

Memorandum



To:	Country Club IRB and RWC operators
From:	Phil Ayres Chief Operating Officer
Date:	21 November 2019
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Subject:	Powercraft/Water Safety at 2020 Envirobank NSW Country Championships

As part of our continuous improvement processes, SLSNSW convened a review of our safety management approach at our various Championships, with a particular emphasis on water safety arrangements. Some of these changes will not necessarily be visible but are related to the training and protocols of our event Emergency Management Co-ordinators, others will be more visible on the beach.

For the 2020 Envirobank NSW Country Championships we will be implementing a trial of a different approach to both the on-water role and functioning of the water safety personnel and assets, as well as how we appoint/allocate people to various roles (eg RWC drivers, IRB crews etc). Please be aware this trial is only related to water safety aspects of the carnival, all officiating and duty boat roles & functions will remain unchanged.

A Different Approach to On-Water Roles

As part of this trial we will be looking at a different allocation of assets and people to each of the water areas to improve and streamline operations.

In a trial we will be allocating the following resources to each area:

- 1 x RWC – primarily focused on the break zone from inside the course
- 2 x IRBs – primarily focused on water safety (one monitoring the race to the “cans” and one to monitor the race back from the “cans” from the course perimeter.
- 4 x swimmers (2 to follow the group out through the break and 2 to collect the group on the way in at the break)
- 1 x Water Safety supervisor. This role will have a dedicated responsibility to work with the on-water team to direct and monitor their movement and response for each race within each arena. This will involve a ‘coaching’ capacity to assist both the water safety & powercraft operators in each area.

The ALBERT group have been tasked to coordinate water safety at the Championships and assist the team on the day. Some members would be aware of the ALBERT team, originally a group of members of the FNC branch with an interest in advanced IRB skills and training, and which now includes members from across the state. The group has conducted many very popular advanced powercraft training courses in other branches. The group has also been involved in providing water safety at SLS events such as the Coolangatta Gold.

Powercraft Personnel

To make this new on-water approach work we are looking to source operators in two ways:

1. We are calling for expressions of interest from RWC and IRB drivers and crew to join the water safety team for the Championships. (Please note this will be over and above the club allocations)
2. An allocation from clubs based on entry numbers will still be required however it will be reduced from previous years.

Interested in being part of the Water Safety powercraft team?

This is a great opportunity for country-based powercraft operators to undertake additional training and skill development in both IRBs and RWCs, especially in the area of water safety at carnivals.

Members can apply to be part of the team and attend one of the pre-championship training days OR if you cannot attend the training, you can still be part of the team and undertake the training on-the-job during the Championships.

There are three opportunities to undertake training associated with carnivals and will provide a practical learning opportunity.

- 30 November and 1st December – Cudgen Headland SLSC - Syllabus Development & Branch Carnival trials 2 arenas
- 15 December – Cudgen Headland & Branch Teams Carnivals 3 arenas
- 18 & 19 January – Cudgen Headland for training for water safety team, and emergency team, and Salt SLSC for large surf training.

To nominate for the ALBERT water safety team at Country Championships please click on this link to register <https://form.jotform.co/93228702834863> This includes both RWC and IRB drivers/crew. At this link you will be asked if you are also intending to attend the Training program. We would ask that you respond by 15 December 2019 to be part of the Championships team or prior to 30 Nov/1 December if you wish to attend the training weekend.

Can I still fulfil my club allocation if I don't attend?

Yes - members may simply choose to assist their club with fulfilling one or more of their allocated roster positions. Please liaise with your club about these, clubs have been advised of the number of shifts they are asked to undertake. We hope that by increasing the numbers of operators in the core team, the required allocation from clubs will be further reduced.

In summary, we believe that it is essential we continue to review and improve our approaches to lifesaving and the way we manage and implement water safety at our events. We are trialling this new approach to assess its success in providing more efficient use of volunteer resources while ensuring the highest levels of competitor safety possible.

Please feel free to contact me directly should you have any questions regarding water safety provisions for the 2020 NSW Country Championships.