

SLSA POLICY



6.05 Member Protection

Title:	Member Protection
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Responsible Portfolio:	Integrity
Authority:	This Policy is made under clause 39 of the SLSA Constitution. It is binding on all Members of SLSA and those listed under the section 3 of this policy and is to be interpreted in accordance with the SLSA Constitution.

The following pages have been extracted from the complete "Member Protection" section of the Surf Lifesaving Australia Policy document.

6 MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT & COMMITMENT

6.1 Relevant Organisations Commitment

- a. Relevant Organisations will strive to
 - i. provide a safe environment for Relevant Persons involved in SLS;
 - ii. take an inclusive approach in their activities;
 - iii. be an inclusive organisation dedicated to being open to all members of the Australian community and providing a safe environment for all who choose to participate in SLS; and

- iv. ensure the health, safety, and wellbeing of their Members and CYP in particular.
- b. In delivering on this commitment to the health, safety and wellbeing of all, each Relevant Organisation takes seriously its positive obligation to educate and inform everyone involved in SLS of each person's responsibilities to:
 - i. protect each other, and particularly CYP; and
 - ii. create and maintain a Member and child-safe culture which is inclusive and safe and is understood, endorsed, and put into action by all.
- c. Subject to their respective legislation, rules, and human resources (employment) frameworks, all Relevant Organisations must:
 - i. adopt, implement, and comply with this Policy;
 - ii. ensure that the constitution, regulations, by-laws or other rules and policies include the necessary clauses for this Policy to be enforceable;
 - iii. publish, distribute, and promote this Policy and the consequences of breaches;
 - iv. promote and model appropriate standards of behaviour at all times;
 - v. implement and/or adopt a complaint management system that includes appropriate policies and procedures, clear lines of responsibility, and appropriate delegations;
 - vi. ensure that a copy of this Policy is available or accessible to the persons and entities to whom this Policy applies;
 - vii. apply the SLS Complaint Resolution Policy in relation to any complaints and to deal with any breaches made under this Policy in a sensitive, fair, timely and confidential manner;
 - viii. apply this Policy consistently;
 - ix. recognise and enforce any penalty imposed by any SLS Entity; and
 - x. monitor and review this Policy regularly.

6.2 Relevant Persons Commitment

- a. Relevant Persons bound by this Policy must:
 - i. use all reasonable endeavours to make themselves aware of the contents of this Policy and adopt the practices and behaviour when carrying out their roles;
 - ii. comply with all relevant provisions of the Policy, including any codes of conduct and the steps for making a complaint;
 - iii. consent to the screening requirements set out in this Policy (if any), and any state/territory Working with Children Checks (by whatever name) (**WWCC**) if the person holds or applies for a role that involves regular unsupervised contact with a CYP or where otherwise required by law;
 - iv. place the safety and welfare of CYP above other considerations;
 - v. report any abuse or neglect of CYP which they become aware of to SLSA and/or to external authorities responsible for child protection or to police, regardless of whether that abuse is being perpetrated by personnel within SLS, or by those outside SLS including those from the CYP's family, extended family, their family's extended network or strangers. **Any report within SLS must be made via forms.sls.com.au;**
 - vi. be accountable for their behaviour; and
 - vii. comply with any decisions and/or disciplinary measures imposed under or arising from this Policy.
- b. The Code of Conduct in this policy should be read in conjunction with:

- i. the specific requirements of any role as defined in any position description statement, if applicable;
- ii. relevant policies and procedure documents, including all other policies in SLS' Integrity Framework;
- iii. the Complaint Resolution Policy;
- iv. other SLSA policies and guidelines available on the SLSA website including, but not only limited to, SLSA's Privacy Policy;
- v. all applicable laws in the relevant jurisdiction; and
- vi. general community expectations in relation to appropriate behaviour.

All Relevant Organisations will consider a failure to observe the Code as misconduct and may take appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with relevant rules and regulations, including this Policy and the Complaints Resolution Policy.

6.3 Member Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct (**Code**) outlines the behaviour expected of, and by, Relevant Persons involved in, and interactions between, all such persons in the SLS community. The Code must be followed at all times and by all Members and all people involved in SLS.

As part of a Member's commitment to observing this Code of Conduct, each Relevant Persons must acknowledge their commitment to the Code of Conduct.

There may be exceptional situations where the Code does not apply, for example, in an emergency situation. It is crucial however that, where possible, authorisation is sought from the Relevant Organisation prior to taking action that may contravene the Code or the Relevant Organisation is advised as soon possible of any incident which may breach the Code.

Members and all people involved in any way with SLS will:

- a. respect the rights, dignity and worth of others—treat others as you would like to be treated yourself;
- b. be ethical, considerate, fair, courteous, and honest in all dealings with other people and organisations;
- c. be professional in, and accept responsibility for your actions;
- d. be aware of and follow—at all times—SLS rules, regulations, policies and procedures and promote those laws, standards, rules, policies and procedures to others;
- e. raise concerns arising under this Policy through the appropriate channels and report any breaches of the Code or this Policy, in line with the Complaint Resolution Policy via <http://complaints.sls.com.au/>;
- f. refrain from any form of Bullying, Abuse, Harassment, Discrimination and Victimisation towards others;
- g. provide a safe environment for the conduct of activities in accordance with any relevant SLSA policy;
- h. ensure SLS is an inclusive organisation that is open to all who wish to participate regardless of age, gender, disability, cultural and linguistic background, or sexual orientation;
- i. provide a safe and nurturing environment for all participating in SLS by actively promoting the principles of equal opportunity, social justice, and cultural safety so that all individuals are treated with respect and dignity;

- j. show concern, empathy and caution towards others that may be sick or injured;
- k. strive to be a positive role model to all;
- l. respect and protect confidential information obtained through SLS activities or services; whether individuals and/or organisational information;
- m. maintain the required standard of accreditation and/or licensing of professional competencies, as applicable to the role(s);
- n. ensure that any physical contact with others is appropriate to the situation and necessary for the person's skill development;
- o. refrain from intimate relations with persons over whom you have a position of authority;
- p. maintain a duty of care towards others; and
- q. be impartial and accept responsibility for all actions taken.

6.4 Sexual misconduct and relationships

Under no circumstances should any form of sexual behaviour occur between, with, or in the presence of, any CYP participating in any SLS environment. Engaging in sexual behaviour while participating in SLS services, events, programs, or activities is prohibited. 'Sexual behaviour' must be interpreted widely, to encompass the entire range of actions that would reasonably be considered to be sexual in nature, as outlined in [Policy 6.04 Child Safe](#).

6.5 Use, possession, or supply of alcohol, tobacco/vapes or drugs

Any member, while on duty (patrol), involved in SLS activities/programs, or having supervision of CYP, including overnight stays, must not:

- a. use, possess or be under the influence of an illegal drug or psychoactive substance;
- b. use or be under the influence of alcohol;
- c. be incapacitated by any other legal drug such as prescription or over the counter;
- d. supply alcohol or drugs (including tobacco & vapes) to CYP.

Use of legal drugs other than alcohol is permitted, provided such use does not interfere with a person's ability to patrol, or care for Members involved in SLS' services, activities/programs, or events.

Responsible service and consumption of alcohol must apply to any alcohol consumed when a member is off duty. Responsible services might include ensuring that light alcohol and soft drinks always being available. Wherever possible, food might be made available to be consumed when alcohol is available, or transport policies may be adopted. Reasonable consumption of alcohol must be in line with guidance for the reasonable service of alcohol.

All Relevant Organisations must adhere to strict guidelines regarding the responsible service and consumption of alcohol and act in accordance with all liquor licencing laws and regulations.

6.6 Education

- a. To prevent breaches of this Policy, build positive behaviours in SLS and protect participants from threats, SLSA develops courses and resources as part of ongoing education.
- b. Relevant Organisations may, from time to time, direct certain Participants to undertake education, which will be relevant and proportionate to their level of participation in SLS and the associated integrity risks.

ANNEXURE A - EXAMPLES OF PROHIBITED CONDUCT

1. **Abuse** is behaviour of a nature and level of seriousness which includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. physical abuse and assault including hitting, slapping, punching, kicking, destroying property, deprivation of food, water, or rest, forced feeding, unreasonable physical restraint, spitting at another person, biting, or otherwise putting a person at unreasonable risk of physical harm, except where any physical contact is consistent with the rules of the sport and accepted and reasonable behaviour within the Activity when undertaking that Activity;
 - b. sexual abuse including rape and assault, using sexually degrading insults (either in-person or online), forced sex or sexual acts, deliberately causing pain during sex, unwanted touching or exposure to pornography, sexual jokes (either in-person or online), using sex to coerce compliance; or
 - c. emotional/psychological abuse (either in-person or online), such as repeated and intentional embarrassment in public, unreasonably preventing or excluding someone from participating in SLS activities, stalking, humiliation, or intimidation, repeated or severe insults, name calling, criticism, swearing and humiliation, repeated attacks on someone's intelligence, homophobic, biphobic and transphobic comments, body shaming, or aggressive yelling.
2. **Bullying** is behaviour of a nature and level of seriousness which includes, but is not limited to, repeatedly:
 - a. keeping someone out of a group (either in-person or online);
 - b. making rude gestures, using inappropriate or derogatory names, being rude, constantly negative and teasing (either in-person or online);
 - c. spreading rumours or lies, or misrepresenting someone either in-person or online (e.g., using their social media account to post messages as if it were them);
 - d. harassing someone (either in-person or online) based on a Protected Characteristic such as age, race or ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, or a disability;
 - e. intentionally and repeatedly hurting someone physically; or
 - f. taking advantage of any power over someone else (either in-person or online),but does not include legitimate and reasonable:
 - g. management action;
 - h. management processes;
 - i. disciplinary action; or
 - j. allocation of activities in compliance with agreed systems.
3. **Harassment** is behaviour of a nature and level of seriousness which includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. telling insulting jokes and/or making derogatory comments about racial groups or people of diverse genders and sexualities (either in-person or online);
 - b. sending explicit or sexually suggestive emails or text messages or other electronic communications;
 - c. displaying racially offensive or pornographic images or screen savers;
 - d. making derogatory comments or taunts about someone's race, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression (either in-person or online);
 - e. asking intrusive questions about someone's personal life, including their sex life (either in-person or online);
 - f. intentionally stalking someone (either in-person or online); or
 - g. intentionally disclosing (either in-person or online) the transgender identity or sexual orientation of someone without consent

- h. sexual harassment or any of the above conduct in the workplace by employers, co-workers, and other workplace participants;
- 4. Sexual Misconduct** is behaviour including, but not limited to:
- a. unwelcome touching;
 - b. suggestive comments or jokes (either in-person or online);
 - c. showing or sharing sexually explicit images or pictures (either in-person or online);
 - d. unwanted invitations to go out on dates (either in-person or online);
 - e. requests for sexual intercourse (either in-person or online);
 - f. intrusive questions about a person's private life or body (either in-person or online);
 - g. unnecessary familiarity, such as deliberately brushing up against a person;
 - h. insults or taunts based on sex or gender identity (either in-person or online);
 - i. sexually explicit physical contact;
 - j. sending sexually explicit or suggestive emails, texts, or other electronic/social media messages;
 - k. displaying pornographic images or screen savers;
 - l. asking intrusive questions about someone's personal life, including about their sex life (either in-person or online); and
 - m. criminal offences such as rape, indecent or sexual assault, sexual penetration, or relationship with a child under the age of 16 and possession of child pornography.
- 5. Discrimination** is differential treatment (either in-person or online) based on a personal characteristic, but not limited to:
- a. age;
 - b. disability;
 - c. race or ethnicity (including skin colour, nationality, or migrant status);
 - d. sex (including pregnancy, marital or relationship status, family responsibilities, breastfeeding, intersex status, or gender identity); and
 - e. sexual orientation; or
 - f. religion.
- 6. Victimisation** is behaviour including, but not limited to:
- a. dismissal of a person or disadvantage to their involvement in SLS because they have or intend to make a complaint;
 - b. exclusion of a person from a SLS activity because they were a witness to Prohibited Conduct; or
 - c. failure to select an individual on merit because they have supported another person in lodging a complaint.
- 7. Vilification** is behaviour including, but not limited to:
- a. Speaking, writing, or otherwise communicating (either in-person or online) about a person's sex or gender identity, race or religion in a way that could make other people dislike, hate, or ridicule them;
 - b. publishing claims that a racial or religious group is involved in serious crimes without any evidence in support;
 - c. repeated and/or serious verbal or physical abuse (either in-person or online) about a Protected Characteristic of another person;
 - d. encouraging violence against people (either in-person or online) who belong to a particular sex or gender identity, race, or religion, or damaging their property; or
 - e. encouraging people to hate a racial or religious group using flyers, stickers, posters, a speech, or publication, or using websites, social media applications or email.