



Circular

Title:	2023/24 HIGH-VISIBILITY LYCRA VESTS FOR NIPPERS, YOUTH, OPEN AND MASTERS COMPETITORS
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Department:	Surf Sports
From:	Surf Sports Team Email: surfsports@sloswa.com.au
Audience:	Club Administrators, Club Competition Directors/Officers and Competitors
Summary:	This document provides information on the use of high-visibility lycra competition vests during SLSWA water-based competitions.
Action:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clubs are to purchase high-visibility lycra competition vests for their water-based youth, open and masters competitors who compete in SLSWA Surf Sports events. 2. Clubs are required to ensure their Nippers wear the provided Woodside Nippers vests when competing in SLSWA Surf Sports events. 3. Clubs are required to ensure that these vests are worn by their competitors at applicable events.

BACKGROUND

The provision of a safe environment at all SLSWA competitions is paramount. All competitors in water-based surf lifesaving events held by SLSWA in 2023/24 will be required to wear a FLUORO YELLOW high-visibility lycra competition vest for competitor identification, as per SLSA Water Safety Policy and Procedures 1.01, and as outlined in the details below.

A. HIGH-VISIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR SLSWA EVENTS

Youth, Open & Masters Competitors

As a condition of entry, all Youth, Open and Masters Competitors are required to wear the approved FLUORO YELLOW high-visibility vests that conform with the requirements of this circular. **Any athletes wearing non-compliant vests at SLSWA events will be requested to change the vest prior to racing.**

This applies to all water-based individual and team events contained within the:

- Youth/Open Surf/Surf Boat Carnivals
- R&R events (all participants)
- Youth, Open and Masters Championship events
- WA Surf League Series

Surf Boat Competitors

In relation to Surf Boat events, SLSWA has been advised that the ASRL have changed the colour of their competition vest from FLUORO PINK to FLUORO GREEN. For Surfboat rowers only the following now applies:

- Competitors in WA Surf Boat Series - may wear either the FLUORO YELLOW vests prescribed in the section above for Youth, Open & Masters Competitors OR the FLUORO PINK or GREEN Navy sponsored vests
- Competitors in the ASRL Navy Series must wear the FLUORO PINK or GREEN Navy sponsored vests as per ASRL requirements.

SLSWA water-based events are defined within the current SLSA Surf Sports Manual. Vests must be worn by all competitors and handlers entering the water beyond knee depth. In addition, competitors warming up prior to their events and within 30 minutes of the commencement of the program must wear a competition vest and have suitable water safety provided by their club until the rostered water safety period commences, as well as when cooling down between events.

SLSWA events in which high-visibility vests are not required:

- IRB Series (given competitors must wear an approved PFD)
- Beach events
- March Past Competition
- First Aid Competition
- Reel persons in Belt races (lines persons are not exempt)
- Pool Rescue events
- Board Riding events (competitors are provided with different coloured judging vests)

Nipper Competitors

Each Woodside Nipper is provided with a free high-visibility vest through the SLSWA Woodside Partnership. This vest is to be worn for all nipper activities including participation in SLSWA Surf Sport competition. **Age Managers please ensure your Nippers are wearing the correct vests when they compete.** Previous seasons Woodside Nippers vests may also be worn as long as they are in good condition and not faded.

Handlers

Any member assisting competitors as handlers, with boards or skis, are required to wear either a compliant vest as stated below or a high-visibility yellow or orange velcro safety vest.

Other event branded high-visibility vests

Vests promoting other events are not permitted to be worn e.g., Aussies, Coolangatta Gold, KNG Series. Competitors may be asked to change, remove or wear their vests inside out.

B. PURCHASE OF VESTS BY CLUBS

Clubs may purchase these vests from a supplier of their choice. SLSWA recommend official SLSWA apparel supplier, [Engine Swimwear](#).

As the vest design and colour have not changed from the 2022/23 season, clubs and their competitors may continue to wear these vests, provided they are in good condition and are not faded.

All clubs are encouraged to order their required vests as soon as possible, to ensure they are available for the commencement of the 2023/24 season.

Vest Design

As per the below diagram, vests worn in SLSWA competitions:

- Must be high-visibility yellow as defined in the SLSA Water Safety Policy and Procedures 1.01.
- Must NOT have any sponsors branding/printing on the FRONT of the vest – SLSWA and/or club logos are acceptable.
- Approved sponsors are permitted on the BACK only of vests (see details below).

Note: if a sleeved lycra vest is used, the colour and branding requirements remain the same, otherwise a compliant vest must be worn over the sleeved vest.

Club Sponsors/Branding

If a club would like to have a sponsor printed on their competition vests for the 2023/24 season, they need to contact Marketing & Partnerships Coordinator, Minda Penn (mpenn@skswa.com.au) in writing for sponsor approval. This is to avoid potential conflicts with National & State partners.

In addition:

- Prior to printing, artwork proofs showing logo specifications will need to be provided to SLSWA for sign-off if requested by SLSWA.
- Club sponsor logo may utilise the BACK middle position of the vest for the promotion of SLSWA-approved club sponsor logos of an overall size no larger 225cm², i.e., 15cm x 15cm logo.
- Clubs may utilise the BACK lower position of the vest for the club name – **lettering may be no higher than 2cm**, and single line is preferable (no 'SLSC').
- If utilising a supplier other than Engine, proofs must be supplied to SLSWA (Minda Penn – mpenn@skswa.com.au) for approval prior to printing.

Club Logos

The request has been made to SLSWA that clubs be allowed to utilise the front of their Youth, Open and Masters competitor vests to print their club logo. Previously, no printing other than the SLSWA logo had been approved as this position is reserved by SLSWA for state/national partners. However, as SLSWA will not be utilising this position for the 2023/24 season, we agree that it would be appropriate to make this available to clubs to print their club logo this season.

If a club would like to have their club logo printed on the front of their competition vests for the 2023/24 season, they may utilise the FRONT middle position of the vest for the promotion of their club logo of an overall size no larger than 300cm², i.e., 20cmx15cm logo

Please note that SLSWA reserves the right to use this position in future seasons for a state/national partner should an appropriate opportunity arise. On this basis, clubs printing their club logo on the front of their 2023/24 season vests need to be aware that it is possible that they may not be able to utilise these vests in SLSWA competition in future seasons.



C. CLUB-BASED ACTIVITIES

This circular applies to SLSWA competition requirements only. The SLSA Water Safety Policy and Procedures 1.01 does recommend high-visibility vests be worn during club member training and activities. Clubs are encouraged to review this policy in detail.

Further Information

Should you or any of your members have queries regarding the information contained in this circular please contact the Surf Sports Team on (08) 9207 6666 or surfsports@slnwa.com.au.



James O'Toole
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