



Surfing Carnival Risk Assessment

- * A qualified Life Guard and 1st Aid Official will be in attendance for the day.
- * AICES and Surfing NSW will only be patrolling the designated Carnival area during official heats.
- * Students surfing whilst not participating within their designated heat and/or outside the designated patrolled area do so at their own risk.
- * Supervision of students not participating in official heats or out of the designated are the responsibility of individual schools or parents.

ID	Risk Description	Actions	Briefing	Monitoring By Surfing NSW Officials
1	Lacerations from barnacles while walking barefoot onto rocks	* Avoid walking across rock areas in bare feet (if possible)* Wear booties if rock walking is required to walk to or from surf location * Ensure first aid facilities are available	* Warn Students of laceration hazards if reef walking is required	* NSW to inspect access to surf location prior to Carnival
2	Multiple Students stung by blue bottles	* Monitor surf conditions for blue bottles * Check with lifeguards regarding blue bottle conditions before entering water * Wear wet suits and rash shirts to protect skin from stings * Ensure access to first aid treatment is readily available to treat stings * Send person for first aid if minor sting * Cancel session immediately if multiple incidents of stings occur	* Warn Students of blue bottles if present at time of day Carnival	* Check with lifeguards for blue bottle conditions * Inspect shoreline for evidence of blue bottles * Monitor water during Carnival for evidence of blue bottles
3	Student sustains deep sea urchin sting with spine breaking off into foot while walking across rocks	* Avoid walking across rock areas in bare feet (if possible) * Reef surfing for advanced surfers only * Wear booties if rock walking is required to walk to or from surf location * Ensure first aid facilities are available	* Warn Students of sea urchin hazards if reef or rock walking is required	* Inspect access to surf location prior to Carnival
4	Shark alarm occurs during Carnival	Implement Surfing NSW Shark Policy	Implement Surfing NSW Shark Policy	Implement Surfing NSW Shark Policy
5	Student attacked by shark during Carnival	Implement Surfing NSW Shark Policy	Implement Surfing NSW Shark Policy	Implement Surfing NSW Shark Policy
6	Drowning resulting from leg rope getting caught under kelp, reef or rocks while surfing	* Avoid surfing in reef, kelp or rock areas if unsafe * Reef surfing for advanced surfers only (conditions permitting). * Avoid surfing in shallow areas at low tide * Check all equipment prior to entering water to ensure in good condition	* Instruct warning and caution if surfing in kelp, reef or rock locations	* Inspect reef conditions before entering water * Check competency of surfers before Carnival * Monitor water depth during event
7	Heavy lacerations to back sustained due to striking reef while in surf Carnival	* Encourage the wearing of booties and wetsuits when surfing in reef areas * Avoid reef areas if unsafe * Reef surfing for advanced surfers only (conditions permitting)	* Provide appropriate warning and care required if surfing near reef locations * Encourage Students to wear booties and wetsuits for reef locations	* Inspect reef conditions before entering water * Check competency of surfers before Carnival
8	Slip and fall onto rocks	* Encourage the wearing of booties when surfing on reef areas * Avoid reef areas if unsafe * Reef surfing for advanced surfers only (conditions permitting)	* Provide appropriate warning and care required if surfing or walking in reef locations * Encourage Students to wear booties if available	* Inspect reef conditions before entering water * Check competency of surfers before Carnival
9	Spraining an ankle while slipping or tripping over	* Identify access areas known for slippery surfaces prior to Carnival * These might include: wet concrete, tiled areas in change rooms, wet grass, ramps, stairs or floor boards with sand * Install 'slippery when wet' signage in areas identified as slippery within surf schools office and facilities	* Advise Students of known slippery areas * Advise Students to take care	* Inspect access surfaces prior to Carnival
10	Students becoming entangled in fish netting debris floating in water	* Inspect surf zone prior to Carnival for obvious hazards in water and on land * Initiate beach evacuation procedure in the event of major obstacle being identified in surf zone * Consider relocation to other locations	* Advise Students to monitor instructions from staff closely throughout Carnival	* Inspect surf conditions prior to each session
11	Injury sustained from striking log or other large piece of hazardous material floating into surf zone	* Inspect surf zone prior to Carnival for obvious hazards in water * Initiate beach evacuation procedure in the event of major obstacle being identified in surf zone	* Advise Students of whereabouts of possible deep sections * Advise Students of evasive action to take if caught in deep water	* Inspect surf conditions prior to each session * Inspect fitness levels of participants * Instructor to maintain close supervision of all participants
12	Student strikes large submerged object	* Inspect surf zone prior to Carnival for obvious hazards in water	* Advise Students of whereabouts of possible submerged objects	* Inspect surf conditions prior to each session * Inspect fitness levels of participants * Instructor to maintain close supervision of all participants
13	Student suffers a seizure during Carnival while in water	Ensure adequate first aid facilities are available to offer assistance for person experiencing seizure * Cancel session in the event of major life threatening emergency to Student or instructor	* Ask all Students at the beginning of session: Can everyone swim? Does anyone have a health condition which I need to be aware of?	* Check enrolment records for evidence of any medical or health conditions requiring disclosure * Monitor all Students closely throughout session for evidence of distress

14	Student suffers heart attack during Carnival while in water	Ensure adequate first aid facilities are available to offer assistance for person experiencing seizure * Cancel session in the event of major life threatening emergency to Student or instructor	* Ask all Students at the beginning of session: Can everyone swim? Does anyone have a health condition which I need to be aware of?	* Check enrolment records for evidence of any medical or health conditions requiring disclosure * Monitor all Students closely throughout session for evidence of distress
16	Tsunami warning issued by lifeguards during Carnival	* Take immediate action - cancel Carnival and evacuate immediately to higher ground	* Brief Students on safety and emergency instructions including beach evacuation	* Monitor evacuation alarms/siren from lifeguards * Monitor shore line for sudden receding of water levels * Do not commence classes in the event of known earth tremors/earthquakes reported in region
17	Sore and bloodshot eyes after salt spray, sun and wind	* Ensure first aid kit is readily available for all Carnival * Designate person responsible to maintain first aid kit supplies * Stock first aid kits with saline solutions for eye wash	Nil	* Inspect weather conditions prior to each session
18	Neck injury sustained from being dumped in shore break during Carnival	* Inspect and select surf zone for appropriate surf entry conditions * Cancel Carnival if unsafe	* Instruct Students on safe entry points for entering water, timing of entry b/n sets, correct water exit techniques * Instruct Students to not ride waves into shore line	* Inspect surf conditions prior to each session
19	Neck and spinal injury resulting from falling from board and striking head on sand bar	* Inspect and select surf zone away from obvious sand bars likely to attract 'dumping' conditions * Ensure rescue board is on beach if non-patrolled locations in case of spinal injuries	* Advise Students of whereabouts of sand bars * Advise Students of duck-diving and board handling techniques (i.e. No nose diving) * Advise Students of falling 'flat' technique rather than diving when falling from board	* Inspect surf conditions prior to each session
20	Hit by wave in unsafe surf conditions	* Inspect and select surf zone for safest conditions * Instruct safe board handling instructions	* Advise Students of correct board handling methods including holding board vertical to wave, do not nose dive board, catch broken waves only * Advise of entering waste deep water only * Advise Students they may be held under in some unforeseen circumstances	* Inspect surf conditions prior to each session * Consult weather and surf conditions forecast
21	Rising swell conditions creating dumping waves and stronger rip conditions (possibly exposing reef) resulting in possible spinal injuries	* Inspect and select surf zone away from obvious rips * Consider modifying session time to suit fitness of Students * Ensure rescue board is on beach if non-patrolled locations * Implement buddy system to ensure pairs monitor each other	* Advise Students of whereabouts of expected tide conditions for the session *	* Inspect surf conditions prior to each session.
22	Drowning as a result of being caught in a rip or undertow	* Inspect and select surf zone away from obvious rips	* Advise Students of whereabouts of rips *	* Inspect surf conditions prior to each session.
23	Cold water temperature affecting some Students with hyperthermia	* Consider modifying session time if weather conditions deteriorate * Students to wear appropriate wet suits and other equipment as per Operations Manual	Nil	* Inspect surf conditions prior to each session. * Consult weather and surf conditions forecast
24	Facial injury after being struck by board	* Inspect and select surf zone for safest conditions * Consider modifying session if weather conditions deteriorate * Provide appropriate first aid response in the event of injury	Nil	* Inspect surf conditions prior to each session * Consult weather and surf conditions forecast *
25	Running over the top of other surfers causing lacerations	* Inspect and select surf zone for safest conditions * Instruct safe board handling instructions * Provide appropriate first aid response in the event of injury	Nil	* Inspect surf conditions prior to each session * Monitor board handling techniques being used by Students
26	Being struck in face by recoiling board	* Instruct Students to check tension of leg ropes before surfacing and how to protect themselves against recoiling boards	* Instruct Students to check tension of leg ropes before surfacing and how to protect themselves against recoiling boards	* Inspect surf conditions prior to each session * Consult weather and surf conditions forecast * Monitor board handling techniques being used by Students
27	Struck and badly injured by power boat (life guards) who fail to see surf Carnival in surf zone	* Inspect and select surf zone for safest conditions * Consider modifying session time if watercraft appear in surf zone mid-session * Provide appropriate first aid response in the event of injury * Report unsafe jet ski activity to local authorities or lifeguards on patrolled beaches	* Instruct all Students on all safety hazards including other watercraft before entering water	* Inspect surf conditions prior to each session. * Monitor other water craft activity in surf zone for changing hazard conditions
28	Loss of visibility from sea fog causing cancellation of Carnival/s	* Inspect visibility prior to Carnival * Cancel Carnival/s in the event of poor visibility	Briefing	* Monitor visibility on foggy days to ensure public supervision is not compromised
29	Substantial wind storm occurs during Carnival and unable to return to safe location for one hour (i.e. Car, surf school)	* Consider modifying or cancelling session if weather conditions deteriorate * Students to wear appropriate wet suits and other equipment	Nil	* Inspect surf conditions prior to each session. * Consult weather and surf conditions forecast
30	Substantial wind storm occurs during Carnival causing sand into eyes of Students	* Cancel Carnival if too windy	* Advise Students of hazards of wind in eyes * Encourage the wearing of sunglasses when walking to surf zone if appropriate	* Inspect surf conditions prior to each session. * Consult weather and surf conditions forecast
31	Lightning storm occurs in the middle of Carnival	* Cancelling session if weather conditions deteriorate and evacuate beach to indoor/undercover location	Nil	* Consult weather and surf conditions forecast
32	Sunburn from excessive exposure to face, arms and other unprotected body parts	* Provide sunscreen for all instructors and Students * Students to wear appropriate wet suits.	* Inform all Students of expected sun conditions for the day/session * Ensure all Students have sun screen available	* Consult weather forecast for extreme heat days * Monitor health conditions of Students * Monitor all instructors and Students to wear protective clothing (i.e. Rash vest, sunscreen and wetsuit)
33	Dehydration from hot days without adequate fluids	* Encourage drinking of water before starting session on hot days * Provide free drinking water to all Students and staff	* Remind people of dehydration hazard and encourage to drink water * Allow the carrying of drinking water to surf zone if appropriate	* Consult weather forecast for extreme heat days * Monitor health conditions of Students