

Memorandum

To: Branch Presidents, Club Presidents, Secretaries, Directors of Surf Sports and Members
From: Don van Keimpema – SLSNSW Director, Chair of Sport
Date: 3rd November, 2020
Pages: 2
Subject: 2021 NSW Surf Life Saving Championships Update

Surf Life Saving NSW would like to provide an update on the planning process we are currently working on to deliver a State Championships event this season.

We are incredibly committed and are working very hard to deliver a State Championship event this season! We have been working very closely with the NSW Office Of Sport and NSW Health to understand what can be achieved with the fluidity of restrictions and the State Government’s appetite for risk under the banner of Community Sport.

It is our intent to model a Championship event that will be viable to as many members as we are able to include. Due to restrictions and government’s strong stance around mixing, there are a number of elements that will see the delivery of this year’s event look very different. Some of the considerations currently on the table are;

- Possible change or removal of event categories, such as age groups and events;
- Multiple beach locations for age or event groups (*as many as 4 venues are all in consideration*);
- Qualification in some or all categories. Qualification for Age Championship is highly likely (*selection would then be determined by branches*);
- Reduced carnival program;
- Block racing for events and removal of Sunday finals racing;
- The possibility of mid week programming;
- Reduction of spectators down to one per competitor for age and youth, and potentially no spectators for Masters and/or Opens;
- Ability to enter one age group only with no competitor permitted to compete up an age for teams (*this is due to the strict concern around event area mixing*).

In order to provide some indicative dates for the Championships, we have endeavoured to provide a range of dates that we are currently working towards;

Age Championships	-	Friday 26 th – Monday 1st March
Open Championships	-	Friday 5 th – Monday 8 th March
Lifesaving and Masters	-	Thursday 11 th – Sunday 14 th March
Masters Surf Boats	-	Thursday 18 th March
Surf Boat Championships	-	Friday 19 th – Sunday 21 st March

Please note, some age groups or event categories may compete on a Friday and Saturday OR Sunday and Monday. The above dates are to be used as a guideline only and are subject to change.

Ultimately, NSW Health will determine where our event numbers need to be capped and how many location's we will need to safely host these Championships.

SLSNSW commenced monthly meetings with Branch Directors of Surf Sports back in May this year to ensure that the branches have been kept informed of all things Sport as we have navigated and continue to navigate the challenge to run safe sport this season. We have encouraged branches to innovate and modify the season calendar to create modified carnival and racing formats where possible.

There is a new Public Health Order due on 24th December which we will be watching with great interest. In the meantime, please subscribe to Surf Sports Weekly and Clubmail and monitor for Sport updates.

We thank you for your patience and also thank you in advance for your support as we do all we can to deliver surf sport to as many of our members as we safely can. It has been a challenging year and the health and safety of our members will always be at the forefront of all decisions.

Kind regards,

Don van Keimpema
Director – Chair of Surf Sports