priority for the allocation of equipment is to be in accordance with this policy and managed by the Ski Captain or their delegate. Where demand exceeds the available equipment, allocation will be determined based on training and competition attendance and in accordance with the following priority:

1. Youth athletes
2. Open athletes
3. Masters athletes

3.2. (c) From time to time the club may sell second-hand club surf ski equipment, including SLS spec skis, at reasonable prices. To assist members to purchase this equipment, a payment plan may be available. The Ski Captain, after consultation with the Ski Committee, will make a recommendation to the Competition Director for final approval as to which members are offered the opportunity to purchase a ski and if a payment plan is appropriate. To encourage athletes to purchase their own equipment, priority for the sale of second-hand club surf ski equipment will be:

1. Open athletes
2. Youth athletes
3. Masters athletes

3.2. (d) Purchase of a ski is one of the best ways to improve an athlete's paddling. Even if a member is not purchasing a former club ski, it is recommended that they speak to one of the club's ski coaches to get advice on a suitable purchase.

3.3 MAINTENANCE AND REPORTING DAMAGE

- 3.3. (a) The Ski Captain is responsible for the maintenance and repair of club surf ski equipment.
- 3.3. (b) All damage and equipment maintenance issues should be immediately reported to the Ski Captain.
- 3.3. (c) If the surf ski equipment is identified as unsafe or unserviceable, it must be tagged by the member who has identified the issue to eliminate risk to other members and prevent further use until the issue has been rectified. Equipment maintenance tags are available from the club office.

3.4 STORAGE

- 3.4. (a) The ski racks in the club boat shed are a valuable resource and with the growing popularity of ski paddling at the club, ski racks are in demand.
- 3.4. (b) The need to store club equipment is the highest priority. The remaining rack spaces are then available for members of the club to store a single personal surf ski. To manage the resource fairly and appropriately, the club administers an annual formal process for members to apply for and be allocated ski rack spaces.
- 3.4. (c) Eligibility and priority ranking criteria for applicants is as follows:
 - Must be a current financial or life member of the club;
 - Must be an SRC or Bronze Medallion holder (or greater);
 - Compete for SOSLSC in both club and SLS sanctioned events;
 - Regularly attend club sanctioned surf ski training sessions;
 - Age priority is given as follows:
 1. Open athletes
 2. Youth athletes
 3. Masters athletes
 - An applicant's other significant contributions to the club will also be taken into account.
- 3.4. (d) If these criteria are met, then the application will be accepted for ranking within the group of members requesting a rack space. The highest-ranking applicants will be offered the available rack spaces.
- 3.4. (e) All successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified as soon as possible via e-mail. All craft owners without an approved or pending application will be asked to remove their surf ski. Members may apply for unallocated or future vacated rack spaces at any time during the season.
- 3.4. (f) Continued use of a rack is dependent on the person maintaining a significant commitment to training and competition as well as fulfilling all other membership requirements. Any member who is eight hours or more down on their patrol obligations may be asked to remove their surf ski so that the rack can be allocated to another eligible member.

3.4. (g) The Ski Captain is the primary assessor of a member's initial and ongoing eligibility for surf ski storage at the club. The Ski Captain will consult with members of the Ski Committee as necessary. Any concerns or requests for a decision to be reviewed must first be raised with the Ski Captain or the Ski Committee, then the Competition Director.

4.0 CONTACT DETAILS

4.1. (a) The Ski Captain can be contacted via email at: skicaptain@sorrentoslsc.org.au

4.1. (b) Enquiries may also be directed to the club office.

5.0 REVISION HISTORY

Rev	Prepared By	Reviewed By	Approved By	Date	Changes / Amendments
A	C. Milne	R. Elderfield	P. Watkins	6 Dec 21	Original
B	R. Elderfield	A. Kirkpatrick	P. Watkins	12 Sep 22	Feedback from the Competition Director
C	R. Elderfield	P. Watkins	R. Elderfield	30 Jun 23	Minor amendments
D	R. Elderfield	R. Chin	R. Elderfield	30 Aug 23	Add contact details and minor amendments