**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**DECLARATION OF BOATING ACTIVITY EXEMPTION**

# *Marine Safety Act 2010* (Vic)

I, Kate Maheras, Director, Maritime Safety, and delegate of Safe Transport Victoria, make the following declaration under section 203(3) of the *Marine Safety Act 2010* (Vic).

For the purposes of boating activity conducted by Surfing Victoria on Coastal Waters, persons and vessels involved in the Surfing Victoria 2023-24 Season as outlined in Table 1 are exempt from the following requirements:

**State Rules made under the *Marine Act 1988***

1. Clause 2(a) – must not exceed 5 knots within 50 metres of a person in the water
2. Clause 2(c) – must not exceed 5 knots within 50 metres of another vessel
3. Clause 4(a) – must not exceed 5 knots within 200 metres of the water’s edge
4. Clause 19(a) – an observer must be used when towing a person

**Waterway Rules made under the *Marine Safety Act 2010* / *Marine Act 1988***

1. \*Clause 11.1 of Schedule 11 Torquay – 5 knot speed restriction – Horseshoe Bend Rd to Rocky Point within 200 metres
2. \*Clause 15.2 of Schedule 15 Urquharts Bluff - 5 knot speed restriction areas
3. \*Clause 15.3 of Schedule 15 Urquharts Bluff – area prohibited to vessels
4. \*Clause 15.4(a) of Schedule 15 Urquharts Bluff – vessels only area adjacent public convenience building extending 200 metres

***Marine Safety Regulations 2023***

1. Regulation 60(a) – vessel master must not engage in towing unless an observer is on board
2. Regulation 61(2) – vessel master must not operate unless vessel equipped with items specified (lifejackets for persons onboard & being towed)
3. Regulation 66(1) – person must wear a lifejacket of type specified at all times when underway on coastal waters
4. Regulation 69 – person must wear a lifejacket when being towed by a vessel
5. Regulation 70(1) – vessel master must not operate the vessel unless persons on board when underway or being towed wear a lifejacket
6. Regulation 70(3) – vessel master must not allow vessel to tow person unless wearing lifejacket

Subject to the conditions detailed below:

* Masters of personal watercraft (PWC) rescue vessels are only exempt from items 1 to 4 and 9 for all events and items 5, 6 and 7 for events at that location. Exemptions for items 1 & 2 only apply when within 50 metres of a competing person or other PWC rescue vessel. They must not exceed 5 knots within 50 metres of a person in the water or other vessels not associated with the event should they enter the event area.
* Masters of PWC recue vessels are only exempt from items 10, 13 to 14 for the duration of the events when retrieving or rescuing a person without a lifejacket from the water.
* Competitors are only exempt from items 11 and 12 for the duration of the events and item 8 for events at that location.
* All PWC operators must wear a lifejacket at all times when operating.
* The exemptions apply from 6:30am to 6:00pm on the dates and locations as specified in table 1 below.
* The exemptions apply provided the stated safety controls and undertakings detailed in the application form and associated documentation are adhered to.

# Table 1: Surfing Victoria 2023-24 Season

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Day** | **Event** | **Location** | **Back up Location(s)** |
| 27 August – 2 September 2023 | Sunday - Saturday | World Longboard Titles | Bells Beach, Winky Pop | Torquay |
| 16-18 September 2023 | Saturday - Monday | Rip Curl GromSearch Victoria | Jan Juc | Torquay |
| 20-24 September 2023 | Wednesday - Sunday | Phillip Island Junior Pro | Woolamai Surf Beach, Phillip Island | Surfies Point  Smiths Beach  Summerlands  Shelley Beach  Flynn’s Beach |
| 12 November 2023 | Sunday | Australian Boardriders Battle | Woolamai Surf Beach, Phillip Island | Surfies Point  Smiths Beach  Summerlands  Shelley Beach  Flynn’s Beach |
| 7-8 October 2023 | Saturday - Sunday | West Coast Festival of Surfing | Bells Beach, Winky Pop | Jan Juc |
| 14-15 October 2023 | Saturday – Sunday | Woolworths Surf Groms | Torquay Surf Beach | Jan Juc |
| 25 November – 3 December 2023 | Saturday - Sunday | Australian Junior Surfing Titles | Woolamai Surf Beach, Phillip Island | Surfies Point  Smiths Beach  Summerlands  Shelley Beach  Flynn’s Beach |
| 10-11 February 2024 | Saturday – Sunday | Woorangalook Victoria Koori Surf Titles | Urquharts Bluff |  |
| 17-18 February 2024 | Saturday – Sunday | Vic Open Round 2 | Woolamai Surf Beach, Phillip Island | Surfies Point  Smiths Beach  Summerlands  Shelley Beach  Flynn’s Beach |
| 24-25 February 2024 | Saturday – Sunday | Victorian Longboard Titles Round 1 | Woolamai Surf Beach, Phillip Island | Surfies Point  Smiths Beach  Summerlands  Shelley Beach  Flynn’s Beach |
| 2-3 March 2024 | Saturday – Sunday | Woolworths Victorian Junior Surfing Series Round 2 | Bells Beach, Winky Pop | Jan Juc |
| 16-17 March 2024 | Saturday – Sunday | Vic Open Round 3 and Teams Titles | Gunnamatta | Rye Back Beach  West Head (Gunnery)  Shoreham |
| 23 March – 7 April 2024 | Saturday – Sunday | Rip Curl Pro | Bells Beach, Winky Pop |  |
| 20-21 April 2024 | Saturday – Sunday | Woolworths Victorian Junior Surfing Series Round 2 | Gunnamatta | Rye Back Beach  West Head (Gunnery)  Shoreham |
| 2 May 2024 | Thursday | School Sport Victoria Teams Titles | Jan Juc | Torquay |
| 3 May 2024 | Friday | Independent Schools Teams Titles | Jan Juc | Torquay |
| 4-5 May 2024 | Saturday - Sunday | Woolworths Victorian Junior Surfing Series Round 1 | Woolamai Surf Beach, Phillip Island | Surfies Point  Smiths Beach  Summerlands  Shelley Beach  Flynn’s Beach |
| 11-12 May 2024 | Saturday – Sunday | Longboard Titles Round 2 | Point Impossible | 13th Beach, Barwon Heads |
| 18 May 2024 | Saturday | Victorian SUP Surfing Titles | Point Impossible | 13th Beach, Barwon Heads |
| 19 May 2024 | Sunday | Victorian Masters Titles | Jan Juc | Torquay |
| 24-26 May 2024 | Friday - Sunday | Australian Indigenous Surfing Titles | Bells Beach, Winky Pop |  |
| 6 June – 31 July 2024 | Thursday - Wednesday | 50 Year Storm Big Wave Event | Bells Beach, Winky Pop |  |
| 17 July 2023 | Wednesday | World Long Board Titles Trials | Torquay Surf Beach | Jan Juc |
| 18 – 21 July 2024 | Thursday - Sunday | World Long Board Titles | Bells Beach |  |

Ref: 1327-2023-BAE

**KATE MAHERAS**

Director, Maritime Safety

Delegate of Safe Transport Victoria

9/08/2023