



## RISK ASSESSMENT

### HUNTER SURF LIFE SAVING COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAM

#### As per the NSW Department of Education and Training Excursion Policy:

##### 6.6.2 Special requirements

1. Where a particular excursion activity requires special protective equipment or apparel, these must be used. Staff and student safety must not be compromised. Students and staff should be encouraged to use sunscreen and wear a peaked or broad brimmed hat on outdoor excursions.

##### 6.6.3 Swimming and water activities

1. Where any excursion involves swimming or water activities, principals may encourage but not insist that parents provide any floatation devices considered necessary for students.
2. Parents must be asked to indicate the swimming ability of their children when giving consent for students to participate in excursions involving water activities.
3. If parents indicate students are poor or non-swimmers and no floatation devices are available for use by the students, principals will need to assess whether such students should participate in the swimming or water activities of the excursion. This assessment must take place irrespective of parental or caregiver permission for the students to participate in the swimming or water activities.
4. Principals and teachers organising excursions involving swimming and water activities should particularly consult the swimming and Water Safety section of Guidelines for the Safe Conduct of Sport and Physical Activity in Schools (99/490).



## **Re: Guidelines for the Safe Conduct of Sports and Physical Activity in Schools**

Informed of full details of the day:- These are provided on the confirmation booking sheet

- Location
- Supervision provided
- Activities

Students are required to use sun protection, water resistant sunscreen, rash shirt (both provided by Community Education Program) and a wide brim hat.

### **INSTRUCTOR QUALIFICATIONS**

All staff are qualified holders of the Surf Bronze Medallion

### **SUPERVISION**

Instructor to student ratio for beach activities is 1:16, no more than 10 students to 1 instructor for water-based activities.

Age, experience and maturity of students, environmental concerns and experience of the adult supervisors are facts to be assessed when arranging supervision.

Where an adult other than a teacher is engaged to provide instruction, a teacher must be present to take overall responsibility.

### **EQUIPMENT**

All equipment to be used must be checked prior to the activity by the instructor.

Surf Lifesaving is not to take place unless standard safety equipment is on the beach. Equipment would include approved rescue boards, first aid kit, rescue tubes and a whistle.

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## RISK ASSESSMENT FLOW CHART

POTENTIAL HAZARD	ACTIVITY RISK	INJURY RISK	PROCEDURES IN PLACE
Sprains/Strains	Medium	Low	Checks are done on the sand before commencement of activities, holes filled in and the safest area of sand is chosen.
Marine Stingers (including Bluebottles)	Medium – High	Low	Instructors are aware of the conditions. If the situation is not acceptable, participants will be removed from the water. Allergies to bee stings should be passed on to Instructors prior to day.
Fractures/Dislocations	Medium	Medium – High	As per “Sprains/Strains” Also the use of soft-top boards will reduce the risks.
Cuts/Abrasions	High	Low	As per “Fractures/Dislocations”
Burns	High	Medium – High	Sun-cream checks will be carried out at the beginning of the activity and then regularly throughout the day.

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Dehydration	Low – Medium	Medium	Regular intervals will allow rest and water intake.
Hypothermia/Hyperthermia	Low	Medium - High	Instructors aware of conditions and put into place specific procedures. Shaded areas used, water breaks, or less water activities may be involved.
Head/Spinal Injuries (including – concussions)	Low	High	Dangerous conditions will stop activities, including “plunging/dumping waves. Surf safety talk on hazards of diving in shallow water.
Mouth/Teeth Injuries	Medium	Medium	The use of soft-top boards will reduce the risks.
Drowning/Near Drowning	Medium	High	Staff ratios for all aquatic activities will help to prevent this from occurring. Also the Instructors will utilise the safest area of the beach for activities.
Shark Attack	Low	High	Instructors will be on the lookout for this occurrence, and will put emergency response procedures in place.

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