



# Hunter Surf Lifesaving Branch Buzz

v17

## Corona Virus (COVID-19) Update

### Dear Club Executives

Following on from the memo's and advice yesterday from SLNSW and the latest information from the Government today. We would like to summarise, what it means for our clubs and members:

**SLNSW & HSL** strongly encourages all clubs and branches to implement risk management strategies to limit the potential impact on our older members and members with current health issues by implementing social distancing and isolation practices as advised by NSW Health. This is a time for lifesavers to support our at-risk members. These are unprecedented times requiring unprecedented action.

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### Branch/Club Meetings

HSL will conduct all meeting until at least September 2020 via video conference/Zoom. If you are not comfortable with the set up/use of these meetings we will be happy to assist you prior the meeting. Please contact Jenny in the office for assistance.

We recommend that all clubs reduce their meetings to the minimum required to keep your club running and as per your constitution. We are working on a way to assist all clubs with an account for zoom, to enable you to use them for your own meetings. Please bear with us while we work on this. Until then, please ensure you are mindful of social distancing guidelines while conducting your meetings – spreadout! As per Federal Government [social distancing guidelines](#).

### Hunter Branch Office

Will continue to operate as normal. However, we do ask that you do not visit the office, if you are unwell. If you are dropping off any paperwork, please leave it on the bottom step in the office we will come down to retrieve it. This is to ensure the wellbeing of staff so we can continue to provide a service to our clubs and membership.

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### Patrols

There is a low likelihood of risk of infection from undertaking patrolling duties. At this time, we are advising that patrol obligations remain unchanged. However, SLNSW strongly recommends that patrolling services enact [social distancing measures](#) to reduce the likelihood of viral transmission

**Patrol captains** are encouraged to be flexible with patrol rostering and, in consultation with the branch, may scale the number of patrolling members down to reduce the risk of exposure to members. Minimum patrol numbers are outlined within your clubs Lifesaving Service Agreement and [SOP LS3.2 \(Lifesaving Service Requirements\)](#).

SLNSW recommends that any patrol member who is unable (due to self-isolation, illness or obligation as a carer) or does not feel comfortable attending patrol, should not be penalised.

Please ensure that any patrolling member who has been **overseas** in the past two weeks, whether they arrive back into the country before the current 14 day isolation period came into effect or not, does not attend patrol.



### **Nippers**

Should now be finished. No more nippers' sessions are to be run

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### **Presentations**

SLSNSW has instructed clubs no presentations or large club social events are to be held until further notice, effective immediately.

If you have any events or presentations currently planned. Please postpone/cancel them.

HSLs – Annual Presentation night in June has been cancelled.

Individuals who fail to comply could face up to six months in prison or a fine of up to **\$11,000** or both, please additional penalties for each day the offence continues. Corporations face even harsher fines.

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### **Club Room Hires and Functions**

If clubs wish to continue to engage in the hire of venues or facilities, they should observe an increased level of hygiene and sanitation in common areas to ensure the safety of club members and visitors.

Any function currently booked of more than 100 guests, needs to now be postponed/ or cancelled.

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### **Coldies**

Club can still operate their coldies, if you wish to. Being mindful of the latest advice from the Federal Government of the bans on gatherings of more than 100 people in indoor areas and the potential fines, if they are caught with an excess of numbers.

Please ensure your bathrooms are stocked with handwash and paper towels and all surfaces are regularly wiped down.

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### **Gym, Bathrooms and Kitchen Areas of Clubs**

Infection control for SLSA members is an integral part of WHS. However, extra vigilance in cleaning practices is required at this time.

The [Safer Club Guidelines](#) on infectious disease provide relevant information. Section 3.12 on club gyms and 3.14 on infection control are particularly relevant to preventing the spread of Coronavirus.

SLS NSW has created a dedicated page for updates and information on the [Corona Virus \(COVID-19\)](#). Please do not hesitate to check it for up to date information and guidelines, if you have any concerns.

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As always, this is a fast and ever changing environment. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns regarding these or SLSNSW's guidelines.

