



Administration Guidelines/Policies Club Qualified RWC Operator

Endorsement Date:	February 2024
Guideline Topic:	Lifesaving Operations
Guideline Number:	ADM024
Document Version Control:	Version 1: February 2024

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND:

This policy applies to members of Marcoola Surf Lifesaving Club who are financial and proficient Bronze Medallion holders who actively participate in patrols (either as rostered Active Members, Active Reserve, Life Members or Long Service Members), who wish to become Club Qualified RWC (Jet Ski) Operators for the purpose of patrol operations only. This policy does not apply to members who are applying to become Operations Support personnel.

OBJECTIVE:

The objective of this policy is to define the pre-requisite conditions which must be met prior to enrolling in an RWC Course, and to outline the procedures and guidelines for operational patrol use of the RWC.

RWC Course refers to the SLSA/SLSQ Rescue Watercraft Operator Course currently run by the Sunshine Coast Branch RWC Training and Assessing Team

PRE-REQUISITES

To become a Club Qualified RWC Operator (non-Operations Support personnel), members must meet all of the following pre-requisites:

- Must be a financial member
- Must be an active patrolling member (Active, Active Reserve, Life, Long Service)
- Must hold a current Bronze Medallion award
- Must be a minimum of 18 years of age at the time of assessment
- Must hold a current C Class license (P's or Opens) and have sufficient towing experience
- Must hold a current QLD Recreational Marine License and Personal Watercraft license
- Hold a current QLD SSV Operator Induction (preferred)
- Must have 1 or more years of lifesaving experience (subject to the Director of Lifesaving/Club Captain approval)
- Must have successfully completed the required theory and practical components of the RWC course
- Must have achieved competency by Operations Support RWC Course

POLICY OUTCOME:

If the above pre-requisites have all been met, the member must then complete the Marcoola Life Saving specific RWC induction program. The Club's qualified CTO's will be responsible for providing this induction training, assessing the capabilities of the member and deeming the member as proficient to achieve Club Qualification. This requirement includes active members with previous jet ski experience and/or qualified RWC Operators transferring from other clubs

OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES/GUIDELINES

1. RWC Operators must adhere to the SLSQ Powercraft Code of Conduct and any Maritime Safety Queensland regulations currently in place.
2. Club RWC operators must have attended the Operations Support RWC Course and be deemed competent. To facilitate patrolling area orientation, new Club RWC operators may also be required to complete at least one "buddy run" with an experienced Club RWC Operator
3. Only qualified RWC Operators can operate the RWC. If more than one RWC Operator is present on patrol, they can both operate the RWC and conduct (upskilling) for other RWC Operators (this cannot training cannot include other non-RWC qualified patrol members).
4. The Club RWC is to be used for operations within the primary patrolling area (200m either side of the flag) and at the Patrol Captain's discretion, a secondary patrolling area. The current secondary area of operations is the area extending north to Yaroomba and south to Discovery Beach as per the Patrol Service Agreement.
5. Operations outside the area described above, shall only as specifically tasked by Surfcom or Duty Officer.
6. The RWC can be used as the primary rescue equipment if there is a qualified RWC Operator on patrol. The IRB does not have to be stationed on the beach at the same time as the RWC, but it must be checked and ready as the back-up rescue craft, as per normal conditions. An IRB Driver and crew must be on patrol at all times.
7. The RWC shall be stationed on the beach on its trailer and within the IRB launching area. The RWC must be launched as per the club process with the tractor or the SSV as a back-up, as per the patrol operations manual.
8. All RWC Operators must wear the required uniform consisting of wetsuit shorts or red wetsuit, yellow rash vest, life jacket, helmet and gloves as per the patrol operations manual.

9. Radio operations for the RWC must be carried out as per the IRB (on Channel 14) and be housed in a water-proof pouch provided on the life vest. If both the IRB and RWC are in use at the same time, 2 radios should be made available (Kenwood x 2 and Beach Radio ICOM).
10. All RWC Operators MUST complete the relevant pre and post operational inspections/procedures and ensure that the logbook entries are completed and signed.
11. The reporting of incidents must be carried out via LIMSOC as per the general patrol operation requirements, together with the Patrol Captain.
12. Any member that is injured should be reported as per the IRB procedures and the member injury flowchart (attached)
13. All maintenance issues or damage (no matter how slight) is to be immediately reported to the Patrol Captain, Powercraft Officer and to the Director of Lifesaving.
14. Club RWC Operators shall complete their annual Skills Maintenance requirements at scheduled Operations Support RWC Skills Maintenance sessions.