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|  <p><b>Whiritoa Lifeguard Service</b><br/>Kaitiaki o Whiritoa te Moana</p> | <p>Number<br/>X-XX</p> <p>Revision<br/>May 2023</p> |
| <p><b>Junior Surf Equipment Policy</b></p>  | <p>Page 1 of 3</p>                                  |

# JUNIOR SURF EQUIPMENT POLICY

## Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is ensure members of Whiritoa Lifeguard Service Inc.(WLGS or the “Club”) have access to surf-craft equipment that is appropriate for their individual skill level and to support their surf sports and lifeguard development. Any craft assigned will be relative to surf sport ability as assessed by the Surf Sports Coach or Surf Craft Officer (SCO) at the outset of the season. Re-assessment may occur during the season with a reallocation of equipment but this will be at the discretion of the SCO. Other factors such as commitment to training, attendance at competitions, and Club involvement will also be considered in the decision to loan surf craft. Any Club-provided equipment may be withdrawn at the discretion of the SCO at any time.

## Responsibility

This policy is the responsibility of the Club Surf Craft Officer, as selected by and supported by the Club Committee.

## Scope

This Policy applies to use and loaning of WLGS owned Foam and Fibreglass boards.

## Policy

- **Equipment:**
  - a. **Foam boards:** Foam boards are considered suitable for general use and are available to members, including junior members upon request form the SCO or a senior guard on patrol duty.
  - b. **Fibreglass boards:** Use of fibreglass boards is restricted and this policy dictates who can use them and the rules and conditions for such use. These boards will be allocated according to users specific needs, and a written agreement between the Club and each user will be signed.
  
- **Training:**

WLGS has committed to a structured surf sports programme which is designed to help individuals excel and, as part of this programme, racing equipment can be made available at the discretion of the Coach or SCO to individuals for their sole use in training and competition, under the terms of the conditions of this policy. To qualify for fibreglass board allocation, individuals must complete the WLGS Board Module, which is a kneeboard module to teach safe use of fibreglass short/longboards. This award will be obtained by:

  - i. completing a 100 m paddle out the back or past the wave breaking zone,
  - ii. showing proficiency in wave selection to minimise losing control of the board on the return to shore,
  - iii. and completing a 200 m surf swim.

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| <b>Junior Surf Equipment Policy</b>   | Page 2 of 3   |

If the child successfully passes this module to the satisfaction of a surf sport coach or the SCO they have completed their board module and are able to use fibreglass boards. This decision is made by the coach and is not negotiable. Individuals may be re-assessed during the season once training has been undertaken. It is a clear expectation that there will be no parental involvement during the assessment process and that parents will not try to influence the outcome.

- Board Allocation:
  - a. Equipment allocation, usage and hire is at the discretion of the relevant Surf Sport coaches and Surf Craft Officer.
  - b. At the discretion of the relevant Surf Sport Coach; gear allocation may be adjusted to match the needs of the child during the season.
  - c. The relevant Surf Sport Coach and SCO will have the final say regarding equipment selection based on factors of weight, skill, level, and commitment to training and competing.
  - d. The Club has only a limited number of boards so if foam boards are in short supply during a training session, kneeboards may be allocated to two children for use at any one time during skill based sessions, including Surf Sport and Junior Surf sessions.
  
- General Rules of Board Use:
  - a. Use of all boards must be recorded as being checked in and out using the whiteboard with the board number listed against your name. It is strongly recommended boards are checked for damage before and after returning. Boards will be checked each day during the surf season for damage.
  - b. Thoroughly check/inspect boards before and after use for any damage. You may be liable for previous damage if the board is not checked prior to use.
  - c. All Club fibreglass boards MUST be stored in surf club allocated kneeboard racks when not in use. Please ensure you re-rack boards after using them.
  - d. Do not use anyone else's gear, and never allow non-members (friends) to use Club gear.
  - e. Carry your board. Never drag gear on the beach. If you need help, ask.
  - f. Wash all gear down with a hose and return to storage, in the correct place, immediately after use.
  - g. No stand up surfing of waves on kneeboards.
  - h. Do not remove equipment from the Club without specific permission from the Coach or Surf Craft Officer.
  - i. Never leave gear in the sun or lying outside in windy conditions.
  - j. When travelling to carnivals you must load and unload your gear onto the gear trailers, or find a person willing to and capable of transporting your board and make sure it is

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| <p><b>Junior Surf Equipment Policy</b></p>  | <p>Page 3 of 3</p>                                  |

tied down correctly. Any damage incurred during private transport is the responsibility of the user.

k. If any board is being used for individual training, this may only occur in patrol hours.

- Gear Damage and Repair

Repair of fibreglass boards is one of the major costs for the Club. When equipment is damaged the individual must alert their coach to the damage ASAP. The Club will meet repair costs in the following situations;

- When gear is damaged during approved trainings (Surf Sports and Junior Surf)
- When gear is damaged while competing at carnivals approved by the SCO.

Damage incurred outside of these situations may result in the individual having to pay for the repair themselves. Any equipment marked with a 'damaged gear' tag and put into the area specified, is under repair and cannot be used. The Club reserves the right to charge for any malicious or wilful damage or damage through misuse.

If damage occurs, fill out a Damage Form (Appendix 2) and advise your coach or the SCO.

- Fibreglass Board Allocation

- Fibreglass boards will be allocated at the discretion of the Surf Sport coaches or SCO.
- The Junior Surf Equipment Loan Agreement shall be completed (see Appendix 1)
- The user shall complete the WLGS board module.
- Club boards shall only be used by the member they are allocated to and **shall not be shared** with family members or friends. They are only to be used by the assessed JS participant the board is signed out to.
- A bond of \$75 per piece of equipment is required to be paid prior to the equipment being allocated for use. This will be refunded at the end of the season if the board remains undamaged within the bounds of the agreement.
- These fibreglass boards are worth in the vicinity of \$2500. Please be advised and understand that if you wilfully damage the board by not following instructions on usage or carriage and it leads to the board being written off you will be held liable for the replacement cost. If the board is wilfully damaged but repairable you will be held accountable for those costs.