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## **SURF LIFE SAVING SA**

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# **BULLETIN**

**Bulletin No:** 11007

**TO:** Club Presidents, Secretaries, Captains, and Competition Officers  
SSSC, BOM

**FROM:** Elaine Farmer, General Manager SLSSA

**DATE:** 28<sup>th</sup> September 2011

**SUBJECT:** Use of High Visibility Lycra Racing vests for 2011-12 season

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You are no doubt aware that there have been ongoing discussions at a State and National level in regard to the implementation of initiatives to further ensure the safety of all competitors at surf lifesaving events. A number of initiatives were adopted last season including items such as the use of a risk management checklist and associated risk management matrix at all relevant events.

One initiative that received very positive responses and feedback was the use of high visibility lycra racing vests (vests) at the Australian Championships. This initiative was one that also received positive comments in the Coroner's report into the death of Saxon Bird.

At the September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Surf Sports Standing Committee (SSSC) it was agreed that high visibility vest are to be used at senior events in South Australia this season especially when conducted in surf conditions. The SSSC agreed that if the vests were to be used at Senior State Championships (as per Australian Championships) then they should be used for all senior carnivals and events conducted in surf conditions.

As the Navy has already supplied vests for this season through the ASRL-SA, it was agreed not to require a second vest for boat events. SSSC will work with the Navy next season to ensure consistency in color.

As junior carnivals are not generally conducted in surf conditions and all other safety and risk management measures required are put in place, SSSC agreed that there is no need to mandate this for junior carnivals.

A number of prototype vests have been purchased and will be 'triallyed' at the first Board and Ski event this season. Despite this the SSSC is still considering a broad range of options to ensure we get the best possible product at the best possible price. The aim being that SLSSA will undertake to bulk purchase the vests and on-sell to clubs and/or individuals. All indications are that we will be able to get what we require for approximately \$10.00 per vest.

More information regarding this process will be provided as soon as possible once final decisions have been made.