

## Circular

<b>Title:</b>	Blue Cards – Changes to Requirements and New Procedure
<b>Document ID:</b>	111.08.20
<b>Division:</b>	Club Services
<b>Department:</b>	Membership Services
<b>Audience:</b>	All Clubs, All Branches, Regional Managers
<b>Summary:</b>	Information on changes to Blue Card System & Updated Procedure for Lodgement
<b>Date:</b>	07 August 2020

As of 31 August 2020, there will be several changes to the current Blue Card system. The following is a guide to the changes that may impact your club. This guide is applicable to all members.

For details on how to use the online portal, please refer to the SLSQ Procedure ADM006: Completing Blue Card Applications and Submission to Blue Card Services (attached).

**Forms :** Please be advised that the forms have been updated. The only change is the name of the authorised person. Please disregard all previous forms and use the current ones. We will accept old forms until the end of August 2020.

### [SLSQ Blue Card Forms - Current Version](#)

#### **1. NO CARD NO START LAWS**

##### **1.1 NEW APPLICATIONS**

- No Card, No Start means that paid workers must have a blue card (no longer a pending application) before they can work with children.
- This change should not affect the members of Surf Life Saving Queensland — our existing policy states that you have always required a blue card before commencing working or volunteering with children. Please refer to the [SLSQ Blue card screening policy](#).

##### **1.2 RENEWALS**

- If a member fails to make an application prior to the expiry of their clearance, they will be subject to the 'No Card, No Start' requirement and will not be able to continue volunteering until a new clearance has been issued.

##### **1.3 EXEMPTED PERSON – QLD TEACHERS AND POLICE OFFICERS**

- The 'No Card, No Start' requirement does not apply to registered teachers and police officers who volunteer at SLSQ on top of their professional duties. This is on the basis that they have already been subject to criminal history screening and ongoing monitoring by either the Queensland Police Service or the Queensland College of Teachers.

#### **2. APPLYING FOR A BLUE CARD – NEW PROCESS**

Please refer to the attached ADM006 - Completing Blue Card Applications and Submission to Blue Card Services. Clubs are asked to please use the forms on the SLSA App (link above)

#### **3. EXEMPTION CARDS FOR QUEENSLAND POLICE AND TEACHERS**

Exemption cards will now have an expiry date of three years. All existing positive exemption notice holders will be afforded a three-year grace period from commencement to make a working with children (exemption) application. A person that holds a positive exemption notice who does not apply within the grace period will have their notice automatically cancelled.

#### 4. CHANGES TO THE FREQUENCY TEST

A member may not need a blue card if the volunteering they are doing is not frequent.

If someone will be working or volunteering for less than 7 days per year, they will not require a blue card. All prior frequency tests have been abolished.

For this test, a 'day' includes a full day or part of a day (e.g. 2 hours of work on 1 day is considered to be a day). A 'calendar year' covers the period from 1 January to 31 December.

Members will not be able to rely on the frequency test if they are either:

- [a restricted person](#)
- a business operator.

#### 5. RENEWING EXPIRING CARDS

As long as a member submits their renewal application **before the current card expires**, they can continue to volunteer—even if the new blue card hasn't been issued by the time the previous one expires.

If they don't apply to renew the blue card by the time it expires, they will be subject to the No Card, No Start law and cannot work.

#### 6. CHANGES TO DISQUALIFYING AND SERIOUS OFFENCES

Several offences have now been added to the list of '[disqualifying](#)' and '[serious](#)' offences that would potentially prevent someone from obtaining a blue card.

For current card holders:

A person who currently holds a blue card and has been previously convicted of a crime that is now considered a serious offence or disqualifying offence will be reassessed but still able to carry out child-related work during this period.

#### 7. CHANGES TO EXEMPTIONS

Currently there are some exemptions that allow certain people to work or volunteer with children without a blue card in specific circumstances.

For example, if the person:

- is a volunteer parent, in certain circumstances; or
- is a volunteer under the age of 18; or
- does not meet the minimum frequency for regulated employment.

Under the changes, these people are no longer exempt from holding a blue card **if they fall under the following categories**:

- I. negative notice holders (someone who has had a blue card declined)
- II. persons with a suspended working with children authority;
- III. a **disqualified** person; and
- IV. a person charged with a disqualifying offence.

You are a disqualified person if you are:

- convicted of a [disqualifying offence](#)
- a reportable offender under the [Child Protection \(Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order\) Act 2004](#)
- the subject of an offender prohibition order under the [Child Protection \(Offender Prohibition Order\) Act 2008](#)
- prohibited by a court from applying for or holding a blue card

OR

- the subject of a sexual offender order under the [Dangerous Prisoners \(Sexual Offenders\) Act 2003](#).

**This may result in some parents and other volunteers now being ineligible to continue volunteering.  
Please refer to the [SLSQ Blue Card Policy MS06](#)**