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SURF RESCUE
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PATROL OPERATIONS
MANUAL
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PATROL OPERATIONS MANUAL

INTRODUCTION

Coogee SLSC Patrol Operations Manual (**POM**) is based on a template developed by SLSNSW and revised 2021 by SLSS and populated with relevant local information for general reference. This document provides Patrol Captains and Patrol Vice Captains with a clear understanding of the requirements of managing patrols at Coogee Beach.

It is also provided as an external reference document to local Branch officials and SurfCom operators as it contains important local information and key club contacts.

Local hazards/risks and patrol methods relevant to Coogee Beach, and the surrounding District, are also contained in the POM. These outline the accepted manner of responding to and managing local situations and are important to know.

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COMMUNICATION

CLUB AND CLUB OFFICER DETAILS

Name of Surf Life Saving Club	COOGEE SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB
Club Phone Number	02 9665 5138
Club Address	135 Beach St Coogee NSW 2034
Club additional location details	PO Box 14 Coogee NSW 2034
Club website	www.coogeesurfclub.com.au
Clubhouse GPS co-ordinates	33° 55' 23.60" S 151° 15' 28.60" E

Club Position	Name	Telephone	Email
President	Sharon Deans	0410778778	president@coogeeslsc.com.au
Deputy President	Michael Barnes	0478816674	deputypresident@coogeeslsc.com.au
Club Captain	Kris Rettke	0430051333	clubcaptain@coogeeslsc.com.au
Club Vice Captain	Cate Kyling	0490328684	vicecaptain@coogeeslsc.com.au
Club Vice Captain	Alex Bowen	0414331307	clubvicecaptain@coogeeslsc.com.au
Chief Gear Steward	Andrew Tooher	0420225920	gearsteward@coogeeslsc.com.au
Radio Officer	Madhav Raman	0478090205	radioofficer@coogeeslsc.com.au
First Aid Officer	Kath Power	0421815084	firstaid@coogeeslsc.com.au
IRB Captain	Jaz McGhee	0457825442	irb@coogeeslsc.com.au
UAV Coordinator	Andrew Horne	0418116830	
Chief Training Officer	Athenia Pascoe	0417545752	education@coogeeslsc.com.au
Minnows Captain	Kali Ogle	0401251767	captain@coogeeminnows.com.au
Patrol Captain 1	Cate Kyling	0490328684	Patrol1@coogeeslsc.com.au
Patrol Captain 2	Luke Porter-Daly & Sam Jackson	0499306235 0416674282	Patrol2@coogeeslsc.com.au
Patrol Captain 3	Roslyn Manuel	0481302334	Patrol3@coogeeslsc.com.au
Patrol Captain 4	Conor Magee	0459559475	Patrol4@coogeeslsc.com.au
Patrol Captain 5	Aimee Charles	0416620056	Patrol5@coogeeslsc.com.au
Patrol Captain 6	Athenia Pascoe	0417545752	Patrol6@coogeeslsc.com.au
Patrol Captain 7	Michael O'Grady Madhav Raman	0402488131 0478090205	Patrol7@coogeeslsc.com.au
Patrol Captain 8	Oliver Nicholson	0499603541	Patrol8@coogeeslsc.com.au
Patrol Captain 9	Emma Askham	0411186809	Patrol9@coogeeslsc.com.au
Patrol Captain 10	Ruby Thomasyu	0412578124	Patrol10@coogeeslsc.com.au
Patrol Captain 11	Madeleine Bald	0499210505	Patrol11@coogeeslsc.com.au
Patrol Captain 12	Michael Barnes	0478816674	Patrol12@coogeeslsc.com.au
Patrol Captain 13	Danny Beal	0478492017	Patrol13@coogeeslsc.com.au
Patrol Captain 14	Matthew Larkin	0432931700	Patrol14@coogeeslsc.com.au
Patrol Captain 15	Sean Bond	0420498111	Patrol15@coogeeslsc.com.au
Patrol Captain 16	Lana Reiter	0415245120	Patrol16@coogeeslsc.com.au
Patrol Captain 17	Maria Luise Ossimitz	0433547669	Patrol17@coogeeslsc.com.au

CLUB CALLOUT TEAM

Coogee SLSC has an *Emergency Callout Team* that can respond to incidents within the *Emergency Response Area* as outlined in the Lifesaving Service Agreement.

The following members have been nominated as part of Coogee SLSC's *Emergency Callout Team*. If you require the assistance of one of the following members in relation to an *Emergency Callout*, please report this immediately to the Club Captain.

Name Position?	Club Key?	IRBD	IRBC	ART	PC	SMAR	Available	Mobile
Kris Rettke - Club Captain	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		24/7	0430 051 000
Sean Bond - Call Out Team Coordinator	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	24/7	0420 498 111
Alex Peshevski	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	24/7	0467 624 353
Alexander Cain-Reed	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	24/7	0401 539 622
Alexandra Scott	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	24/7	0402 466 227
Andrew Tooher - Gear Steward	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	24/7	0420 225 920
Anthony Waller - Governor	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	24/7	0400 668 071
Athenia Pascoe - CTO	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	24/7	0417 545 752
Ben Campbell	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	24/7	0413 883 636
Craig Howie	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	24/7	0410 546 013
Danny Beal	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	24/7	0460 542 398
Debbie Zonich - Admin	N	N	N	Y	N	N	24/7	0433 941 161
Emma Askham	N	N	N	N	Y	N	24/7	0411 186 809
Felipe Ferri De Barros	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	24/7	0401 814 853
Jaz McGhee - IRB Captain	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	24/7	0457 825 442
Ken Yardy	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	24/7	0419 789 784
Lana Reiter	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	24/7	0415 245 120
Madhav Raman - Radio Officer	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	24/7	0478 090 205
Maria-Luise Ossimitz	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	24/7	0401 171 771
Mel Reiter	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	24/7	0433 547 669
Michael Barnes	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	24/7	0478 816 674
Oliver Nicholson	N	N	N	N	Y	N	24/7	0499 603 541
Peter Stock	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	24/7	0473 160 689
Rebecca Mister	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	24/7	0416 620 056
Robert Illidge	N	Y	Y	Y		N	24/7	0413 318 924
Roslyn Manuel	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	24/7	0410 403 997
Scott Muir	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	24/7	0433 471 545

Scott Parker	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	24/7	0412 956 021
Will Bao	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	24/7	0414 678 358
Will Davison	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	24/7	0422 421 931

The following equipment is always available and ready for use in the Boat Shed or Patrol Shed for access by the *Emergency Callout Team*.

Boat Shed	**Patrol Shed**
IRB – on trailer (with a full fuel cell if available)	AED
Rescue boards	Oxygen Resuscitator
Radios and radio bags (for IRBs)	Radios
IRB – spare fuel / spare fuel cells	Rescue tubes and fins
PFDs	First Aid Kit
	Spinal Board and straps
	ATV / SSV (stored next to Lifeguards)

EMERGENCY AND SUPPORT SERVICES

When reporting an incident, please provide details of the **Position**, **Problem**, **People** and **Progress**.

Service	Radio	Phone
Coogee SLSC	Channel 2	02 9665 5138
Clovelly SLSC	Channel 2	02 9665 1441
Maroubra SLSC	Channel 2	02 9349 1336
SurfCom	Channel 3	02 8471 8092
SLSS Support Ski	Channel 3	-
SLSS Offshore Rescue – Surf Rescue 30	Channel 3	0408 330 246
SLSS Rescue Coordinator	Channel 3	0490 087 801
SLSS Eastern Suburbs Duty Officer	Channel 3	0436 190 051
SLSS Sutherland / RNP Duty Officer	Channel 3	0429 443 793
Lifesaver 21	Channel 1	02 9694 3100 (base)
Counselling Service	Channel 3	1800 818 728
Local Council Lifeguards – Coogee	Channel 2	02 9093 6170
Emergency Services	Channel 3 (via SurfCom)	000
Local Hospital ED	-	02 9382 2222
Maroubra Police		02 9349 9299

CLUB RADIO PROCEDURES

SIGNING ON and OFF WITH SURFCOM

1. Priority must first be given to signing on with SurfCom using the Patrol Operations App.
2. If successful in signing on to Patrol with the Patrol Operations App, then SurfCom will commence a radio check with each Club, normally from North to South (this will change pending variations in Club start times). Normal patrol set up should continue during this time.
3. If Clubs cannot sign-on to Patrol using the Patrol Operations App, they then may sign-on via the radio network (Channel 3) with SurfCom directly. Please wait for SurfCom to make contact to sign-on. If signing on with SurfCom they will request the following
    a. Beach Status (closed – reason for beach closure);
    b. IRB Status (Operational / Non-operational); and
    c. Number of Bronze members.
4. All morning Patrols using the Patrol Operations App must ensure that they sign-off at the conclusion of their Patrol to allow the afternoon Patrols to sign-on at the commencement of their Patrol using the Patrol Operations App.

CHANGE OVER

1. First, communicate with the morning Patrol Captain, or Patrol Operations App coordinator and establish if the morning Patrol successfully signed off using the Patrol Operations app (if they used it).
2. The afternoon Patrol will then be able to sign-on using the Patrol Operations App. If the Patrol member operating the Patrol Operations App has problems or the App is malfunctioning, the opportunity for a 'manual' sign-on through SurfCom via the radio is still available.
3. For afternoon Patrols that cannot sign-on with the Patrol Operations App, a manual sign-on with SurfCom must be conducted, repeating:
    a. Beach Status (closed – reason for beach closure);
    b. IRB Status (Operational / Non-operational); and
    c. Number of Bronze members.

PATROL SIGN OFF

1. Sign-off using the Patrol Operations App. If this doesn't work, you can request a manual sign-off via radio with SurfCom.
2. If you don't use the Patrol Operations App, please sign-off manually with SurfCom via radio, reporting the number of rescues. Please note that a manual sign-off with SurfCom will result in the data in the operations App being lost. PC/VC will need to follow-up directly with the Registrar within 48 hours to provide details about patrol attendees.

RISK ASSESSMENT – SURF RISK RATING

Patrol Captains or Vice Captains must complete a risk assessment using the operations app SSR before commencing a patrol, and during the patrol if conditions change.

The SRR aims to provide a consistent process for evaluating surf conditions, advising water safety managers, and offering key information for decision-making. All members of a patrol should be made aware of the SSR produced via the app.

EXTENSION OF PATROL HOURS

Patrol Captains are to make an informed risk assessment based on beach patronage levels and weather conditions, in consultation with Lifeguards as to whether an extension of the Patrol hours will take place. If decided in favour of extending the Patrol and delaying sign-off, the Patrol Captain is to radio SurfCom and advise the approximate time at which the new sign-off will take place. The Patrol Captain is also required to text the Club Captain.

PATROL ROTATIONS, AWARD HOLDERS AND JUNIOR SUPPORT

The following should occur during patrol:

- Over 18 members should not be sent one-on-one to outposts with an U18 member. Either over 18 members should patrol with multiple U18s or an U18 patrol with multiple over 18 members.
- Award Holders may rove and patrol from outposts but must always be accompanied by Bronze patrolling members. Award Holders are not qualified or permitted to perform in water rescues. Patrol Captains are responsible for understanding the training and skill level of Award Holders and ensuring that they are only allocated to activities that align with their training.

RADIO CHANNELS

Channel 1 – Emergency channel (line of sight only). Used during major incidents where Duty Officers, RWCs, Helicopters are involved. Note: If are responding to a major incident, SurfCom or a Duty Officer may ask you to switch to channel 1, from channel 3.

Channel 2 – Patrol Channel (line of sight only). Used for everyday internal patrol communications (IRB, roving patrols, SSV).

Channel 3 – Primary repeater channel. Used for all communications with SurfCom and other SLS assets / Clubs.

Channel 4 – Scan channel, HAS BEEN REMOVED.

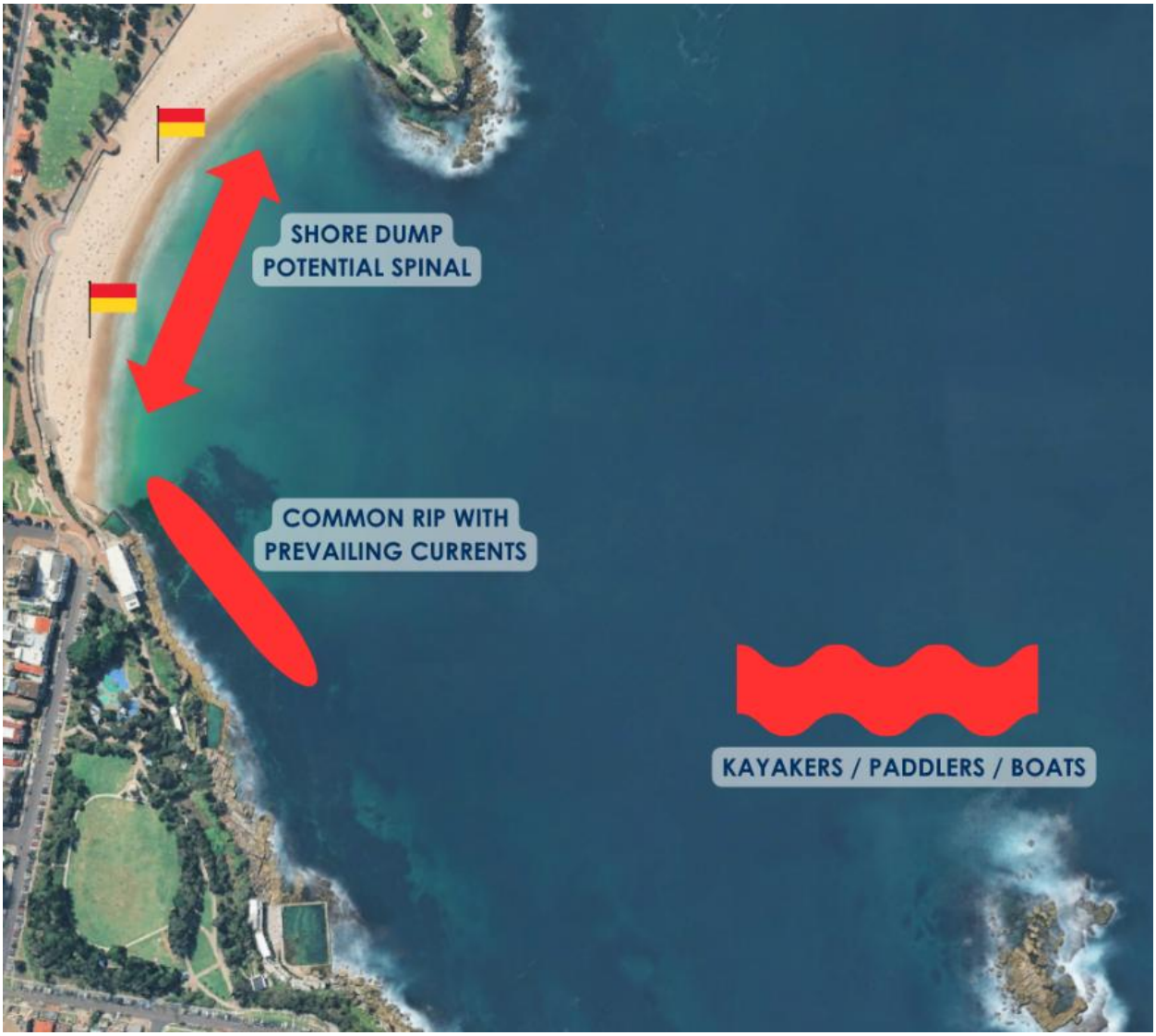
Channel 58, 66, 67, 68 – Training channels. Can be used for training or other non- emergency / operational Patrol requirements.

PATROL OPERATIONS GEOGRAPHY

PATROL AREA MAP

HAZARD AND RISK MANAGEMENT

HAZARD AND RISK MANAGEMENT MAP



HAZARD / RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

Hazard	Risk	Risk Management & Response Methods
Rip Currents & Holes	Persons caught in rips *Particularly at unpatrolled parts of beach*	• Identify rips - position flags appropriately • Lifesaver at water's edge (flag duty) whenever people are swimming • Position safety signage in front of rips/key access ways • Constant surveillance of flagged area • Consistent surveillance of adjacent areas with binoculars • Regular roving ATV patrols (Nth and Sth) • Preventative actions as required

Heavy Shore Dump	Spinal Injuries / Dislocations. Coogee is a high-risk location for spinal injuries due to gradient.	• 'Spinal' qualified lifesaver on every patrol • Spinal Backboard in patrol tent • Regularly drill spinal scenarios
Kite Surfers	Stranded offshore Tangled in surf zone Risk to swimmers in flags Risk to people on beach (from kite)	• Maintain surveillance of offshore waters (with binoculars) • Maintain surveillance of adjacent surf zone • Launch IRB and/or request RWC assistance to warn kite surfers to stay clear of flags • Warn on-beach kitesurfers to avoid high use beach areas • Evacuate water of swimmers/board riders should a kite become stuck in the surf zone (tangle hazard) If rescue of kitesurfer required: • Notify SurfCom • Launch IRB • Approach from upwind (avoid ropes) • Have kite-surfer discard any/all ropes/lines prior to approach • Notify SurfCom when all-clear
Kayakers / Boats	Vessels and crafts in distress offshore	• Maintain surveillance of offshore waters (with binoculars) • Launch IRB to check any possible issues • Notify SurfCom of any emergencies identified
Blue Bottles	Injury to public (minor Anaphylactic reaction to sting (serious)	• Erect warning signage if significant numbers of blue bottles seen in the surf zone • Provide access to hot showers for any person stung (for children ensure parents accompany them) • Provide ice to people leaving beach if stung • Assess history of allergic reactions to bee stings etc • Assess any patients significantly stung and/or stung around the chest, neck, face/head. Monitor breathing and level of consciousness. Request ambulance support from SurfCom for any breathing difficulties / lowered level of consciousness, treat as required.
Surfers in flag area	Injury to swimmers	• Ensure 'no-surf craft' flags/signs erected • Provide warning via loudspeaker to move away from flagged area • Evacuate and move flagged areas if necessary • Notify SurfCom
Sharks	Public Panic Injury to swimmers (low risk)	• If lifesaver/lifeguard reported shark sighting, evacuate water, close swimming area • Notify SurfCom • Launch IRB and patrol immediate area until confident shark has left the area, before reopening • For 'public only' (unconfirmed) reported shark sighting, launch IRB and patrol area, as well as upscale water surveillance via binoculars. Upscale response as required.

MINIMUM PATROL REQUIREMENTS

UAV – Uncrewed Aerial Vehicle

The Australian Uncrewed Aerial Vehicle Service (AUAVS) is an operational unit of Surf Life Saving Services Pty Ltd (SLSS), a wholly owned subsidiary of Surf Life Saving NSW (SLSNSW). The AUAVS is the provider of the largest coastal uncrewed aerial vehicle (UAV) (drone) surveillance program in the Southern Hemisphere.

UAVs provide an aerial perspective that allows lifesavers to monitor large areas of the ocean quickly and efficiently. With the help of high-definition cameras and thermal imaging technology, UAVs can detect rip currents, sharks, and other hazards that may be less visible to the human eye. UAVs can also assist in locating missing swimmers and provide a bird's-eye view of the ocean for better search and rescue operations. By incorporating UAVs into their operations, SLSCS can improve their response times, reduce the risk to lifesavers, and enhance the safety of the community.

An UAV Operational Zone is set up on a beach with a **30m exclusion zone** (a CASA requirement), often situated behind the IRB area. From there, the Pilot/Operator can take off, conduct patrols and gather information on the beach to pass onto the Patrol Captain or Lifeguard. See the suggested zone and confirmed flying hours below.

Branch UAV Coordinator: is a volunteer position responsible for supporting all SLS UAV membership operations within their respective SLS Branch. The Coogee UAV Coordinator is Andrew Horne.

Reporting: UAV Operators/Pilots report to the Club UAV Officer, who in turn reports to the Club Captain / Club Director of Lifesaving.

Introduce yourself to the UAV pilot at the beginning of your patrol and confirm communication channels.

Read the SLSA - UAV Service and Use Guide Here

PATROL TYPES

BASE PATROL

A Base Patrol is the core patrolled area for a lifesaving service always established and dates as identified in the Lifesaving Service Agreement. A Base Patrol must meet all minimums for personnel and equipment as stated in Standard Operating Procedure LS3.1. A Base Patrol may be supported by multiple Sub Patrols to effectively manage the beach operations as identified in the Patrol Operations Manual.

FOUL WEATHER PATROL

A Foul Weather Patrol is a downgraded Base Patrol, operated when services are exposed to inclement weather conditions, irrespective of the surf conditions. Minimum personnel and equipment are as per Base Patrol (refer LS 3.3.2).

In the event of a Foul Weather Patrol, Patrol Captains may wish to amend their patrol format so that all members are utilised. This may include dividing the patrol into two shifts. When this occurs all members that attend should receive full patrol hours.

BEACH CLOSED PATROL

A Beach Closed Patrol is a Base Patrol with a closed swimming area. The swimming area may be closed for situations such as dangerous conditions or an emergency. Minimum personnel as per Base Patrol. Minimum equipment as per Base Patrol with patrol and surf craft boundary flags removed (refer LS3.3.3).

SURVEILLANCE PATROL

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.

The Club Captain, SurfCom and the Duty Officer must be informed immediately, and additional personnel sought wherever possible to return the beach to Open status.

SUB PATROL TYPES

SATELLITE PATROL

A Satellite Patrol is a sub patrol type with patrol flags and operates as extension of the Base Patrol as defined within the services Patrol Operations Manual to provide surveillance at an area of high risk. A Satellite Patrol may operate almost independently of a Base Patrol to similar minimum requirements (refer LS3.3C).

OUTPOST PATROL

An Outpost Patrol is established at other areas of coastline. This sub patrol type has no patrol flags and operates as an extension of the Base Patrol, as defined within the service's Pat Operation Manual to provide surveillance at an area of high risk (refer LS 3.3B).

ROVING PATROL

A transient patrol method whereby a mobile lifesaving unit sourced from the Base Patrol, travels along the coastline (via land or water), surveying adjacent areas of water/beach as per service's Patrol Operations Manual (refer LS3.3A).

BEACH MANAGEMENT ROLES

Type	Radio Ch	Call Sign	Patrol Method / Details
Patrol Tent (Command Post)	Ch 2 & 3	*Coogee Patrol*	Patrol Command Post Patrol Captain Location Key Equipment Location Elevated Scanning / surveillance position 1 Lifesaver watching flags 1 lifesaver scanning unpatrolled areas with binoculars
Flag Duty	Ch 2	*Coogee Southern / Northern Flag*	Lifesaver at flags when conditions warrant outpost. Standing or sitting - constant surveillance with tube, radio bum bag and whistle rotating out every 20-30 mins.
Outpost	Ch 2	*Coogee Southern / Northern Outpost*	Lifesavers positioned on the beach adjacent to the ocean pool at the south of the beach (Ross Jones Memorial Pool) or at the north of the beach (Jiles Baths). Minimum of 2 lifesavers (as practical) Radio, Tube, Bum Bag & Whistle
Roving Patrol	Ch 2	*Coogee Southern / Northern Rove*	Minimum of 2 Lifesavers (where practical) Radio, Bum bag, Tube and Whistle
Wylies Baths	Ch 2	*Coogee Wylies*	Minimum of 2 Lifesavers (where practical) over 18 years of age Radio, Bum bag, Tube and Whistle
IRB Patrol	Ch 2/3	*Coogee IRB*	Roving IRB patrols as required. 2 full roves per patrol Qualified Driver & Crew (with radio) Patrol Life Jackets to be worn. IRBs will change to channel 3 when patrolling in Gordons Bay and Lurline Bay.
In-water Patrol	n/a	*n/a*	Patrolling swimmers wearing patrol cap with rescue tube Paddlers on Rescue Board + patrol cap
Offline / On-break Lifesavers	n/a	*n/a*	On Lunch rotation / break Must have advised PC and have clear return time. Must remove patrol uniform if leaving beach or undertaking non-SLS activities
Branch & External Services			
SurfCom	Ch 3	*SurfCom*	Online during all patrol hours
Helicopters	Ch 1	*Lifesaver 21* *Polair: Polair 1* *Ambulance: Rescue 22*	If responding to an emergency where Helicopters are involved confirm with SurfCom on Ch3 that working channel is Ch1 (and then switch). If a Helicopter is circling off the beach switch to CH1 to check for any communication.
SLS RWC	Ch 3	*Support Ski (3)*	Branch RWC's conduct roving patrols along the coast and can assist in an emergency.
Rescue Coordinator (RCO)	Ch 3	*Sydney 10*	Branch RCO's are responsible for managing resources across major incidents. Duty Officers report to RCO's as needed

Duty Officer (DO)	Ch 3	*Sydney 11-15*	Branch Duty Officers provide roving support to patrols and can be requested via SurfCom. Check the link below for Duty Officers for season 2026-27 and all Radio Call signs. SLSS Duty Officers & Radio Call Signs 26-27
Offshore Rescue Boat	Ch 3	*SR30*	The Offshore Rescue Boat provides inter-beach support and offshore roving capabilities. Typically contact via SurfCom unless on Duty in the local beach vicinity.

MINIMUM PATROL REQUIREMENTS

- All Patrolling members must be financial.
- Minimum numbers on Patrol at Coogee: 5 x Bronze qualified lifesavers. If unable to secure five Bronze qualified lifesavers, please contact the Club Captain.
- Minimum qualifications required on every Patrol: 1 x Basic Beach Management, 1 x IRB Driver, 1 x IRB Crew, 1 x First Aid, 1 x ARTC. If below, please contact the Club Captain immediately.
- Patrol uniform: Full Patrol uniform must always be worn. Patrol uniform must not be worn off patrol or when not on duty (ie at shops for lunch).
- Minimum patrol uniform: SLS Patrol shirt and shorts, quartered patrol cap, SLS wide-brim or peak hat.

DAILY PATROL PROCEDURES

PRE-PATROL PROCEDURE

- All members contact their patrol captain at least 48hrs prior to Patrol to advise of any attendance issues.
- Patrol Captains to contact all members (direct contact) at least 3 days prior to Patrol to confirm attendance.
- Minimum patrol requirements must be met (section 4.3). If issues are identified, Patrol Captains are to contact the Club Captain.
- If issues are not resolved, the Club Captain shall notify the Branch Director of Lifesaving prior to the weekend.

Start of Patrol	End of Patrol
1. All Members arrive 15 mins prior to start 2. Minimum standards assessed (numbers / quals) 3. Introductions with on-duty Council Lifeguard 4. Equipment should be checked and set up for patrol (including Oxygen stores and AED self-test) 5. Patrolled area location should be determined 6. Fuel stocks should be checked 7. Paperwork / Patrol Operations App checked / completed 8. A Patrol briefing to discuss: • roles / responsibilities • scanning & surveillance • carrying tubes / radios on the beach • radios / Channels (call signs) • rotation roster • uniform standards • hazards / risks • rules around leaving the Patrol • use of the SSV • equipment issues • activities and training / scenarios for the day • patrol cage cleaned out of sand and other items	1. Scanning / Surveillance maintained by at least 1 lifesaver during 'pack-up' 2. Rescue equipment is still available during 'pack-up' 3. Paperwork / Patrol Operations App updates fully completed 4. Sign-off and appropriate information provided to SurfCom 5. All equipment cleaned and appropriately stored 6. Radios washed and placed on charge. Any radio issues should be immediately reported to the Radio Officer 7. Outboard 'flushed' 8. SSV hosed thoroughly 9. IRB and SSV stored 'Rescue Ready' for after-hours callouts 10. Any supply requirements or equipment damage / failures reported (same day) to the appropriate club officer 11. Patrol debrief to discuss: • rescues / incidents • any questions from members • training options • upcoming events / opportunities • next Patrol date

NEW PATROL MEMBER INDUCTION

For completion by the Patrol Captain for all new patrol members on their first day of patrol.

- Clarification of qualifications, awards and experience
- Patrol Member introductions
- Delegation of a Patrol mentor/buddy if appropriate
- Tour of Club facilities
- Equipment induction (what we have, where it is located)
- Provision and review of Patrol Operations Manual (this document)
- Confirmation of provision of patrol uniform

NIPPERS / WATER SAFETY

Nipper in-water activities (including education and surf sports training) are to always adhere to the SLSA Water Safety Policy (SLSA Policy 1.01). Nipper in-water activities are to only be conducted in the immediate vicinity of the active patrolled area.

Nipper in-water activities cannot be undertaken on a closed beach.

The Patrol Captain has internal 'control' of all lifesaving activities on the beach including Nipper activities. The appointed Water Safety Coordinator has delegated 'command' of water safety requirements for Nipper activities.

For Nipper in-water activities:

- The Patrol Captain and Water Safety Coordinator should conduct a risk assessment in consultation with other local Lifeguard services, as required, and agree for Nipper activities to take place
- The Patrol Captain must maintain oversight of the activity
- The Water Safety Coordinator must supervise the activity to ensure compliance with the SLSA Water Safety Policy, maintain radio contact with the Patrol and report to the Patrol Captain as required
- The Water Safety Coordinator must ensure a fully provisioned Missing Persons Kit (the blue Search equipment box issued by SLSS) is positioned in the immediate vicinity of the activity and be accessible to the Patrol and water safety
- The Water Safety Coordinator must maintain sufficient water safety (minimum 1 water safety for every 5 participants). Water safety resources should be in addition to the patrol and must not detract from the minimum patrol requirements. If insufficient water safety is available, Patrol activities shall take precedence and the Nipper activities must be halted, until sufficient water safety is available.
- An IRB must be available for water safety. This may be the patrol IRB or a separately provisioned IRB. The IRB should be on the water, rather than stationary on the beach.

Patrol Captain's should be generally aware that only persons holding a current NSW Working With Children Check (typically Age Managers, Water Safety and delegated club officers) may be in control of or contact with Nippers and other members under 18 years of age during SLSA activities.

Key References

- SLSA Policy 1.01
- SLSA Water Safety Procedure 1.01
- LS3.11 Nipper activities & patrols
- LS3.2 Lifesaving service requirements (minimum) - note SLSS minimum of 5 patrolling members

CLUB RULES

- Full Patrol uniform must always be worn.
- At least one Patrol member is to be always watching the water.
- At least one Patrol member should always be monitoring the radio (channels 2 and 3).
- The Patrol Captain is to always be made aware of Patrol member's location / activities.
- At least one Patrol member must stand at the water's edge with a rescue tube and whistle (when there are swimmers in the water).
- Rescue tubes must be carried or immediately available to Patrol members when on the Beach and not tied to flag poles.
- Members should not text, sunbathe or engage in any unprofessional behaviour (in uniform) in public view.
- Only qualified IRB drivers and crew are to operate the IRB.
- Only SSV licensed drivers are to operate the SSV.
- The SSV should always be left facing the water and is to always be operated at a low speed unless in an emergency.
- No passengers are allowed in the tray of the SSV.
- The Club Captain or relevant officer should be notified immediately of any equipment damage / issues (including Gear Steward).
- Patrols are to adhere to full start and end of patrol procedures.
- All paperwork or the operations app is to be completed for each Patrol.
- The Club Captain must be immediately notified of any major incidents involving the public or all incidents involving members.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT RULES

- Coogee Beach and surrounding reserves are smoke and alcohol-free zones.
- Coogee SLSC patrolling members can advise the public of this but are not required to enforce the law.
- If there are potential alcohol related issues on the beach, contact local Council Lifeguards and Police.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLANS

EMERGENCY BEACH CLOSURE

Patrol Captains should consider the 'closure' of a beach at any time that there is an unacceptable / unmanageable risk to the public of the lifesaving service is unable to safely perform water safety tasks. For a detailed procedure, refer to Standard Operating Procedure LS 9.1 Emergency Beach Closure.

Examples include:

- Dangerous Surf Conditions
- Sharks
- Excessive Stingers
- Chemical / fuel spill
- Power craft hazards
- Lightning
- Tsunami / flood warning
- Storm pollution

SHARK SIGHTING PROCEDURE

1. Determine if water area is to be evacuated
2. Inform SurfCom that you are about to close the patrolled area
3. Activate the 'Emergency Evacuation Alarm'
4. Inform every one of the following
    - Water area is being closed; and
    - Reason for closure
5. Lower and remove the red and yellow Patrol flags and black / white Surfcraft flags
6. Post 'Swimming not advised' signs at identified beach access points and where the flagged areas was located
7. Continually monitor all areas
8. Maintain minimum personnel, qualification, and equipment requirements
9. Maintain an active presence on the beach to advise / warn public
10. An appropriate record should be made in the patrol log giving an outline of the incident

CLOSURE PERIODS

Generally, the beach will remain closed until such time as identified hazard is controlled or no longer presents a risk.

Recommended closure periods include:

- Dangerous Surf Conditions – as determined / appropriate
- Shark – minimum 30 minutes from last confirmed sighting (or completion of search)
- Chemical / biological hazards – after communication from authorities that the area is safe

TSUNAMI PLAN

Surf Life Saving NSW is recognised under the State EMPLAN as a *support agency* in a Tsunami event broadly, our role includes:

- Close and evacuate beaches on receipt of a NSW Tsunami Warning or upon observation of unusual ocean behaviour indicative of a tsunami, in consultation with Local Government and / or SurfCom
- Assist with the rescue of people from the surf zone following the impact of a tsunami
- Notify the SES via SurfCom when unusual ocean behaviour indicative of a tsunami is observed or a tsunami has occurred for which there has been no warning.

For a detailed procedure, refer to Standard Operating Procedure LS 9.12 Tsunami Warning and the SLSNSW Tsunami Plan.

There are two types of tsunami threats:

1. Marine threat – may influence currents / rips / water energy and immediate foreshore
2. Land threat – may impact coastal areas, inlets and inland inundation (rare event, but significant impact)

The SES is the *lead agency* for tsunami response and will advise Surf Life Saving of a tsunami warning through the State Duty Officer, who will co-ordinate the SLS response. Due to the location of *fault line*' (starting points of tsunami's a warning should precede the tsunami impact by several hours.

Essential patrol and rescue equipment, including an IRB on a trailer should be transported to higher ground in the event of a tsunami warning being issued.

COASTAL FLOODING PLAN

SLSNSW is recognised under the State EMPLAN as a *support agency* in a coastal flooding event. Broadly, our role includes:

- Assist the SES with the warning and / or evacuation of at-risk communities
- Provide space in SLS facilities for evacuation centres where required
- Assist the SES with flood rescue operations

For a detailed procedure, refer to Standard Operating Procedure LS 9.11 Coastal Flooding. Each SLS Club has an obligation to be prepared and respond in line with a land threat tsunami warning.

Sydney Branch surf lifesaving clubs are not likely to be affected by either *flash flooding* or *storm surge* flooding. Storm surge flooding will generally coincide with high tides and is easier to predict and prepare for. Flash flooding is unpredictable and occurs in a short period of time, occasionally a storm warning may be issued prior to the flooding event.

In the event there is localised flooding, SES is the *combat agency*. Surf Life Saving as a support agency must only assist when requested by the SES with all SLS assets and members being tasked and direct by SLSNSW.

BUSHFIRE EMERGENCY PLAN (RNP)

SLSNSW is recognised under the State EMPLAN as a *support agency* in a Bushfire event. Broadly, our roles include:

- Assist the RFS with the warning and / or evacuation of at-risk communities
- Provide space in SLS facilities for evacuation centres where required
- Assist the RFS by communicating information on numbers of people and safety of the public

In the event of a bushfire, the RFS is the combat agency. National Parks and Wildlife Services is the land manager and SLS is a support agency which must only assist when request by the RFS.

NPWS triggers for evacuations and assembly areas for visitors, cabin personnel and other community members.

NPWS Preparedness Procedures (fire danger):

- The Total Fire Ban (TOBAN) status triggers the closure of tracks and trails, so that all visitors, contractors, and non-fire trained staff are out of enclosed bushland and near safe open refuge area.
- Only the fire danger index (FDI) rating of *catastrophic* triggers the closure of visitor precincts, otherwise they may remain open for visitors as refuge areas.
- During large fire operations, or a fire threat to visitor areas, the park may be closed and evacuation / stay procedures implemented

In the event of an emergency the means of communication are radio through SurfCom, mobile phone and satellite phone.

EMERGENCY RALLY POINT

HELICOPTER LANDING ZONE

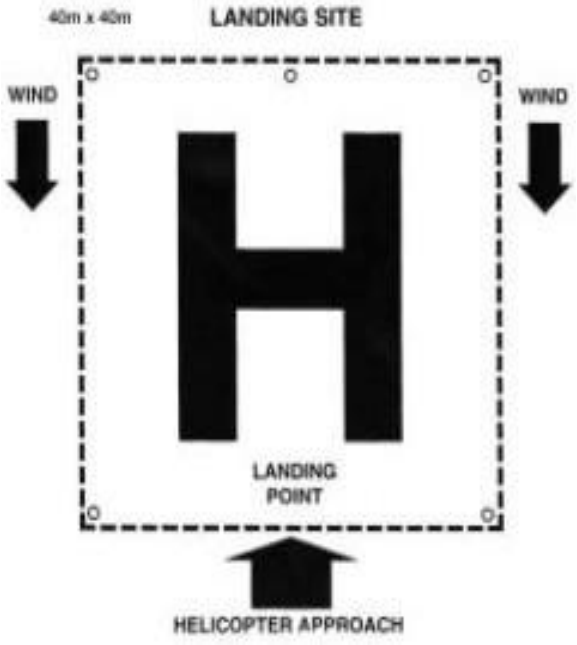
During major incidents, rescue helicopters may be required to land on the beach or near the beach to assist treating the patient and possibly transporting the patient to hospital. Ultimately, the decision of where to land is made by the pilot of the aircraft based on weather conditions, the nature of the incident and surrounding hazards. Patrol Captains can prepare and suggest a landing zone using local knowledge prior to a helicopter arriving.

Things to consider when establishing a helicopter landing zone:

- 40m x 40m area (minimum)
- Flat and cleared of hazards (loose objects, power lines, trees etc)
- Helicopter will approach the landing zone against the wind
- At night the landing zone should be expanded

Helicopter Landing Zone procedure:

- Nominate a suitable lifesaver as 'landing zone controller' and provide a radio
- 'Landing zone controller' briefs lifesavers on pre-landing and post-landing procedures
- Landing zone cleared of hazards, vehicles and people
- Landing zone established and marked with cones
- Establish contact with helicopter on Channel 1 prior to landing and confirm suitability of the landing zone
- Helicopter lands, lifesavers ensure perimeter is maintained until helicopter departs
- Do not approach the helicopter and await instructions from the helicopter crew (only approach the helicopter from the front once given all clear).



STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

For detailed information on Lifesaving procedures and policies, refer to the Standard Operating Procedures on the SLSNSW website.
https://www.surflifesaving.com.au/resources/lifesaving-sops

PATROL ROSTER

A copy of the current Patrol Roster can be downloaded by clicking here.

PATROL ROSTER 2026 / 2027

SEPTEMBER	Sat 26	Sun 27										
Morning	6	8										
Afternoon	7	9										
OCTOBER	Sat 3	Sun 4	Mon 5	Sat 10	Sun 11	Sat 17	Sun 18	Sat 24	Sun 25	Sat 31		
Morning	10	12	14	16	1	3	5	7	9	BLUEYS		
Afternoon	11	13	15	17	2	4	6	8	10	11		
NOVEMBER	Sun 1	Sat 7	Sun 8	Sat 14	Sun 15	Sat 21	Sun 22	Sat 28	Sun 29			
Morning	12	14	16	1	3	5	7	9	11			
Afternoon	13	15	17	2	4	6	8	10	12			
DECEMBER	Sat 5	Sun 6	Sat 12	Sun 13	Sat 19	Sun 20	Fri 25	Sat 26	Sun 27	Mon 28		
Morning	13	15	17	2	4	6	VOL + 8	11	13	15		
Afternoon	14	16	1	3	5	7	9 + 10	12	14	16		
JANUARY	Fri 1	Sat 2	Sun 3	Sat 9	Sun 10	Sat 16	Sun 17	Sat 23	Sun 24	Tue 26	Sat 30	Sun 31
Morning	17 + 1	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	1	3	5	7
Afternoon	2 + 3	5	7	9	11	13	15	17	2	4	6	8
FEBRUARY	Sat 6	Sun 7	Sat 13	Sun 14	Sat 20	Sun 21	Sat 27	Sun 28				
Morning	9	11	RAINBOW	14	16	1	3	5				
Afternoon	10	12	13	15	17	2	4	6				
MARCH	Sat 6	Sun 7	Sat 13	Sun 14	Sat 20	Sun 21	Fri 26	Sat 27	Sun 28	Mon 29		
Morning	7	9	11	13	15	17	2	4	6	8		
Afternoon	8	10	12	14	16	1	3	5	7	9		
APRIL	Sat 3	Sun 4	Sat 10	Sun 11	Sat 17	Sun 18	Sat 24	Sun 25	Mon 26			
Morning	10	12	14	16	1	3	5	7	9			
Afternoon	11	13	15	17	2	4	6	8	10			

* Dates subject to change

Day	Time	Off-peak period patrol times 26/09/26 - 31/10/26 & 03/04/27 - 26/04/27	Peak period patrol times 01/11/26 - 29/03/27
Saturday	Morning	8.45am - 12.30pm	8.45am - 1.30pm
	Afternoon	12.15pm - 4pm	1.15pm - 6pm
Sunday	Morning	8.45am - 12.30pm	8.45am - 1.30pm
	Afternoon	12.15pm - 4pm	1.15pm - 6pm
		Public holidays follow Sunday times as above	