Activity scope
Surfing refers to wave riding on surfboards and skis as well as body surfing as a curriculum activity. It is highly recommended that the Queensland Adventure Activity Standards are referred to when planning this activity.

Minimum supervision
- Minimum of two adults, with at least one being a registered teacher and one meeting the minimum qualifications below.
- Lifeguard/lifesaving service on duty and notified at patrolled beaches.
- An adult must observe from the beach at all times.
- **Note:** Additional adult supervision may be required, depending on individual needs and number of students, environment, etc:
  - recommended leader/guide: participants ratio for beginners 1:8
  - recommended maximum group size for surfing is 24 participants.

Minimum activity-specific qualifications for supervisors
- Ability to effect a recovery from the water at the venue.
- **Surf Life Saving Australia Surf Rescue certificate** or equivalent, **OR**
- **Community Surf Life Saving certificate**, **OR**
- **Surfing Queensland Coaching** qualification.

Minimum activity-specific equipment/facilities
- Injury management procedure (including head injuries) is in place.
- Stinger suits where required, as outlined in **Surf Life Saving Queensland (SLSQ) Marine Stinger Risk Management Guidelines**.
- Whistle, signal flag, rescue board.
- **It is recommended that all programs are conducted on a beach with a lifeguard/life saving service on duty. If the activity is performed at a non-patrolled beach, the following rescue equipment is recommended:**
  - rescue board
  - rescue tube and flippers
  - first aid kit
  - portable resuscitator unit
  - oxygen equipment
  - defibrillator.
- It is recommended that board riders use leg ropes and all ski riders not using seat belts use paddle ropes.
- Ensure all boards and paddles are inspected for rough, sharp edges and removed from use where necessary.
- It is recommended that nose-cones are used on boards.
- Ensure soft boards are used for beginners where possible.

Activity-specific hazards/risks and suggested control measures
- Personal safety – develop a clearly defined emergency procedure.
- Adhere to the SLSQ Marine Stinger Risk Management Guidelines.
• Obtain advice from lifeguards about local conditions, potential hazards (e.g. rips, tides, currents, submerged rocks, water temperature and depth conditions), and dangerous marine organisms.

• **Note** – all surfing activity should include:
  o a recommended [surf survival course](http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/community-programs/education-training/accreditation-program/index.html) or equivalent for students wishing to compete in school surfing events
  o students should complete a surf survival course or equivalent (e.g. SLSA Surf Survival Certificate or equivalent to be implemented by suitably qualified teachers or instructors as appropriate)
  o entry level students **must** be tested on their swimming ability, given instructions on surf awareness and safe surfing practice before the activity
  o consideration of participants’ level of swimming competency
  o initial instruction in calm water
  o instruction in the use of flag/arm whistle signals
  o instruction in evacuation procedures and techniques for assisting fellow surfers in trouble
  o progressive and sequential instruction in aspects of surf craft operation
  o establishment of safety checks and first aid procedures as part of lessons.

• Ensure that stinger suits are worn in coastal estuaries or associated sea waters from Bustard Head north to Cape York and all the coastline of the Gulf of Carpentaria. **STINGS CAN BE FATAL.** Please refer to [Australian Institute of Marine Sciences](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/_files_nhmrc/publications/attachments/eh38.pdf) – Stone Fish. For information on other dangerous marine animals within Australia, refer to [Australian Institute of Marine Sciences](http://www.qorf.org.au/01_cms/details.asp?ID=1048).

• Define the surfing area and instruct students of the defined area before they enter the water.

• Consider prevailing weather and surf conditions in the selected area before entering the water. If these are unfavourable at any time, the duration of the activity should be shortened.

• Check equipment before use. Remove and repair any faulty or damaged equipment. **Note:**
  o leg ropes should be inspected for cuts and abrasions, and replaced when damaged
  o skis should be watertight.

• Ensure that, if flippers are worn, they are correctly fitted and in good repair.

• Limit the number of students in the water when close supervision is required.

• Notify lifeguard, mobile patrol or club members upon arrival and before departure.

• Ensure that students only swim in depths appropriate to their abilities.


• Guidelines/codes of practice have been established for this activity, refer to SLSQ and [Surfing Australia](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/_files_nhmrc/publications/attachments/eh38.pdf).

### Useful activity-specific links

- Get Active Queensland Accreditation Program

- Guidelines for Managing Risks in Recreational Water

- Queensland Adventure Activity Standards

- Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation Inc

- Safety in Recreational Water Activities Act 2011 (Qld)

- Surf Life Saving Queensland

- Surf Life Saving School

- Surfing Australia

- Vocational Education and Training
Disclaimer:
This document is developed and distributed on this website by the State of Queensland for use by Queensland state schools. Use or adaptation of, or reliance on, this document or information in this document by persons or organisations other than the State of Queensland is at their sole risk. All users who use, adapt or rely on this document or any information in this document are responsible for ensuring by independent verification its accuracy, currency and appropriateness to their particular circumstances. The State of Queensland makes no representations, either express or implied, as to the suitability of this document or the information in this document to a user’s particular circumstances.

To the full extent permitted by law, the State of Queensland disclaims all responsibility and liability (including without limitation, liability in negligence) for all expenses, losses, damages and costs arising from the use or adaptation of, or reliance on, this document or any information in this document.

Links in this document to external websites are for convenience only and the State of Queensland has not independently verified the information on the linked websites. It is the responsibility of users to make their own decisions about the accuracy, currency, reliability and correctness of the information at these external websites.