

# SOP 2.01 – Inflatable Rescue Boat Operations

Section 2 – Powercraft Operations

Page 1 of 2

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Electronically Controlled Document

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## Purpose

To present the minimum requirements for all operations in relation to Inflatable Rescue Boats, (IRB's).

## Scope

These procedures relate to all operational levels of Life Saving Victoria.

## Procedures

### Requirements

Only Surf Life Saving Australia approved IRB's and associated equipment are to be used by Life Saving Victoria members.

Only qualified IRB drivers are permitted to operate IRBs unless for the purpose of training within an organised training course and only under the direct supervision of qualified personnel.

The IRB driver, qualified or trainee, must hold a valid Marine Licence whenever operating the craft, either on them or readily available at their location.

IRB Drivers and Crews are required by law to wear an L50 Lifejacket at all times.

A Life Saving Victoria approved communications device, in a water proof bag and harness must be carried on board at all times.

All procedures within this SOP must be adhered to in order for exemptions from Marine Legislation to apply.

IRB Drivers must always avoid operations in close proximity to bathers and/or crowded areas unless absolutely necessary.

### IRB operations – patrol hours / populated beach

- The IRB is to be on the beach with a driver and crewperson in close proximity or operating within the patrol area and must be fully operational at all times.
- IRB Drivers should operate in a safe manner with concern for the general public, their crew and with respect for the equipment.

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- **‘Caution - Keep Clear. Rescue Craft Access Area’** signage is to be erected wherever training or regular patrol IRB activity is taking place, and a passageway clear of bathers maintained by the patrol as required.
- Where conditions impair the driver's visibility within the break, an observer on the beach is to ensure beach access is clear and will maintain constant communication with the operator (via radio or signal flag).
- LSVComms is to be notified of any IRB gear failure or inability to comply with the Lifesaving Services Protocol at sign on or as soon as possible after gear failure.
- All incidents are to be reported to LSVComms immediately.

#### **IRB operations – out of season / unpopulated beach**

- The club must notify LSVComms prior to a craft being launched for ANY REASON. Unless the club is already signed on with LSVComms and it is during the Club’s specified patrol times outlined in the club’s individual Lifesaving Service Protocols.
- The craft must only be operated within visual range of a manned lifesaving facility at all times, unless authorised by an LSV State Duty Officer, via LSVComms and must have an observer on the beach with the ability to call for assistance should it be required, via LSVComms.
- An observer on the beach is to ensure beach access is clear and maintain constant communication with the IRB Driver (via radio) and LSVComms via radio communication or phone.
- IRB drivers should operate in a safe manner with concern not only for the general public, but their crewperson and with respect for the equipment.
- **‘Caution - Keep Clear. Rescue Craft Access Area’** signage is to be erected wherever training or regular patrol IRB activity is taking place, and a passageway clear of bathers maintained by additional lifesavers on the beach.
- All IRB related incidents, accidents or injuries including any ‘near misses’ or close calls must be reported to LSVComms immediately.

