

SURF LIFE SAVING SYDNEY STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE RESCUE SERVICES GROUP



NUMBER: 4.0
TITLE: Rescue Services Media and Social Media Policy
DATE: 10 July 2019

Purpose To protect SLS image and the privacy of SLSS Members & Members of the Public.

Procedures In addition to the SLSA Policies 6.20 and 6.21 the following SOPs apply to all operators of SLSS Rescue Services Group.

- Photography at a live incident, including the wearing and use of “GoPro” devices or other recording devices is strictly prohibited, unless approval has been granted from the Manager of Rescue Services, Duty Officer Coordinator or delegate (On Scene Forward Commander, Duty Officer). The device/s must be switched off, removed and secured if approval is not granted, and it was previously operating prior to the incident occurring. Any footage that may have been captured should the camera have been recording for any reason, approved or not, becomes the property of SLS Sydney for referral and investigative purposes if required and strictly prohibited from being republished by the owner of the device and/or rescue services member.
- The on-scene Forward Commander is the nominated SLSS Branch Media representative and is the only person permitted to report in any form on social media of SLSS Rescue Services attending incidents.
- Reporting of SLSS attendance at incidents is only to be conducted through the relevant “SURF LIFE SAVING SYDNEY” pages, such as Facebook or Instagram.
- Rescue Services members are expected to have professional and respectful communication within all official and unofficial communications methods whilst acting as a representative of the Rescue Services Group or Surf Life Saving Sydney.

Photography Accessories Any non-standardised photography equipment (e.g. ‘GoPro’ Mounts) fixed to any Surf Life Saving Sydney equipment (e.g. Helmets, RWC’s, Life Jackets) must not occur without prior permission from the relevant Coordinator or Manager of Rescue Services.

Media Contacts The Branch President is the Media Officer for Sydney Branch in the first instance for all matters.
Rescue Service incidents; The On-scene Forward Commander is the Branch Representative for media related matters.
The Branch President will be briefed on all matters.

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The LSRSC will review and amend this SOP as required.

History / Review

Version Enforceable Date	Reviewed By
Version 2 – 27 July 2020	J Towns (SOM)
Version 3 – October 2021	J Towns (SOM)
Version 4 – 01 November 2024	C HORT (DOC)
Version 5 – 06 July 2025	C HORT (DOC)

As an SLSS Duty Officer, I agree to operating according to the procedure identified above.

Name

Signature

Date