

National Sea Rescue Institute of South Africa “NPC”

Registration No 1967/013618/08

“The Institute”

Events Policy

Approved: 2015

Reviewed: July 2018



EVENTS POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to regulate the use of NSRI Volunteers and Resources at Events.

Rescue stations are frequently requested to standby at events or by members of the public to participate on boat rides. This occurs on Sea Rescue sanctioned events, as well as ad hoc events that come up from time to time. This policy intends to clarify the official stance to such functions taking into account all the realities that have to be contended with.

POSSIBLE EVENTS / FUNCTIONS

The NSRI is frequently requested to provide operational rescue vessel cover and standby at events examples of which include;

- Sports Events (TABA Boat Race)
- Community Events (Anything that Floats)
- Government Events (Disaster Management/SASAR Exercises)
- Film Shoots
- Local water sport club days
- Scouting, Cadets & similar youth organisations

Personnel and resources deployed to these events may benefit the organization by;

- Providing media and marketing exposure.
- Providing donations
- Providing experiential learning opportunities for coxswains and crew
- Providing opportunity for operational management development
- Providing for relationship building between organizations and individuals

OFFICIAL STANCE

Station Commanders have the ultimate responsibility to decide whether or not the station participates in public events. This policy however provides some guidelines as to the questions to be asked before participating in such an event or when giving permission.

CONSIDERATIONS: RISK, LIABILITY & INSURANCE

Location: Depending on the station location – certain launches are more difficult and risky than others. For example - a surf launch out to sea (open water), vs a harbour or river (sheltered water). Consider the consequences of this on untrained event participants in the event of something adverse happening.

Distance offshore or from base: Consider the risk & consequence of a rescue operation that begins while participating in an event, or in the event of stumbling upon a body out at sea. Learning to ask and being prepared for “What if” is necessary.

Relationships with external organisations: Once it is public knowledge that an event has been provided for one organisation (after a newspaper article, etc.) – it often happens that other organisations request to do the same thing in the weeks after. It then becomes difficult to say “no” to a certain organisation after this has been done for others – hurting relationships and harming potential donor relations.

CONCLUSION

Donors give us support to conduct our function of saving lives on SA Waters, not necessarily to host or supervise events. It is also important to leave time for training of the rescue crew. Social events place time demands on the rescue crew & there are only so many weekends in a year – and if crew only go to social events and get no training – this is contrary to good practise.

In the same token – the public who donate do have an expectation that NSRI should be participating and “giving back” to supporters and donors. It is impossible to make a blanket ruling preventing all boat trips. Exercise judgement and balance in your decisions.

Please see the rates sheet for the use of NSRI Crew / Vessels and Equipment for the latest pricing.

The official NSRI letter to persons requesting NSRI presence at events is below:



PO Box 154 Green Point, 8051, South Africa
1 Glengariff Road, Three Anchor Bay, Cape Town, 8005
33° 54' 32" S 18° 23' 53" E
Tel: +27 21 434 4011 | Fax: +27 21 434 1661
E-mail: info@searescue.org.za | Website: www.searescue.org.za
The charity that saves lives on South African waters

To whom it may concern

July 2018

Re: NSRI presence at events

NSRI is run by over 1 000 volunteers around the coastline and on inland waters. Our primary goal is saving lives. Our assets and expenses are covered by sponsorship and donations. From time to time we are asked to be present at events on the water. Please understand a few things in this regard:

- We have time and budget constraints for anything outside of search and rescue missions.
- Our volunteers are permitted by their employers to leave their work for rescue missions but need to take leave for any PR events.
- Our donors fund fuel for training and rescues, fuel costs for PR events must be paid for by the event organizers, additional donations over and above the fuel costs are most appreciated.

- We are a rescue service not a towing service, and we may not be contracted as “the official event safety boat”.
- If we are able to attend your event we will gladly patrol in the area but should we be called to a rescue operation we may need to leave immediately, for this reason you will need a dedicated event safety boat.
- We strongly recommend that you discourage all participants from indulging in alcohol prior to or during the event.
- We also strongly recommend that you insist on all competitors wearing lifejackets or personal floating devices while on the water.
- All licensing/registration/permissions for the event is for the organizers to arrange, not NSRI.
- We request that you provide us with a copy of your “safety plan” for the event.
- We request a copy of your approved ‘Event Application’ from either the Municipality or Province.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cleve Robertson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'R'.

Cleve Robertson

CEO

2018