



# Anglesea SLSC Policy Document

Reference: 18

Reviewed: 12/2017

## **TITLE: Shark Risk Assessment @ R2R**

### **PURPOSE**

To manage risk associated with potential and perceived dangers of sharks swimming in and close to the Rock 2 Ramp course.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Steps the club will take prior and during the Rock2Ramp to minimise the risk from sharks. *This policy is underlined by LSV SOP 1.11 – Shark Sightings*

### **POLICY**

#### **Pre Race Day:**

1. Identify risk with LSV. This includes from the helicopter, number of sightings on the days prior, location of sightings and their interaction with swimmers. Communicate with LSV (2016 Greg Scott [Manager, Lifesaving Operations] & Darren Mcleod [Director, Lifesaving Services
2. ]) to confirm their position re potential and real dangers and the level of risk to race competitors from sharks at the race.
3. Communicate with LSV RO (2016 Paul Lunny) regarding his opinion on the level of risk and potential risk management strategies.
4. Using all available resources the club will make a decision to postpone or continue with the swim.
5. Communicate decision with public via web, social media and mass media outlets.

#### **Race Day:**

1. A sweep of the course and surrounds will be completed at Xam by Club IRB's under the direction of Water safety supervisor to identify to the best of crews ability any sharks in the area.
2. [Club Risk Assessor] will discuss results of Club IRB sweep with LSV representatives noted above.
3. A sweep of the course and surrounds will be completed at Xam by LSV Westpac Helicopter.
4. All swimmers will be informed of the possible danger at the start line and procedure of what to do if a shark is seen.
5. All information tents and registration tents to have a pre prepared statement if asked about sharks.
6. All water safety informed of policy steps during water safety briefing prior to the race.
7. Additional IRB on standby (main beach IRB) to be called upon during response

- If a swimmer sees a shark, swimmers role -**



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- Inform a member of water safety what you have seen.
  - Water Safety will conduct a search and if it is a confirmed sighting will evacuate the water. Participants can swim back to shore prior to confirmation if you choose.
  - If you are evacuated please swim straight back to shore following directions of IRB's and water safety.
  - The race will be postponed and a decision if it will continue will be made by the race Director.
  - *If no confirmation of a shark then race will continue as per normal.*
- **Water safety role in a shark sighting:**
- If informed by a member of the public, or they see something themselves, signal the closest IRB.
  - IRB will assess the situation. If they can confirm a shark they will radio all individuals with radios and confirmed a shark has been identified in the race field.
  - All general radio communication is to be stopped and only used for key communication relating to the situation.
  - Lead IRB will inform LSVcomms of the situation and request the helicopter come and assist.
  - All water safety and IRB's will begin to inform swimmers to return to shore directing them along the most direct route possible.
  - Boards, ski's and IRB 4 & 5 will shepard all swimmers back to shore, along with the shore water safety and first aid.
  - First Aid: Additional Trauma kit on sight and will be in place for any major first aids.
  - IRB 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7 will form a line and work from the beach outwards herding the shark away. They will continue to monitor the water and possible dangers.