

SLSQ Policy

Title: Chaperoning and Supervision of Minors	Department: Membership Services
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Introduction

This policy supports Surf Life Saving Queensland’s commitment to the safety and welfare of members and others who engage with Surf Life Saving. The policy applies to specialised programs such as overnight stays, camps and carnivals. The policy does not apply to standard operations such as nippers, training and sport.

Purpose

This policy aims to:

- Assist Clubs and Branches to provide safe and enjoyable Surf Life Saving activities and programs for children and young people under the age of 18 years;
- Provide clear expectations for minimum standards when chaperoning and supervising minors; and
- Safeguard the physical and emotional health and well-being of children and young people involved in Surf Life Saving programs or activities.

Application

It is the responsibility of the Club/Branch/State/Entity providing the activities or programs for children and young people to provide the following:

- Safe and well-maintained facilities and equipment;
- Appropriate levels of supervision as per SLSQ requirements and as defined in this policy ;
- Protection against physical, sexual and emotional abuse and neglect from members of the Association.

In order to achieve these aims, these guidelines address issues associated with:

- Providing safe environments for conducting activities and programs for children and young people particularly when travelling;
- Providing appropriate supervision of different activities and programs; and
- Providing appropriate screening procedures for supervisors, chaperones, and other adults involved with children and young people.

There may be exceptional situations where the policy requirements cannot be met, for example, in an emergency situation. It is crucial however that, where possible, authorisation is sought from a Senior Person (such as a program

leader or equivalent) prior to taking action that contravenes the policy, or a Senior Person is advised as soon as possible of any incident which breaches the policy.

Chaperones **must** personally accept and/or endorse the policy to formalise their acknowledgment of and adherence to the content.

Policy

Position Statement

The following criteria acts as the standard requirements for a member who is fulfilling the role as a chaperone or supervisor for children and/or young people under the age of 18 years.

Pre-requisites:

Be a registered member of a Surf Life Saving Club.

Be a minimum of 18 years of age and hold a current 'Working with Children' check card (Blue Card).

Fully understand, and comply with the SLSA Membership Protection Policy and Code of Conduct.

Minimum of one (1) chaperone to hold current First Aid Certificate and current driver license.

Duties and responsibilities specific to Senior Persons (such as a program leader or equivalent):

Ensure that the participants under the age of 18 years have provided the parent or guardian consent form prior to any travel/program/activity i.e. form includes emergency contact details, medical/health history, disclaimer, a parent or guardian signature giving authorisation and consent etc;

Be responsible for the well-being and safety of all team members and participants;

Must not consume or be under the influence of alcohol or drugs;

At all times conduct themselves in a manner that complies with the Association and community expectations.

Duties and responsibilities of Supervisors/Chaperones shall include:

Work in co-operation with the Senior person who is ultimately responsible for all activities;

Be responsible for the well-being and safety of all participants;

Report any concerns or incidents to the senior person;

Must not consume or be under the influence of alcohol or drugs;

Assist with general duties during the duration of the tour/camp/program;

At all times conduct themselves in a manner that complies with the Association and community expectations.

Other responsibilities and general information pertaining to live-in or away from Club activities:

A ratio of at least one (1) chaperone/supervisor for every eight (8) participants, e.g., One (1) male chaperone for every eight (8) male participants or part thereof One (1) female chaperone for every eight (8) female participants or part thereof;

Each chaperone is to keep a mobile phone with sufficient charge on their person whenever practical;

When on overnight stays, ensure appropriate sleeping arrangements are in place, i.e., males and females **MUST** be separated. Wherever possible, chaperones must **not** share a room with children and must **never** be alone in a room with a child;

The chaperones/supervisors must perform regular room checks to ensure that members are complying with the Association's Code of Conduct;

Sleeping arrangements must be suitable for all participants e.g. all members must have their own bed or bunk, and must not share a bed with another child nor adult;

Whilst in a team situation, the members/participants are under the control of the senior person. Parents wishing to interact with their child/children **MUST** seek approval from the senior person for any deviation from the group activity or program;

Chaperones must not leave children and young people under the supervision or protection of unauthorised persons, such as hotel staff or friends;

Children and young people have the right to contact their parent or guardian at any time. Should a child be distressed or uncomfortable, a chaperone is required to facilitate this contact;

Children and young people must be provided with privacy when bathing and dressing;

Chaperones must observe appropriate dress standards when children and young people are present—such as no exposure to adult nudity.

If one or any points above cannot be met, further approval must be sought from a senior person.



Dave Whimpey
Chief Executive Officer
Surf Life Saving Queensland