



# North Barrier Branch POLICY

<b>Policy Name:</b> LS01 Stinger Suit and Stinger Risk Management Policy	
<b>Department:</b> ALL	
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## Purpose

North Barrier Branch recognizes the risk of Dangerous Marine Creatures, in particular Marine Stingers within our region. Several SLSQ Guidelines and policies articulate and govern stinger management in Queensland. The purpose of this Branch policy is to clearly identify the requirements and application of these SLSQ documents within the scope of the North Barrier Branch (NBB) and region. The intent is that this policy will help achieve a greater level of understanding and compliance, thus reducing the risk of Marine stinger envenomation to club members within the branch.

## Scope

This policy outlines the application of SLSQ policy and guidelines as mandated by the NBB. This policy encompasses any activity conducted by the organization within the NBB including: Surf sport, training, carnivals, junior activities, patrol operations. This policy complements the existing SLSQ documents and aims to identify and articulate the specific branch requirements relating to the areas listed below:

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements for protection against Marine Stingers,
- Risk Management Strategy for mitigation of marine stinger risk,
- PPE Requirements for stinger drags
- Training requirements and strategy relating to marine stingers,

## Personal Protective Equipment (Stinger Suits)

North Barrier Branch enforces the following minimum standards regarding PPE for marine stingers

The wearing of Stinger Suits as PPE, shall meet the minimum of at least a full piece Lycra Suit, as per minimum standards set in SLSQ LS12.

If the Marine Stinger Risk Assessment Form mandates the wearing of stinger suits during patrol operations, stinger PPE must be worn by at least one patrolling bronze medallion holder at all times. While not in the water this may be worn from the waist down only but must be donned appropriately prior to entering the water. This is to enable the appropriately timed reaction to rescues etc. If there is a risk of heat illness the patrol captain is to ensure that appropriate measures are taken to ensure the safety of all patrolling members. Continual rotation of the member wearing the stinger suit, swimming to cool off (if beach is open and appropriate) and appropriate stinger suit selection (lycra rather than neoprene) are all recommended by the NBB as heat illness controls. If the risk of heat illness cannot be appropriately controlled, the patrol captain should contact the club captain or branch DOLS for advice.

For all members participating or involved in Junior activities ( Nippers) Stinger suits must be worn regardless of marine stinger risk assessment outcome.

## Risk Management Strategy

NBB recognizes that there are numerous hazards that effect all SLS activities and that these need to be managed practically and appropriately. For this reason NBB has decided to mandate the recommendation of the Marine Stinger Risk Assessment Form prior to **ANY** aquatic activity within the branch. This is aimed at ensuring the protection of our members and the general public. Prior to any SLS activity including surf sports, carnivals, patrol activities etc, the relevant safety officer or patrol captain must ensure that a Marine Stinger Risk Assessment Form has been completed. Upon completion of the Marine Stinger Risk Assessment Form, all relevant controls listed on the form must be implemented. If conditions change during the activity a second Marine Stinger Risk Assessment Form must be completed and new controls implemented. These forms are to be retained by the relevant safety officer



for the activity or maintained as part of the patrol log/ report for patrol operations. Until a Marine Stinger Risk Assessment Form has been completed the risk is automatically assessed as being **VERY HIGH**.

**PPE during Stinger Drags**

PPE requirements for stinger drags are outlined in SLSQ LS12 (refer to Appendix 1). These requirements include the use of a stinger suit, booties, gloves and must be taped at the cuffs. During stinger drags these PPE requirements must be adhered to.

**Training requirements and strategy**

Per the SLSQ patrol operations manual at least one member of each patrol must hold the Marine Stinger surf award. While the NBB mandates one patrolling members holding the Marine Stinger Surf Award, it is highly recommended that all members hold this award and clubs should aim to have 2 members holding the award on each patrol by the 2017/18 season .

**APPENDICES**

- Appendix 1                      SLSQ LS12 Marine Stinger Protective Wear
- Appendix 2                      SLSQ Marine Stinger (Risk Management) Best Practice Guidelines
- Appendix 3                      NBB Marine Stinger Risk Assessment Form

Version	Last revised date	Lifesaving Committee Approved	Presented to Council	Adopted by Council
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