



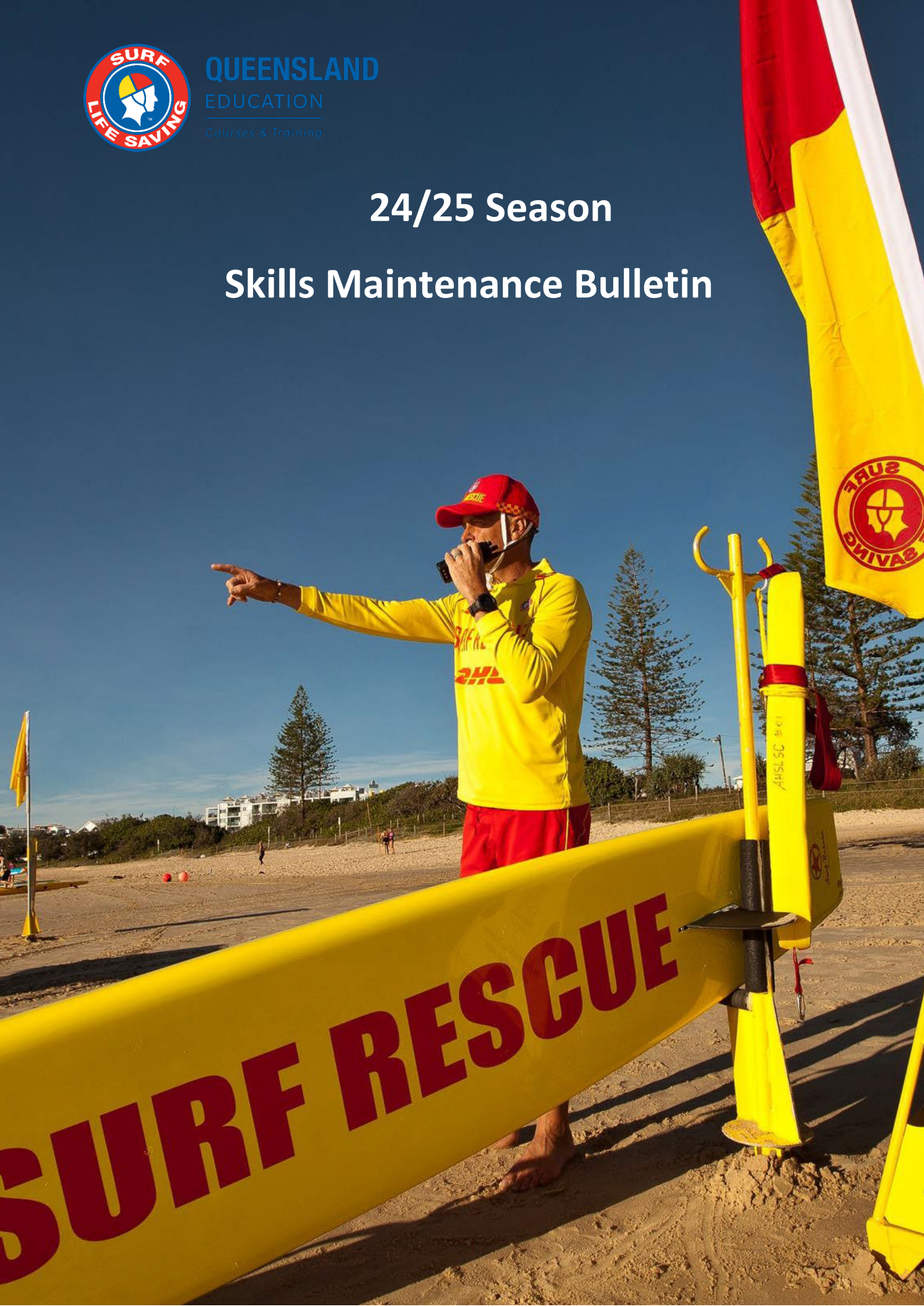
QUEENSLAND

EDUCATION

Courses & Training

24/25 Season

# Skills Maintenance Bulletin



## SKILLS MAINTENANCE

It is important to understand why Lifesavers undergo Skills Maintenance - to ensure that key skills and knowledge have been retained to the organisational standards. It is a time to reflect, to learn and improve our ability to save lives.

Whilst Skills Maintenance acts as a “verification of competency”, SLSQ encourages all members to practice their skills and test their knowledge wherever possible to achieve the highest possible standard.

## RADIO OPERATIONS

**The Government Wireless Network (GWN)** is a mission critical radio network utilised by emergency services across Queensland. Recently extended to include Surf Life Saving Queensland (SLSQ) members, this upgraded communication system introduces new equipment which has significantly improved coverage from Port Douglas to Rainbow Bay. This upgrade replaces our outdated network, reinforcing our mission to protect lives along Queensland's waterways.

It is highly recommended that all members must complete the QLD GWN Induction course before using the new radios during patrols. This training consists of concise instructional videos followed by related questions, accessible through the hub from 1<sup>st</sup> of August.



### TALKING ON A GWN RADIO

For best performance:

- Hold the radio vertically with the antenna up
- With the radio around 5cm away, speak directly into the front of the radio  
**(The front is opposite the screen)**
- Turn your back towards wind or loud noise

Just like other radios, this radio will create echoing if used too close to other radios. To manage this, turn down the volume on all radios that are in close proximity to a transmitting radio.

## GWN TALK GROUPS

Using the rotary knob, you can quickly select a Talk group.

| Zone: SLSQ 1 |             |  |
|--------------|-------------|--|
| Group        | Description | Communication Use  |
| 401          | Enquiry     | General enquiries and requests   |
| 402          | GOLD-SOUTH  | <b>Operations Only</b><br><i>i.e. Rescues, checks, flag movements, etc</i> |
| 403          | GOLD-NORTH  |  |
| 404          | BRISBANE    |  |
| 405          | SUN-SOUTH   |  |
| 406          | SUN-CNTRL   |  |
| 407          | SUN-NORTH   |  |
| 408          | WIDE-BAY    |  |
| 409          | BARRIER     |  |
| 410          | NORTH-QLD   |  |
| 411          | INCIDENT-A  |  |
| 412          | INCIDENT-B  |  |
| 413          | EVENT-1     | Nippers, small carnivals and logistics                                     |
| 414          | EVENT-2     |  |
| 415          | QUICK-CHAT  | Non-critical conversations   |
| 416          | LONG-CHAT   | i.e. Descriptions, instructions or food related                            |

## RADIO CLEANING & MAINTENANCE

It is important to clean your radio at the end of every patrol.

| Radio cleaning.... | Take these steps ....   |
|--------------------|---|
| Step 1             | Rinse the entire radio in clean tap water/place in <u>fresh</u> bucket of water |
| Step 2             | Pat dry with a towel  |
| Step 3             | <u>Once dry</u> , place the radio back on the battery pack for charging         |

**Do not re-insert battery if wet!**

## INCIDENT PROCEDURE

Remember to use the four (4) Ps for any incident/emergency. Position, Problem, People Progress. This is critical to ensure effective communication has been passed onto Surfcom and/or other assets that may be able to assist.

- Position
  - Exact Location: Beach access number, physical address and/or landmarks
  - E.g., Patient is at Alexandra Headland SLSC and/or beach access number 160 and/or 50m north of the Tower
- Problem
  - Brief description of the injury or incident
  - E.g., Severe laceration on left leg
- People
  - If there are multiple casualties involved (and ages)
  - E.g., Two males aged 25 & 32
- Progress
  - Any intervention taken by club/service
  - Patient condition changes and incident updates

## EMERGENCY / DURESS BUTTON

The Duress function on the GWN radios provides SLSQ Members with additional operational safety. When activated, duress emits a visual and audible alert and gives the member priority on the network. SurfCom treat all duress activations as an emergency until verified. It is important that all SLSQ members are aware that duress is only to be used in an emergency. If duress has been accidentally activated there is a process that must be followed.

### HOW TO ACTIVATE DURESS

- Press and hold the DURESS button for 2 seconds to activate.
- As normal press the PTT button to transmit your emergency or urgent priority message.
- Surfcom will contact you.

## IF SOMEONE ELSE ACTIVATES DURESS

- Do not make any non-emergency transmissions.
- Wait for instructions from SurfCom – A member may be in danger.
- Once the duress is cleared – Your radio will return to normal; You do not need to press any keys.

## KNOCK DOWN PROCCES (Cancel Duress)

- Press and hold the orange DURESS button until you hear a long beep.
- Your radio is now back in its normal mode.



If you have any questions, please contact: [gwn@lifesaving.com.au](mailto:gwn@lifesaving.com.au)

## EMERGENCY CARE AWARD MEMEBERS

ECT Training for the following course is open to all Active Financial Club members to encourage comprehensive engagement and pathways for members:

- HLTAID009 Provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
- HLTAID011 Provide First Aid.
- HLTAID015 Provide advanced resuscitation and oxygen therapy.

Members will need to be:

- Registered for the current season.
- If 18+ hold BlueCard CRYMS, CSA.
- First Aid/CPR 14+ and if renewing less than six months expiry on First Aid.
- ART– 15 + and hold HLTAID011. Members who hold the previous SLSA First Aid.

The deadline for the completion of the upgrade from Advanced Resuscitation Techniques (ART [AID]) - HLTAID007 to Advanced Resuscitation Techniques (ART) – HLTAID015 is July 2026 (unless a new training package is released prior to this date and HLTAID015 is superseded).

## GENERAL REMINDER FOR OUTSIDE OF SLS ACTIVITIES

Members are reminded that if they are required by their workplace or another place, they are studying to provide evidence of current First Aid/CPR/Advanced Resuscitation, they will need to provide the certificate which was emailed to them after successfully completing a new course. This is the certificate that has the upside-down triangle symbol (Nationally Recognised Training logo), our Surf Life Saving Queensland RTO number, and will have code/s and unit title/s listed which start with HLTAID (e.g HLTAID009 Provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation/HLTAID011 Provide first aid) on it.

Completing your annual skills maintenance check will not result in you being issued with a new unit of competency.

## MEDICAL OXYGEN USE – ART HOLDERS

There has been a number of changes surrounding medical-grade oxygen that affects Lifesavers and in particular ART operators. Below are important changes and reminders.

### PULSE OXIMETER

The State Lifesaving Committee has approved the use of Pulse Oximeters for operations starting for the 24/25 season. Whilst it has been a requirement of the new ART course, the equipment had not yet been rolled out for patrolling purposes.

With this being the case, some key points need to be considered when using a pulse oximeter:

- Read the instructions carefully, each manufacturer's instructions may differ slightly on how to apply.
- For any casualty where medical-grade oxygen is being considered, oxygen saturations should be obtained via an approved oximeter and recorded.
  - For a casualty requiring resuscitation or urgent attention, do not delay assistance in lieu of applying a pulse oximeter
- A pulse oximeter is a guiding tool, not an absolute therefore constantly observe your casualty and take the reading into account.

#### How to use a pulse oximeter:

1. Turn it on.
2. Minimise movement of the casualty where possible.
3. Clip the device (or sensor) on the end of a finger. (Use a finger that doesn't have nail polish or an artificial nail (Which may not be visible).
4. Keep casualty nail facing up.
5. Hold the casualty's finger still and below the level of their heart.
6. You'll see results in a few seconds. Wait until you see one steady number for the oxygen level.
7. Record the oxygen saturation level along with the time and date within the incident log.

**Please note:**

1. Only proficient ART holders should be using pulse oximeters.
2. Refer to the device labelling or the manufacturer’s website to understand the accuracy of a particular brand of pulse oximeter and their sensors.
3. Any operational pulse oximeter must be listed on the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) Register <https://www.tga.gov.au/resources/artg>



Image from medshop.com.au as one of the SLSA-approved suppliers.

<https://www.medshop.com.au/products/rossmax-sa120-handheld-pulse-oximeter?queryID=3cc96f74907d820878a7fc656aee275c>

## REMINDER – GENERAL OXYGEN USE

- Basic Life Support measures (CPR) should never be delayed whilst waiting for oxygen or other equipment.
- Medical grade oxygen should only be used by trained operators (proficient ART award holders).
- When using bag-valve-mask (BVM) oxygen for resuscitation, **the BVM can only be used by trained operators** (proficient ART award holders).
- A minimum of two trained rescuers are required to provide ventilation for a non-breathing person.
  - This means there should be a minimum of two rescuers, one using the BVM (ART Operator) and one person sealing the mask (SRC, BM, CPR or ART).
- Persons who receive medical-grade oxygen in a first aid setting need to be further evaluated by a healthcare professional - **Lifesavers must call an ambulance if oxygen is used.**

| When should oxygen be used?                   |   |
|---|---|
| Conditions where use of oxygen is recommended | Conditions where <u>oxygen use is not routinely recommended</u> |
| During cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)    | Stroke – Unless signs of shock are present                      |
| Bleeding                                      | Heart attack – Unless signs of shock are present                |
| Burns   | Oxygen saturation equal to or greater than 92%                  |
| Shock   |   |
| Asthma  |   |
| Anaphylaxis                                   |   |
| Drowning                                      |   |
| Decompression illness                         |   |
| Poisoning                                     |   |
| Oxygen saturation of less than 92%            |   |

## COMPLETING EDUCATION COURSE NOT AT YOUR OWN CLUB

Queensland members can now book into courses outside of their club and with their Branch. Members undertaking courses outside of their own club must advise their CTO/administrator and nominate which club they will be doing the course with.

Please do not assume that just because you have booked into a course you can attend. Please wait for the attendance confirmation from aXcelerate.

## SKILLS MAINTENANCE PATHWAYS

SLSQ has an RPL procedure that is available. Where a member can no longer meet the physical requirements of a particular award for whatever reason, the member can RPL back to an award with less physical activity. For example:

- If a member cannot complete the timed run-swim-run for the Bronze Medallion award but can achieve the Surf Rescue Certificate run-swim-run requirements, the member will be issued with an SRC or.
- If a member can no longer or temporarily meet all of the physical requirements of the Bronze Medallion award and/or the SRC, they can be issued with the Observers and Radio Operators award by completing the Backwards RPL Form which is located in the SLSQ Club Management or [here](#).

Once a member has completed the RPL Form, it is to be submitted to SLSQ State Office [education@lifesaving.com.au](mailto:education@lifesaving.com.au) for processing. The relevant award will then be issued to the member and added to the member's Awards List on SurfGuard.