

Port Macquarie Junior Activities Committee

2021-22 Board Use and Hire Policy

General Background

The club has approximately 40 boards of various standards available in both foam and fibreglass.

We have 10 'top-shelf' Krakka competition boards which are for those who will attend State and Country carnivals, and are dedicated to their training. These will be hired out to families who clearly are committed to training and competing.

Other boards are still a high quality, and appropriate for new members learning new skills, or for members who do not plan on undertaking regular training. Users of these boards are encouraged to handle them as if they are their own.

This includes care in carrying the board, washing the board with freshwater after use, and reporting any damage to Matt Maloney, the Gear Steward. Reporting damage is appreciated and encouraged, so please do it.

At carnivals, there will normally be a stock of club boards available, but please never assume anything. Check before travelling anywhere that the board trailer has a stock of boards for your age group. If not, you may need to arrange it yourself.

As well, our club boards may not be of the quality of some of the other competitors from bigger clubs. Please remember, we endeavour to make boards available to ALL club members wanting to compete, and this is something we can be proud of.

Options for your family

1. Purchase of own Board

As interest in training and competing grows, we recommend you consider purchasing your own board.

The advantages are;

- a. being able to choose your own custom-made board to your exact specifications, and design;
- b. not ever being disappointed in accessing club boards, or being disappointed with the quality of a hire board;
- c. it can potentially be cost effective if you look after your board and on-sell when moving up weight categories.

PLEASE NOTE: Boards are rated by volume (small, medium, large) so speak to the manufacturer as to the correct volume for your Nippers weight. You will also need to get your new board scrutineered prior to using in a Championship event. The manufacturer often has this done prior to purchase, but check.

Please also be aware there is currently a long wait for some board brands, so either get in early, or be prepared to wait.

2. Board Hire

Another option available is the Club's Board Hire program. This allows a club member to take personal responsibility for a board for a season, at a reduced upfront cost comparable to full purchase.

Contact the Gear Steward, Matt Maloney, on kathmatt1@bigpond.com as early as possible if you intend to hire a board this season.

There will be 2 board hire collection days at the beginning of the year.

1. Saturday 18th September 8.30am-10.30am, Flynn's Beach
2. Sunday 10th October 8.30am-10.30am, Flynn's Beach

Boards are to be returned on one of the final two Sunday Nipper mornings in March, between 8.30am-11-30am.

Hiring boards outside these times is by special appointment with the Gear Steward. Please be aware this is at his discretion, as he is kindly doing this in his own time.

Who can hire boards?

Board hire is available to those who meet the following criteria: -

1. You will train on the board, and compete in carnivals for the coming season;
2. You have signed board-use agreement for season 2021-22.

At the discretion of the Gear Steward and team (ie the Coach and Age Managers), boards are allocated considering: -

1. Age group,
2. Weight,
3. Demonstrated Effort,
4. Skills and Results.

If you are not happy with your allocated board then we recommend returning it and purchasing your own.

As we expect there may be interest in the new 'Kracka' boards for the 2022 season, these will be offered on a priority basis to the 24 competitors who attended the State Championships last year, and in descending age groups from U13, U12, to U11. Please contact kathmatt1@bigpond.com asap if you have interest in one of these new boards.

Board Hire Fees

\$50 + \$50 Deposit = all foam boards OR fibreglass boards over three years old

\$200 + \$100 Deposit = brand new fibreglass Club Boards (2021 season)

PLEASE NOTE: A deposit is to be paid for each board hired. This is refundable at the end of the season. We only refund for the board you hired. If you have swapped your board during the season and not informed us, then no deposit until all boards you were known to have are returned.

Step-by-Step Process of Board Hire

1. Read the Board hire agreement policy;
2. Email Gear Steward Matt Maloney on kathmatt1@bigpond.com to indicate interest in board hire;
3. If Gear Steward confirms board availability, attend the pick-up day arranged, be ready to complete Board agreement, and be ready to make payment. No agreement = No Board. No payment = No Board.

Conditions of Use

A club member will relinquish the rights to their allocated board (automatically lose their equipment allocation) if;

- a. the club member is noticeably absent from nipper days, carnivals and training sessions; or
- b. the club member wilfully contributes to the destruction of the equipment; or
- c. the Gear Steward considers there to be improper use of the loan board; or
- d. the club member rides the board kneeling or standing up. Boards are easily lost by these activities which is dangerous to others; or
- e. the club member does not adequately maintain the board, and repair as necessary;

All boards remain the property of Port Macquarie Surf Life Saving Club.

The board must be maintained in good condition. Maintaining a board in good condition requires: -

- a. All damaged boards to be immediately repaired to limit water absorption;
- b. Store the Board inside (out of the sun & weather) and use the padded protective cover for all fibreglass boards;
- c. Boards should not be left inside a car for long periods;
- d. Avoid strapping on top of each other;
- e. Do not overtighten board straps especially on foam boards;

If you are unable to wholeheartedly agree and abide with any of the PMQSLSC Board Hire/Loan Agreement terms, an alternate option is to purchase your own board.

Board Repair

Never use wax to cover a ding. Firstly, it does not work, and secondly makes repair difficult and therefore costly.

Ding tape is a temporary solution to be used (for example at a carnival).

Remove the tape immediately after the event and manage as below;

- a. Immediately flush dings with fresh water and allow to dry in the shade.
- b. Continued use of a board after being dinged increasingly traps salty water in both the air gaps between damaged foam balls and under the skin. Saltwater never fully dries as salts are hygroscopic & deliquescent. This considerably increases both the board weight and time taken to repair. You may be asked to replace a board if it is returned overweight.

In-house repair service

Email the Gear Steward on kathmatt1@bigpond.com for ding repair or maintenance: -

- a. This is an 'in-club' board repair service if the board has been treated well, with the only costs being replacement fins and/or handles (dependent on damage);
- b. If the ding is immediately washed and not used again, then the repair will be quick.

For higher quality fibreglass boards, this is more expensive and can take time. It is also unlikely that a temporary replacement board of similar quality will be available during the ding repair period.

Your Agreement

1. I will arrange repair and pay for any damage to the board as if I owned it. There is no "*free*" repair. Only PMQSLSC accredited board repair services are to be used. See *Board Repair* section above.
2. In the event I lose the loan board, or board cover, or the board is not able to be repaired back to competition standard, I am responsible for the full replacement cost irrespective of how the item is lost or damaged. Fibreglass Kracka boards, for example, start at \$900 for replacement costs.
3. Board hire includes a nominated deposit. I agree to cover additional costs in the case of item 2 above.
4. By completing the Board Hire Form, I fully agree to all terms within this Board Hire Policy.