

SOP 1.03 – Patrol Captain Duties

Section 1 – Volunteer Patrol Operations

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Effective Date – 1 September 2018

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Electronically Controlled Document

Purpose

To outline the duties of the active patrol member.

Scope

All patrolling members of Life Saving Victoria.

Procedures

All members in attendance at a Lifesaving Club may be called upon to assist in beach patrol work. All personnel on patrol must be current members and proficient in those awards they are representing at their patrols (refer [SOP 10.10 – Annual Skills Maintenance](#)) as ONLY members with the appropriate qualifications are to operate the respective equipment e.g. IRB must have relevant award, unless undergoing training as per the SLSA and LSV Procedures.

- Members must Sign on in the patrol attendance log book prior to commencing their patrols.
- Members should avoid undertaking too many patrol duties on any one day, taking into account extremely hot or cold conditions. Patrol members should advise their Patrol Captain if feeling fatigued, ill or tired.
- A patrol member must practice the basic principles of **PREVENTION, RECOGNITION and RESCUE**.
- A patrol member must not leave the patrolled location unless authorised by the Patrol Captain.
- Patrol members must be suitably attired and wear the correct uniform during their patrol at all times (refer [SOP 8.2 - Patrol Uniforms](#)).
- Patrol members should maintain their fluid intake during patrol duties especially on warm days, and utilise sunscreen, shade and suitable clothing such as wide brimmed patrol hats, sunglasses and practice the basic principles of Sun Safety (refer [Sun Safety Policy](#)).
- Patrol flags and equipment should be moved as close to the water's edge as practical considering tide movements. Patrol members should ensure all Lifesaving equipment is set up in a secure and safe manner and check

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rescue equipment for damage or breakages and report such to the Patrol Captain.

- As far as practicable, all patrols should make sure members patrol the waters edge when there are swimmers in the water.
- Those patrolling the water's edge should always have a rescue tube and whistle.
- A patrol member should always be polite and courteous when dealing with the public including when advising or ensuring swimmers to swim between the red and yellow flags.
- A patrol member should ensure swimmers entering the water outside of the flagged area are warned of the danger and or hazards and advise them to swim between the red and yellow flags.
- A Patrol member should ensure and encourage board riders not to impose on the swimming area.
- Patrol members should advise members of the public when the beach is closed or is closing due to dangerous conditions etc. Patrol members should also advise members of the public when the patrol is concluding for the day.
- As a Patrol Member you are under the direction of the Patrol Captain at all times.
- Patrol members must ensure that they do everything practical to ensure their health and safety in the club environment; as well as that of other members and beach goers

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