

Surf Life Saving New South Wales

WORKERS COMPENSATION FACT SHEET

Have you suffered an injury or illness while performing authorised surf lifesaving activities? If so, Workers Compensation may be payable under the Workers Compensation (Bush Fire, Emergency and Rescue Services) Act 1987.

Workers Compensation provides you with assistance to help you recover so that you can return to your surf lifesaving duties and/or work as safely and as soon as possible.

Who is entitled to make a claim?

Registered SLSNSW financial members of the current season are entitled to make a claim for Workers Compensation. A claim may be submitted only if you were undertaking a genuine authorised activity as a surf lifesaver at the time of the injury. Authorised activities are genuine authorised and organised sessions and may include training and competition which are genuinely related to surf lifesaving duties. Claims may also be submitted in relation to approved fundraising activities.

What you need to do if you are injured and require Workers Compensation

In the event you are injured or suffer an illness related to performing an authorised Surf Lifesaving activity, you must immediately notify your supervisor or a club official such as your patrol or club captain.

The injury or incident must be recorded in the logbook and also the Incident Reporting Database (IRD) by a nominated club official (for example your Club Captain or Patrol Captain) as soon as possible following the incident.

For your claim to be assessed by WorkCover NSW you need to complete the **Notification of Injury Form** and send it directly to WorkCover NSW within 48 hours of injury. You can do this via:

- Fax: 9287 4828
- Email: wca.claims@workcover.nsw.gov.au

The Notification of Injury Form can be found under the members section on the SLSNSW website www.surflifesaving.com.au.

If your injury will result in you being away from your paid employment for 7 days or greater, you will need to contact WorkCover NSW immediately on 1800 221 960.

If requested by WorkCover NSW, you may need to complete the **Workers Compensation Claim Form** (found on the SLSNSW website). This can be completed with the assistance of your Club Safety Officer if required and must be signed off by a club official. A guardian can also assist with the completion of the form if you are under 18 years of age.

The completed forms are not required to be sent to Surf Life Saving NSW, however please retain copies for your own records.

If you require medical treatment, approval must be obtained from WorkCover NSW prior to the commencement of treatment, unless the treatment is needed in the case of an emergency.

WorkCover NSW requirements

Further documentation such as a WorkCover Medical Certificate, pay slips, tax invoices and receipts may need to be provided to WorkCover NSW. WorkCover may also require you to attend a medical examination by a nominated doctor.

If your claim is accepted by WorkCover NSW you will be assigned a WorkCover case worker. You will be able to discuss your claim, payments and return to surf duties and / or work, directly with this case worker.

Whilst on Workers Compensation you are not permitted to return to surf duties/training/competition unless a WorkCover Medical Certificate is received by your club stating you are physically fit and well, and able to return to pre-injury duties.

It is important to be aware that there are legal consequences if an individual makes a **false or misleading claim**. This also applies to witnesses and club officials who endorse or provide information to WorkCover relating to a Workers Compensation claim. Information provided must be true and correct as providing false or misleading information is punishable by law and prosecution may occur.

From: 2012 SLS NSW CLUB CONFERENCE