

Dear Members,

As you will all be aware the situation regarding COVID-19 is an ever evolving one. With this in mind I will try my best to keep providing you all the advice received from SLSWA regarding COVID-19. Please if, you are not already, jump on Facebook and like our page <https://www.facebook.com/MHSLSC>. This is the quickest and easiest means for me to pass on information.

For the latest advice and information please go to the Government [Health Web Site](#), or contact the WA Government Coronavirus Health Information Line on 1800 020 080.

On Wednesday we received guidance from SLSWA providing [guidance](#) on how club should manage activities in line with the current government policies. Essentially the guidance provided:

*“Surf Life Saving WA (SLSWA) advises clubs to make decisions on activities based on whether the activity is considered essential or non-essential. At this time, clubs should consider discontinuing any non-essential activity”*

Subsequent to this the MHSLSC Committee met on Thursday, as scheduled, to discuss the clubs response in line with the guidance provided. The following decisions have been made.

### Lifesaving

- **Patrols** - are have been classed as an **essential** activity and will continue as rostered and agreed with the City of Mandurah. Patrol Captains will contact their respective patrol members to advise this. The club only has two more weeks of rostered patrols left and I encourage members that are rostered to please attend.
  - Patrol captains are encouraged to be flexible with patrol rostering and may consider scaling the number of patrolling members down to reduce the risk of exposure to members.
- **Emergency Response Operations** - SLSWA recommends that Support Operations activities remain unchanged and clubs and relevant members should maintain callout team preparedness.

### Training

- Training has been identified by club as a **non-essential** activity. In line with the guidance provided by SLSWA the following courses are postponed until further notice.
  - Summer 2020 Bronze Medallion Course - Postponed
  - 2019/2020 U13 Surf Rescue Certificate Course – Postponed
  - 2020 IRB Crew Course – Postponed.
- I understand and appreciate the cessation current of training may disappoint some members; however, it has been done with the best interests of the club and the welfare of members in mind.

- We will continue to monitor the situation during this fluid time and provide updates should the current restrictions be relaxed.

### Surf Sports

- Surf Sports has been identified by the club as a **non-essential** activity. All group training and competitions (Club, State and National) are postponed until further notice.
- We do continue to encourage members to continue to maintain their fitness through **individual** training whilst the current government restrictions allow. If members are conducting personal training please ensure that you maintain good hygiene and social distancing practices.

### Nippers and Youth

- Nippers and Youth has been identified by the club as a **non-essential** activity. As all should now be aware Nipper and Youth activities have been cancelled for the remainder of the season.

### Club Functions

- **All club functions and activities** have been classified by the club as **non-essential** and are now cancelled or postponed through to 30 Jun 2020. This includes the Nipper Wind Up, Club Awards Night, club nights and all other activities.
  - **Club Awards** – Club Awards will still be awarded this season. I will be working through asking for award nominations and completing award voting soon. Winners will be announced using Facebook Live (or similar) on the 5 April for Nippers and 9 May for Club.
  - The AGM remains scheduled for July as this is an **essential** activity.

I am sure that you can appreciate that **these decisions have not been taken lightly by the Committee** and we are as disappointed as you that we have had to cancel or postpone these activities. However, as an affiliated member of an organisation that has a primary focus on public safety, we have an obligation to assist the government in meeting their health objectives by doing what we can to slow the spread of this virus.

These are unprecedented times requiring unprecedented actions. Please stay safe, follow all the basic hygiene rules, maintain social distancing and act responsibly and with respect.

Finally please remember to consider those who are less able, struggling and or in need - it is together as a community that we will get through this current crisis not as individuals.

Kindest Regards,

Darren Gould  
President MHSLS