

Cairns Surf Life Saving Club Policy

Title: Marine Stinger Risk Management Policy for Lifesaving Activities	Department: Surf Sports
Effective Date: 8 May 2024	Version: 1.0
This policy is approved in accordance with the Cairns Surf Life Saving Club Incorporated Constitution Version 2, paragraph 3(h).	Approved by: CSLSC Board

Purpose

Cairns Surf Life Saving Club recognises the risk of dangerous marine creatures, in particular marine stingers on our beach. The intent is that this policy will help achieve a greater level of understanding and compliance, thus reducing the risk of marine stinger envenomation to club members.

Scope

This policy encompasses lifesaving activities conducted by the club: surf sports, training, carnivals, junior activities; however, patrol operations are excluded from this policy. This policy complements existing SLSQ documents and aims to identify and articulate the specific club requirements relating to the areas listed of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements for protection against marine stingers.

Definitions

- Marine stinger: includes all types of jellyfish, especially those causing severe and possibly life-threatening symptoms.
- PPE: personal protective equipment
- Risk Rating: Refer to the SLSQ Marine Stinger Risk Assessment, which is completed by patrol members.
- Stinger season: November to May is when they are most prevalent, however this does not preclude the presence of marine stingers in other months of the year.
- Stinger suit: Lycra full-body suit with a suitable weave (covers 75% of the body's skin, mesh size of no greater than 200 microns or 0.2mm or a tight weave)

PPE Requirements for Lifesaving Activities

For 15 years and over any member entering the water for any lifesaving activity during a moderate or higher rating must be in a stinger suit.

All junior activities members 14 years and under shall wear a full-body Lycra suit (suitable weave) always during open water activities at all times of the year.

Contacts

The following officers can address questions regarding this Policy:

Club Captain captain@cairnssurfclub.com.au

Surf Sports Officer surfsports@cairnssurfclub.com.au

Junior Activities Officer jac@cairnssurfclub.com.au

References

SLSQ Policy LS26 Marine Stinger Risk Management

SLSQ Procedure LSP006 Marine Stinger Risk Management Procedure

Patrol Operations Manual Section No: POM0020 Dangerous Marine Creatures