

SURFING VICTORIA SUN POLICY

The health of event participants is of primary concern for Surfing Victoria.

In Australia, 2 out of every 3 people will require treatment for one of the common skin cancers in their lifetime. Skin cancer is preventable and like any other medical condition, is best dealt with by the application of preventable measures.

The following strategies will be implemented by Surfing Victoria, particularly in the period from September to April, to minimise overexposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation and protect participants.

As part of the sun protection policy Surfing Victoria will;

- Participants are encouraged to wear sunprotective clothing made from UPF 50+ material, both in and out of the water.
- Ensure SPF 30+ sunscreen is made available for all participants at any time during the event. Participants and public in attendance will be encouraged to reapply sunscreen every two hours and immediately after swimming and toweling dry
- Maximise the use of existing natural shade provided from buildings, trees and other structures in the conduct of all “on-beach” components of event activities.
- Where natural shade does not exist, the event management will where possible and appropriate, endeavour to provide portable shade structures for use by participants and advise spectators to bring their own
- Attempt to schedule activities predominantly outside of UV Alert times, especially the middle of the day (10am- 3pm) when UV levels are most intense.
- Ensure that event commentators educate participants in each event about the increased dangers of exposure to ultra violet radiation whilst surfing.
- The times when sun protection is required (as determined by the SunSmart UV Alert) are displayed for participants and spectators e.g. via a SunSmart UV Alert sign.
- Insure key event official’s act as role models and display sun protective behavior to event participants.
- Encourage participants to wear broad brimmed hats and sunglasses whilst engaging in “on-beach” activities.
- Rotate where possible event staff official duties to minimise their exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation.
- Provide training and education to officials/event staff/participants about sun protection at the beach.

This sun protective policy will be reviewed annually to ensure the document remains current and practical to the club’s needs.