

**Western Australian Marine Act 1982**  
**Navigable Waters Regulations 1958**

**WAMA – 2023 – 206360**

**Approval and exemption from certain speed and equipment provisions for vessels and craft participating in Surf Life Saving Western Australia events and associated organised training.**

I, **Peter Beattie**, A/Director Waterways Safety Management, Department of Transport (DoT) and delegate of the Chief Executive Officer, acting pursuant to the power in section 115A of the *Western Australian Marine Act 1982* (the Act), and regulation 52CA of the *Navigable Waters Regulations 1958* (the Regulations), **hereby make the exemptions, approval, and set the conditions** below in relation to:

- a) inflatable rescue boats and personal watercraft ("SLSWA vessels"); and
- b) paddle boards, surf skis and surf rowboats ("SLSWA craft")

under the control of a bona fide member or employee of Surf Life Saving Western Australia ("SLSWA") whilst participating in:

- c) a SLSWA aquatic event listed in the SLSWA Activity Register; or
- d) the organised training for such an event.

**Exemptions**

1. SLSWA craft are exempt from compliance with regulations 52BAD(4) and 52BAD(5) while taking part in any race or regatta for which permission has been granted by the chief executive officer under regulation 51C and the race or regatta is listed in the SLSWA Surf Sports Event Calendar (this exemption does not include training for a race or regatta), pursuant to regulation 52CA of the Regulations.
2. SLSWA vessels are exempt from compliance, pursuant section 115A of the Act: in relation to:
  - a) regulations 48(b), (c), (d) and (e), 49, 52A, 52B, 52BAA and 52BAB of the Regulations subject to the conditions set out below;
  - b) closure of navigable waters notices made under section 66 of the Act and published in the *Government Gazette* while conducting bona fide vessel launch and recovery activities or participating in an aquatic event; and
  - c) notices limiting the speed of vessels made under section 67 of the Act and published in the *Government Gazette* while participating in an aquatic event.

**Approval**

Pursuant to regulation 48(a) of the Regulations, SLSWA vessels are approved to operate in exceedance of 8 knots in water less than 3 metres in depth and within 50 metres of a riverbank or water's edge.

**Conditions**

The exemptions and approval as set out above is subject to the following conditions:

1. All the conditions listed in DoT's blanket approval letter (validity) issued under regulation 51C of the Regulations are adhered to;
2. The events commence after sunrise and is completed before sunset; and

3. The organiser ensures enough suitable rescue craft are available throughout the duration of the events;
4. The organiser ensures that a suitable medical response, including evacuation and communications plans, is in place throughout the duration of the events;
5. All aspects of the SLSWA's Activity Safety (Risk) Plan are adhered to;
6. The organiser carries a copy of this exemption during the events and any related training or produces it to DoT as soon as possible upon request;
7. All SLSWA members wear a minimum of a level 50 lifejacket when operating SLSWA vessels.
8. Exemptions from 52B of the regulations are only granted up to 4nm from the mainland shore if a SLSWA GPS radio is on board;
9. Exemptions from regulations 52BAD (4) and (5) are only granted up to 2nm from the mainland shore if support craft are in attendance;
10. Exemption from 52BAA of the regulations are only granted if SLSWA GPS radio is on board;
11. Exemptions from 52BAB of the regulations is only granted up to 4nm from the mainland shore if SLSWA GPS radio is on board;
12. Arrangements are made to account for participants upon completion of the events; and
13. All aspects of the SLSWA Safety Equipment and Exemption Explanation Instrument 2023 are adhered to.

This instrument revokes the previous instrument WAMA – 2022-205072 and is in force until 1 August 2025 unless revoked sooner.

Approved by LLS 15/11/2023
-------------------------------



**Peter Beattie**

*A/Director Waterways Safety Management*

*17* November 2023