

MEMORANDUM

To	Club Captain, Patrol Captains
From	Acting Director of Lifesaving & Support Operations
CC	Club Presidents, Club Secretaries, SLSS BOM, LSOC
Date	Wednesday 10 November 2021
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Subject	Lifesaving Reminders 21-22 – Foul Weather Patrol, Beach Closed Patrol, Surveillance Patrol

Dear Club Captains & Patrol Captains

There seems to have been some confusion over the different types of foul weather patrols. The SLSNSW Standard Operating Procedures (SPOs) provide policy/guidelines and reference for patrol operations in NSW.

extract from LS3 Obligations and Standards

LS3.3 CLUB PATROL REQUIREMENTS

2. Foul Weather Patrol

Definition: A Foul Weather Patrol is a ‘downgraded’ Base Patrol, operated when services are exposed to inclement weather conditions, irrespective of the surf conditions.

The purpose of a Foul Weather Patrol is to ensure the welfare of the patrolling members and may be temporary in nature.

Minimum Personnel: As per Base Patrol Minimum Equipment: As per Base

Patrol Process:

1. Patrol Captain to conduct risk assessment to ascertain if a Foul Weather Patrol is suitable.
2. All equipment (including Patrol Flags) should remain functional, available for immediate use (rescue ready) and in position at the scheduled time and remain on duty throughout the duration of the operational hours.
3. Patrol Captain does not need to advise SurfCom that the service is now operating a Foul Weather Patrol.
4. Where an assessment has been conducted of the patrolling area and no beach patrons have been identified, all patrolling members may seek refuge in a Club House/ building.
5. Constant visual surveillance of primary and secondary patrolling areas must be maintained.
6. At any point during a Foul Weather Patrol, public may choose to enter the flagged area. When this occurs, a lifesaver must be in a position to provide immediate emergency response.

3. Beach Closed Patrol

Definition: A Beach Closed Patrol is Base Patrol with a closed swimming area. The swimming area may be closed for situations such as dangerous conditions or an emergency.

A Beach Closed Patrol includes all minimum personnel and all minimum equipment with the exception of patrol flags.

Minimum Personnel: As per Base Patrol

Minimum Equipment: As per Base Patrol with patrol and surfcraft boundary flags removed

Process

1. Patrol Captain to conduct risk assessment to ascertain if a 'Beach Closed Patrol' is suitable.
2. All equipment should remain functional, available for immediate use (rescue ready) and in position at the scheduled time and remain on duty throughout the duration of the operational hours.
3. Patrol Flags and Surfcraft Boundary Flags are to be removed from the beach and/or laid flat on the sand in their current locations to signal to the public that the beach is closed.
4. Mobile warning/hazard signage - "Swimming not advised" signage should be displayed in suitable positions including the area where the patrolled swimming area may have been.
5. Patrol Captain to advise SurfCom, via radio or the Operations App, that the service is now operating a 'Beach Closed Patrol' and why.
6. Lifesavers must maintain an effective position to provide surveillance of the patrolling area and an emergency response if required. If a Beach Closed Patrol operates for an extended period, the Patrol Captain shall ensure that an effective rotation roster is in place for this duty.
7. During a Beach Closed Patrol, public are to be advised that the swimming area has been closed and for their own safety they should not enter the water. Roving patrols can be used to ensure beach visitors receive the message clearly.
8. Patrol Captain to conduct risk assessment to ascertain if a 'Beach Closed Patrol' is suitable.
9. Patrol Captain to advise SurfCom, via radio or the Operations App, as soon as the service establishes a "Base Patrol" and the beach is re-opened.

4. Surveillance Patrol

Definition: A Surveillance Patrol is executed when minimum personnel requirements cannot be met for any reason. In this situation available members are required to stay at the beach for the duration of the rostered hours and monitor swimmers. Flags are not erected. SurfCom and the Duty Officer must be informed immediately and additional personnel sought wherever possible to return the beach to Open status.

If you have any queries, please reach out to your Area Lifesaving Coordinator. We would ask Clubs to please share this memo with all Patrol Captains/Vice Captains to fully refresh everyone on the above patrol types.

Regards

SCOTT MUIR

Acting Director of Lifesaving & Support Operations

Reference Documents : [LS3 Obligations and Standards](#) [SLSNSW SOPs](#)