

Member Protection Officer

Information Resource

Congratulations on volunteering to be your Club Member Protection Officer! This Information Resource is designed to provide club Member Protection Officers with resources to ensure all Life Saving Victoria members enjoy every aspect offered in a club environment.

This resource incorporates policies and procedures that govern all members. The information provides a starting point for expected behaviour from all members regardless of membership category or differing roles within the club. It is highly suggested that Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA) Rights and Responsibilities Chart (located in SLSA Member Safety and Wellbeing Policy 6.5.5) be displayed in a high usage area to ensure accessibility to all members. The most effective prevention is an educated member.

As your club's Member Protection Officer you become the reference point for any query regarding member protection. Therefore it is important to recognise that while you may have information, you are not expected to hold the key in resolving all dilemmas that may develop at your club. Contacting other club Member Protection Officers and/or Life Saving Victoria's Member Protection Officer in determining an appropriate course of action on any matter may be extremely beneficial.

This not only provides you with more options in providing suitable information or solutions to members, but also allows identification of any patterns occurring which may require LSV to formulate resolutions.

With this role also comes expected confidentiality. This is vital to ensure all club members feel comfortable and safe in approaching you for information and you may be required to deal with very sensitive situations. Historically, successful resolutions in club problems were dealt with quickly with minimal disruption to club members and activities. Without confidentiality, situations can snowball into unnecessary distress.

Life Saving Victoria is committed to training members in all aspects of lifesaving, including Member Protection. In the near future it is anticipated that LSV will be able to offer Member Protection Officer courses for clubs. Until then please refer to the policies, procedures and resources attached to this document designed to assist you in your role as club Member Protection Officer.

Policies and Procedures:

- LSV AD6-05 Member Protection: Working With Children Checks - http://www.lifesavingvictoria.com.au/resources/documents/Policy_AD6-05_Member_Protection_-_Working_With_Children_Checks_V3.pdf
- SLSA 6.5 Member Safety and Wellbeing Policy - <http://www.slsa.com.au/site/content/resource/00000530-docsource.pdf>
- SLSA 6.5 Member Safety and Wellbeing Policy: Annexure 2 Specific Roles of Conduct - <http://www.slsa.com.au/site/content/resource/00000533-docsource.pdf>
- SLSA 6.6 SLSA Grievance Procedure - <http://www.slsa.com.au/site/content/resource/00000697-docsource.pdf>

Helpful Resources:

- Life Saving Victoria: WWCC Frequently asked questions – www.lifesavingvictoria.com.au/wwcc
- Australia Sports Commission: Playing By The Rules – www.playbytherules.net.au

Further information:

Please contact Lifesaving Operations on 03 9676 6930 or email lifesavingoperations@lifesavingvictoria.com.au should you have any further queries.