

# Memorandum



<b>To:</b>	Club Presidents, Club Directors of Surf Sports
<b>From:</b>	Rob Pidgeon – Sport Manager
<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday 12 February 2019
<b>Pages:</b>	2
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>20-29 Age Group “B-Division” at 2019 State Open Championships</b>

In an exciting innovation members will have seen the introduction of a “B-Division” in the Open Championships, eligible to members aged 20-29 years old, in both male and female categories.

Given the extensive promotion and word of mouth in the surf sports community, the purpose of this memo is to provide further clarification to members on this participation division. SLSNSW intends to review this after 2019 and seek to improve/enhance/refine in 2020 and beyond and will be open to feedback.

## **Background:**

In August 2018, the Branch Directors of Surf Sports met and agreed to support the inclusion of another tier of competition for members at the 2019 State Open Championships who are in the Open category by age and for many reasons may not be competitive in this division, yet still wish to participate in surf sports. In our sport there is traditionally a drop off for 20-29 year olds and to retain skills, experience and members in this critical age group within our surf clubs and help bridge the gap to masters it was determined that an age range would classify the category.

## **What’s with the “B-Grade” name?**

Noting the decline in participation for this age group, SLSNSW wanted to create a ‘participation grade’ for the 20-29 year old competitors who would not want to enter in the traditional Open Championships, but feel they would like to give competing and getting involved a go in 2019 and beyond. The naming is simply to differentiate between the open ages categories, and will be looked at as part of the post event review.

## **Who Should Enter?**

The intent of this age group is to provide a participation division for eligible Open age competitors who may not normally enter the State Open Championships. It is important that Clubs and their coaches think carefully about who they enter in this division. We want to celebrate new or returning participation, if you currently compete already or have had good results at State Open Championships in the previous season or two, you would be better placed in the Open events as per usual.

## **Why are there only limited events?**

SLSNSW sees great potential in this division, however like all trials we needed a starting place. To enable efficient timetabling not all events have been included in this division. Please note competitors entered into B-Division events (Surf Race, Board Race, Beach Flags and Beach Sprint) may NOT enter any other Open **individual** events.

However B-Division competitions can and are encouraged to form up in Open Team events (e.g. Beach relay, Taplin, Board Rescue etc). This was seen as a way to enhance the team environment and support small clubs.

**Now that I'm entered in the B-Division, I also want to give another event a go?**

We've had feedback that some competitors would like additional events added to the B-Division list (e.g. Iron, 2km beach run, ski). As mentioned we'd like to review the numbers and impact after 2019 on such things as the timetable as well as the impact on the Open age group itself.

**Fine Print:**

*Criteria:*

- Competitors must be a minimum of 20 years old and a maximum of 29 years old as at 30 September 2018 and met all award, patrol and proficiency requirements.
- Clubs to enter via Carnival Manager at the same entry fees.

*Championship points:*

- As this is a trial, medals will be awarded, however no championship points for the individual events will contribute to the Overall Club Point Score
- Points and medals for team events as per usual.

*Timetable:*

- As per timetable online, conducted with like events.

-Ends-