**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**DECLARATION OF BOATING ACTIVITY EXEMPTION**

# *Marine Safety Act 2010* (Vic)

Safe Transport Victoria, makes 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 2024-25 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) on coastal waters
3. Regulation 66(1) – person must wear a lifejacket of type specified at all times when underway on coastal waters
4. Regulation 69 – person being towed must wear lifejacket
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 rescue 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 2024-25 Season

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Day** |  **Event** | **Location** | **Back up Location(s)** |
| 22 July – 31 August 2024 | Monday - Saturday | 50 Year Storm Big Wave Event | Bells Beach, Winki Pop |  |
| 14-15 September 2024 | Saturday - Sunday | West Coast Festival of Surfing | Bells Beach, Winki Pop |  Jan Juc |
| 1-6 October 2024 | Tuesday - Sunday | Rip Curl Gromsearch | Woolamai Surf Beach, Phillip Island | Surfies PointSmiths BeachSummerlandsShelley Beach Flynn’s Beach |
| 13 October 2024 | Sunday | Tradies Challenge | Jan Juc | Torquay |
| 22-26 October 2024 | Tuesday - Saturday | Australian Stand-Up Paddleboard Titles | Woolamai Surf Beach, Phillip Island | Surfies PointSmiths BeachSummerlandsShelley BeachFlynn’s Beach |
| 9-10 November 2024 | Saturday - Sunday | Surfer Groms Competition | Torquay | Jan Juc |
| 7-8 December 2024 | Saturday - Sunday | Great Ocean Road Women’s Surf Festival | Lorne |  |
| 11-12 January 2025 | Saturday - Sunday | Victorian Junior Surfing Series Round 1 | Bells Beach, Winki Pop | Jan Juc |
| 8-9 February 2025 | Saturday - Sunday | Victorian Indigenous Titles | Urquharts Bluff |  |
| 15-16 February 2025 | Saturday - Sunday | Vic Open Round 2 | Gunnamatta | Rye Back BeachWest Head (Gunnery) |
| 22-23 February 2025 | Saturday - Sunday | Victorian Longboard Titles Round 1 | Woolamai Surf Beach, Phillip Island | Surfies PointSmiths BeachSummerlandsShelley BeachFlynn’s Beach |
| 17-23 March 2025 | Monday - Sunday | Phillip Island Professional Qualifying Series & Vic Open Round 3 | Woolamai Surf Beach, Phillip Island | Surfies PointSmiths BeachSummerlandsShelley BeachFlynn’s Beach |
| 29-30 Mach 2025 | Saturday - Sunday | Victorian Junior Surfing Series Round 2 | Gunnamatta | Rye Back BeachWest Head (Gunnery) |
| 15-28 April 2025 | Tuesday - Monday | Rip Curl Pro | Bells Beach, Winki Pop |  |
| 10-11 May 2025 | Saturday - Sunday | Victorian Junior Surfing Series Round 3 | Woolamai Surf Beach, Phillip Island | Surfies PointSmiths BeachSummerlandsShelley BeachFlynn’s Beach |
| 17-18 May 2025 | Saturday - Sunday | Longboard Titles Round 2 | Point Impossible | 13th Beach, Barwon Heads |
| 24 May 2025 | Saturday | Victorian SUP Surfing Titles | Point Impossible | 13th Beach, Barwon Heads |
| 25 May 2025 | Sunday | Victorian Masters Titles  | Jan Juc | Torquay |
| 30 May – 1 June 2025 | Friday - Sunday | Australian Indigenous Surfing Titles | Bells Beach, Winki Pop |  |
| 1-31 July 2025 | Tuesday - Thursday | Bells Beach 50 Year Storm | Bells Beach, Winki Pop | Torquay |

Ref: 1503-2024-BAE

**SIMON FARRAR**

Director Safety Operations

Delegate of Safe Transport Victoria

18/06/2024