



Equipment Policy

PURPOSE

1. To ensure all members of the Club have access to suitable equipment to support their surf sports and lifeguard development.
2. That everyone is educated in the handling and allocation of equipment for Junior Surf, Surf Sports and other member usage.
3. Outline obligations and expectations in relation to liability and gear repair.

BOARD TERMS

Whiritoa Lifeguard Service has committed to a structured sports programme which is designed for individuals to excel in as part of this programme. Equipment can be made available at the discretion of the coach to members for their sole use in training, fun and competition under the terms of the conditions outlined in the Terms of Hire.

There will be NO specific individual board allocation.

Boards and equipment will be made available based on the following factors and at the discretion of the Surf Sports coach:

- Participation
- Enthusiasm
- Maturity
- Confidence
- Weight
- Age
- Height
- Ability
- Conditions
- Board numbers

For success and comfort in the ocean we attempt that members will be able to train on the same/similar board as much as possible. However, based on availability of club equipment, there may be times that members are asked to share equipment and are expected to willingly comply.



At any time that a Surf Sports coach instructs a member to use an alternative board, including moving from a fibreglass board to a foamie board, the member must willingly obey and adhere to all instructions.

The Surf Sports coach will make the final decision on who uses a specific board. If you have any concerns feel free to talk about it with the Surf Sports coach.

BOARD TYPE

For members' own safety, people around you, the environment and the cost of equipment repairs, it is crucial that members are aware of the difference between fibreglass and foamie boards.

Fiberglass boards are heavier, faster, and more expensive, making them more challenging to use. It is essential that members receive permission from the Surf Sports coach before using a fiberglass board, both during training and outside of scheduled sessions. There is no formal assessment; however, the coach will evaluate each member's skills during scheduled Surf Sports training and will grant permission only to those who demonstrate the necessary capabilities.

Foamie boards are used to develop the skills and mindset of the member prior to progressing to a fibreglass board. If you would like to be considered to use a fibreglass board, please talk with a Surf Sports coach. Ultimately the advancement to fibreglass boards is a tough, thought-out decision that is not taken lightly by coaches for your own safety. If members use a fibreglass board without permission, a conversation and potential consequences will follow.

BOARD USAGE DURING PATROL HOURS

- Members are encouraged to use club boards outside the hours of surf sport training for their enjoyment and skills development. However, to do so, they must first obtain permission from the Surf Sports coach or Senior Lifeguard. This is for your own safety, and the safety of people around you.
- If you would like to use a board outside of Surf Sports or Junior Surf, please be aware that you will not be supervised specifically and are responsible for your individual actions and decisions.



BOARD USAGE OUTSIDE PATROL HOURS

- If a member wishes to use a board outside of patrol hours, they must obtain prior permission from the Surf Sports coach. The member acknowledges and accepts full responsibility for any risks, injuries, or damages that may occur during such use.

CONDITIONS OF BOARD USAGE

- All club boards **MUST** be stored in club's allocated kneeboard racks when not in use. Please ensure you re-rack boards after using them.
- Wash all gear down with a hose and return to storage, in the correct place, immediately after use.
- Non-members are not permitted to use club gear.
- Carry your board. **DO NOT** drag gear on the beach. If you need help, ask.
- Members are required to thoroughly check/inspect boards **BEFORE** and **AFTER** use and report any damage.
- If damage occurs, fill out a damage form and advise the Surf Sports Coach. Please see the damage record form attached.
- Club equipment is not to be removed from the Club and surrounding Whiritoa beach area without specific permission from the Surf Sports coach.
- **NEVER** leave gear in the sun or lying outside in windy conditions.
- When travelling to carnivals you must take responsibility for the safe transport of club equipment.
- Failure to follow these clearly listed rules, may hold you potentially liable for disciplinary action as per the Club Code of Conduct and hold you personally responsible for any costs that maybe incurred.

GEAR REPAIR

Repair of fibreglass boards is one of the major costs for the Whiritoa Lifeguard Service. When equipment is damaged the individual must alert their Surf Sports Coach or a Senior Lifeguard to the damage ASAP. The Club will meet repair costs in the following situations.

- When gear is damaged during approved trainings (Surf Sports and Junior Surf)
- When gear is damaged while competing at approved carnivals

Major damage outside of these situations may require the individual having to pay for the repair directly. Any equipment marked with a 'damaged gear' tag and put into a specified area for repair, cannot be used. The Club reserves the right to charge for any malicious or wilful damage or damage through misuse.