

Circular 3671

Released April 2021



2021 NSW Sharkskin IRB Premiership Rounds & IRB Championship

Note: Due to the ever changing Health regulations, all information contained in this Circular is subject to change.

Attention: Club Presidents, Club Secretaries, Club Competition Officers, Team Managers, Coaches, Competitors, Branch Directors of Surf Sports, Branch Presidents and Branch CEO/Secretaries.

Actioned by: Persons responsible for club entries.

Date: 20 April 2021

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Summary	This circular provides information for clubs regarding the 2021 Sharkskin SLSNSW IRB Premiership Rounds and 2021 SLSNSW IRB Championship.
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Complete the Team Managers Contact Form by 2 May 2021 to receive important information. <input type="checkbox"/> Complete and submit event competitor entries via Sports Events Management System incl by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round 1 - Terrigal: Sunday 2 May 2021, 11pm • Round 2 - Cape Hawke: Sunday 23 May 2021, 11pm • Round 3 - Warilla Barrack Point: Sunday 6 June 2021, 11pm • Round 4 - Ocean Beach: Sunday 20 June 2021, 11pm • State Championship - South West Rocks: Sunday 4 July 2021, 11pm <input type="checkbox"/> Complete the SR Numbers Form by Sunday 2 May 2021 <input type="checkbox"/> Submit copies of training logs or coach declaration for each competitor to surfsports@surflifesaving.com.au. For more details see Section Training Logs <input type="checkbox"/> Select your Club's Time Preference for Scrutineering Session for IRB Round 1 and State Championships by close of Entries for Round 1. For more details see Scrutineering

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1. IRB Entries, Closing Dates and Time

Round 1 will be closing approx. 2 weeks prior to competition to allow time to lock in and plan for scrutineering requirements. Subsequent rounds and State will close approx. 1 week prior. See the table below for further details.

EVENT	VENUE	EVENT DATES	ENTRIES CLOSE
Round 1	Terrigal SLSC	15 – 16 May 2021	Sunday 2 May, 11pm
Round 2	Cape Hawke SLSC	29 – 30 May 2021	Sunday 23 May, 11pm
Round 3	Warilla Barrack Point SLSC	12 – 13 June 2021	Sunday 6 June, 11pm
Round 4	Ocean Beach SLSC	26 – 27 June 2021	Sunday 20 June, 11pm
State IRB Championships	South West Rocks SLSC	10 – 11 July 2021	Sunday 4 July, 11pm

Please note there are strictly no late entries. This is to ensure that competition draws can be completed and circulated in advance. Thank you for your assistance with this.

More information on the Entry Process can be found in Section [Entry Process](#)

If you have questions relating to the submission of your entry, please contact Surf Sports team on 9471 8000 or surfsports@surflifesaving.au

2. COVID 19

2.1. COVID Safety

A number of precautions will be put in place to create a COVID Safe environment. SLSNSW will have a COVID-19 Safety Plan for this event and will run this event in accordance with NSW government guidelines. More details to follow.

2.2. Responsibilities

All event attendees will be required to:

- Fill out a COVID Safe check in and supply contact details to SLSNSW as requested
- Comply with the health directions of government and public health authorities as issued at the time
- Understand and act in accordance with COVID safety directions from SLSNSW and amendments as necessary
- Comply with any testing and precautionary measures implemented by SLSNSW
- Act with honesty and integrity regarding the state of their personal health and any potential symptoms; and
- Monitor their health and take a cautious approach to self-isolation and reporting of potential symptoms.

NON-COMPLIANCE BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE PREMIERSHIP AND CHAMPIONSHIP WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. OFFENDERS RISK DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST THEMSELVES AND THEIR CLUBS.

2.3. Team COVID Marshalls

Each Club is required to nominate a Team COVID Marshall for each round or Championship. On behalf of the Club Team, the Team COVID Marshall is responsible for the following at a SLSNSW event:

- Always wear a fluorescent COVID Marshall vest for the duration of your COVID Marshall appointment
- Inform your team of the COVID requirements in place for the State Championship Events
- Educate and remind your team of social distancing and hygiene regulations in place for the Event.
- The Club tent is one of the key risk areas identified by SLSNSW in relation to social distancing. The COVID Marshall is responsible for reducing this risk under Club tents during the Championships by reminding members to remain 1.5m apart and demonstrating good person hygiene.
- Act as the COVID contact point for your team during the Event; and
- Report any breaches or non-compliance to the Safety & Emergency Manager or SLSNSW Biosecurity Safety Coordinator.

2.4. Disclaimer

By attending the 2021 NSW Sharkskin IRB Premierships and Championship, you covenant and warrant that in SLSNSW inviting you to attend the event you:

- Acknowledge and will comply with the NSW Government Health Directives regarding hygiene and physical distancing requirements required of you to assist in the delivery of a COVID safe event.
- Acknowledge that you attend the event at your own risk.
- Release and indemnify SLSNSW from any claim you or any third party has or may have had related to the event or your attendance at the event

3. Changes to IRB Competition Rules

SLSA has reviewed and simplified its IRB Competition Rules with the view to achieving more objective outcomes through the elimination or clarification of contentious and/or subjective rules but without adversely affecting the safe conduct of competition.

For summary of changes, please see [SLSA Bulletin 02/20-21 Surf Sports Manual 36th Edition - Changes to IRB Competition Rules](#)

4. Communication

4.1. Team Managers and Officials Briefing – Compulsory

This briefing will be held on Friday from 17:00 – 18:00 in the host surf club and will cover:

- Event rules
- Programme
- Revised Rules of Competition
- Q & A

Further details on the exact location of the briefing will be confirmed in the final event information.

4.2. Memos and Circulars

Memos and documentation will be available through Surf Sports Weekly, on the [2021 NSW Sharkskin IRB Season Webpage here](#)

Final event information will be released along with the first round draws at least 2 days prior to competition with updates, as necessary.

In addition to usual memos and circulars, extra documentation may be released in accordance with any COVID-19 updates.

4.3. TeamApp

Closer to and during the competitions, Team App will also be utilized to deliver important information and updates, including timetable changes to Team Managers, Competitors and Officials.

It is highly recommended that everyone planning to attend any IRB event download TeamApp when entries are submitted. If you cannot download the App onto a phone or tablet, you may also access TeamApp in a web browser on any computer.

To register for these event updates please follow the below instructions:

1. Download the “TeamApp” application from the App Store or Google Play
2. Log in / Sign up to receive live event notifications.
3. Once logged in search “**2021 Sharkskin IRB Competition**”
4. Click the “Become a member of this TeamApp” icon at the top of the screen then select the “Competitors” group. There will also be an “Officials” group and a closed “Team Managers” group.

By joining the event and turning on your mobile app notifications, you will receive notifications and email updates as they are posted, ensuring you never miss any important information.

5. Official Quota

To support the on-going delivery and development of IRB competition, a quota will be implemented in 2021 based on a Clubs individual entries per Round/Championship to grow the number of IRB technical officials.

Clubs without sufficient currently accredited officials are advised that members should be encouraged to complete the online Technical Officials course. The face-to-face assessments will be run during the Premiership.

Members who have completed the online course will count towards the quota for the Premiership, however, must be accredited to count for the State IRB Championships.

Competitors Entered	Minimum Officials Required
0 to 4	—
5 to 11	1 Official
12 to 19	2 Officials
20+	3 Officials

Officials must be currently accredited and a current financial member of the SLSC that you are officiating for during the 2020/2021 season.

For information on officiating or to submit your nomination, please see the officials tab of the [IRB Season Webpage](#)

6. Event List

The following events will be conducted at each round of the Premiership:

DIVISION	RESCUE TUBE	MASS RESCUE	TEAMS	RESCUE	RELAY*
Open Male	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Open Female	✓	✓	✓	✓	
U23 Mixed	✓	✓	✓	✓	
35+ Mixed	✓	✓	✓	✓	
45+ Mixed	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Rookie		✓		✓	
Open					✓

Note: Relay does not contribute to Overall Club Premiership Point score. Relay may only be run if time/conditions permit.

The following events will be conducted at the State IRB Championships:

DIVISION	RESCUE TUBE	MASS RESCUE	TEAMS	RESCUE	RELAY*
Open Female	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Open Male	✓	✓	✓	✓	
U23 Mixed	✓	✓	✓	✓	
35+ Mixed	✓	✓	✓	✓	
45+ Mixed	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Rookie		✓		✓	
Open					✓

Note: Unlike the Premiership, the Relay contributes to Overall State IRB Championship Point score. Relay may only be run if time / conditions permit.

7. Entry Conditions

7.1. Proficiency and Patrol Hours

Team Managers are responsible to ensure that competitors comply with the pre-requisites and entry requirements at the completion of close of entries. The club will be notified of any non-compliant competitors and those competitors may be excluded from the event. To avoid any issues, Team Managers or the person completing the entries must check each competitors Bronze proficiency, IRB Driver or Crew proficiencies and patrol hours prior to the close of entries. Handlers must also be entered in SEMs.

7.2. Quick Reference for Determining Minimum Age:

Refer to the SSM for the full descriptions, provided here as a quick reference only.

POSITION:	SSM:	DESCRIPTION:
Driver	3.3.2.4, a, (i)	Be minimum age of 17 years of age as at the date of competition (each round/State)
Crewperson	3.3.2.4, b, (i)	Be minimum age of 16 years of age as at the date of competition (each round/State)
Patient	3.3.2.4, c, (i)	Be a minimum age of 15 years of age before October 01 in the (20/21) season. (30/09/20)
Handler	3.3.2.4, d, (i)	Be a minimum age of 15 years of age before October 01 in the (20/21) season (30/09/20)

7.3. Quick Reference for Determining Age Groups:

DIVISION	SSM:	DESCRIPTION:
All	2.3.2	For the purpose of determining an age group, all competitors must have a common birth date calculated as at midnight on 30th September each year, i.e. age at midnight on 30th September determines the competitor's age category (for individual events) in that competition season. (i.e. 20/21Season)
U23	2.3.10	Members shall be eligible to contest the U23 division after attaining the minimum ages - refer to 3.3.2.4. Members shall be no older than 22 years of age as at the 30 th September 2020.
35+	2.3.14	(d) In Masters Team events, Masters may compete in the Open/Senior age group plus only one Masters Team age category in each event discipline conducted at a competition. (e) Masters Teams are permitted to compete only in their own Masters Team/crew age category in which their team/crew qualify by way of ages unless there are insufficient starters. In such cases the team may compete in the next youngest Masters Team age category.
45+	2.3.14	(f) (i) Two Person Events: The team age is determined by the age of the younger competitor (vi) IRB Events: 35 years plus. Refer also to Section 3.
Note	N/A	<i>An example of (d) is a member must choose to compete in the 35+ Tube or 45+ Tube but cannot compete in both. However, a member may compete in the 35+ Tube and the 45+ Rescue as an example as they are different disciplines.</i>

8. Entry Limitations

IRB competition may be conducted in different categories of age, grade, and gender. Competitors are permitted to compete in multiple events in line with the rules stated in the Surf Sports Manual.

A driver and/or crew may compete in a particular event once e.g. a driver cannot compete in an event in one team as a driver and compete again in the same event as a driver or crewperson in a separate team. If eligible to compete in multiple grades or age categories, drivers and crewpersons may do so, but may only compete in a particular event once e.g. open male rescue is a different event to the under 23 male rescue. IRB patients are to be considered as gender neutral with respect to their participation in male and female IRB events. Patients may compete in any grade, age or gender category events but may only compete in a particular event once.

8.1. Competitor Audits

All competitors will be audited after the close of entries to the Premiership Round and the State IRB Championships to ensure the compliance with relevant rules set out in the Surf Sports Manual (SSM) and SLSA Policies (see appendix for a list of the most relevant).

Team Managers shall refer specifically to the following sections of the SSM:

- 3.3.2.4 Competitor Pre-Requisites (a-e)
- 3.3.2.5 Entry Limitations (a-g)

All entrants must meet SLSNSW award and proficiency requirements as detailed in the [SLSA Circular: 01/20-21 Skills Maintenance \(Proficiency Check\) Requirements for 2020/21 Season](#). **It is a Clubs responsibility to check and ensure that all members comply.**

8.2. Rookie Division (*Formally known as the Novice division*)

Please note: Rookie division is condition dependent.

- The Rookie Division events are restricted to entry by IRB Drivers in their first 2 seasons of IRB competition.
- Rookie IRB Drivers are encouraged to utilise an experienced crewperson; however a Rookie crewperson is also permissible.
- Rookie events will not contribute to the overall point score at any round/event.
- If you compete in Rookie Division as a Driver you cannot compete in any other category/events (as a Driver)
- If you compete in the Rookie Division as a Crewperson or Patient you can compete in any other division in the same events as long as it complies with 3.3.2.5 Entry Limitations (a-g).

8.3. Composite Teams:

Composite teams may be considered upon request. Requests must be received prior to entry close for Round 1 and must remain consistent across all rounds. Please note, due to the impact of COVID-19 composite teams will only be considered if all team members are from the same branch.

Composite team If you would like to apply for a composite team, please fill out the online [JotForm available here](#)

9. Entry Process:

9.1. Sport Event Management System

Club entries to the 2021 Sharkskin IRB Premiership Rounds and Championship must be submitted using the Sport Event Management System (SEMS)

Please view the [SEMS Club Entry Guide for 2021 Sharkskin NSW IRB Season](#)

To be assigned SEMS functions the user must have an active Members Area log in account. If you have already been assigned access, please login to SEMS using your Members Area login details.

If you do not have access to SEMS, kindly complete a [SLSA Form49](#) requesting SEMS access and return completed form by logging a support ticket at <https://help.sls.com.au>, Fax or Post as per details at the top of the form.

Entries may be altered by clubs at any time up to the closing date of each round listed in this Circular.

For assistance with SEMS, please contact sems@slsa.asn.au

9.2. Team Names

Clubs that have more than one team in any event should **give each team a name** rather than a letter or number **for the duration of the Premiership**. Team names must be alpha characters only **and must not** contain numbers or non-alphanumeric characters such as exclamation marks or commas. This affects the reports generated impacts on the calculation of the point score. SLSNSW reserves the right to reject team names deemed offensive.

If a team composition is changed from round to round, it is asked that clubs use the same team names as the previous round. If a new team is created and that team would like to accumulate points from a previously named team, a new team name must be created and entered.

10. Finance:

10.1. Competitor Entry Fee

The cost of entry per competitor is \$39.85 (incl. GST) for each of the Premiership Rounds and State IRB Championships. Members who are entered as handlers only are not required to pay an entry fee.

LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR TEAMS AFTER THE CLOSING DATES OUTLINED IN THE ENTRY CIRCULAR DUE TO THE IMPACT ON PLANNING REQUIRED TO CREATE A COVID SAFE EVENT.

Some flexibility will be possible for clubs experiencing technical difficulties provided SLSNSW Surf Sports Team is notified PRIOR to entries closing.

The only entries accepted after the closing date will be for athletes replacing other athletes that have already been entered at that round.

Entry fees are **not** refundable if members withdraw or do not take part in these events.

Please see [Refund Policy](#) of this document for more details regarding refunds in the event of cancellation/suspension or change of contingency location.

10.2. Additional entries

Additional entries will incur a fee of \$20.57 per competitor. Entry fees are **not** refundable if members do not take part in these events.

10.3. Invoicing

SLSNSW will forward an invoice to each club after the close of entries. Clubs will be able to view a summary of the fees that are due within SEMS. Please do not pay until the invoice is received.

10.4. Team Substitutions/Changes

The replacement of a team member who is already entered into the competition is provided for under the General Competitive Conditions in the current edition of the Surf Sports Manual. The process for notification of any team member replacement will be clarified in the Entry Circular.

11. Event Cancellation/Suspension:

11.1. Background

SLSNSW always strives to deliver the best competition experiences for our membership. Due to the COVID environment some changes may be necessary and as always, safety will remain the first priority.

As social distancing restrictions ease, we will endeavour to run appropriate events within the scope of the government regulations and the welfare of our members. These government regulations are subject to change in relation to the spread of COVID-19 and therefore our events will be subject to change also, to stay compliant and keep our events as safe as possible.

As has always been the case, weather, surf, or other weather conditions may also present safety concerns resulting in postponement or cancellation of events.

11.2. Go / No Go Dates

In order to reduce the impact of cancellations, a "Go" or "No Go" cancellation process will be in place. Approximately 72 hours and 24 hours prior to the commencement of the event, a review of conditions will be made by the Organising Committee and a decision will be subsequently communicated to Clubs and Teams.

These decisions will be made with the best judgement based on the information available at the time. This may include, but will not be limited to:

- Bureau of Meteorology weather forecasts and warnings
- Current NSW State Government restrictions
- Advice from medical or safety personnel

The intent is to provide fair and timely communications to avoid undue costs/impact to members travelling to an event where it is subsequently cancelled **before** the scheduled competition start time. It is noted that some members will not be able to access refunds for accommodation and although beyond the control of SLSNSW this new process aims to provide members with enough time to make alternative arrangements.

This builds on the standard risk assessment process in place and given that conditions change, there is still the possibility of cancellation or suspension of competition even after "Go" decision. The difference is the earlier notification where possible.

Go Decision

This refers to the event going ahead as per plan and/or with amendments to the procedure in place. A Go Decision is determined by the organisers being confident as at the specified Go / No Go date & time, that the event is able to start safely with a likeliness of completion within the scheduled timeframe.

Amendments may include, but are not limited to:

- Further restriction of attendees e.g. no spectators
- Change to schedule of events, including cancellation of some events.

No Go Decision

This refers to the event not going ahead as per plan. A No Go Decision is determined by the organisers* having a low confidence in the event starting and/or reduced likeness of completion within the scheduled timeframe, due to COVID-19 risk OR weather, surf, and other environmental conditions.

This does not preclude SLSNSW from making a decision that is in the best interest of the event and the safety of event attendees.

11.3. Refund Policy

- No refunds for competition withdrawals or did not compete.
- No refunds in the event a **Go Decision** is made and subsequently competition is suspended or postponed.
- If a **No Go Decision** is made
 - Premiership Rounds
 - Entry fees in that specific Round will be carried over to the Back Up Round only (if available).
 - If a backup round is unavailable, 75% of the fees of the affected round(s) will be credited to the Club (invoice will be reversed and fees paid will be credited). 25% will be retained for administration costs.
 - State Championships
 - 75% of the fees of the affected round(s) will be credited to the Club (invoice will be reversed and fees paid will be credited). 25% will be retained for administration costs.

Disclaimer:

This policy is intended as a guideline for competitors, officials and spectators when making their accommodation and travel plans and/or taking time off work. It is the responsibility of competitors, officials, and spectators to investigate their own personal situation and potential financial consequences and make their own decisions as to whether they wish to attend the Championships.

12. Point Scores:

12.1. Premiership Point Score

Points will be awarded from 1st to 8th in each event point score:

(1st = 10 points | 2nd = 8 points | 3rd = 6 points | 4th = 5 points | 5th = 4 points | 6th = 3 points | 7th = 2 points and 8th = 1 point).

The top placed crew from each club in the final will only receive points towards the overall point score. i.e. If Forster A finish 1st, Forster B finish 2nd and Windang A finish 3rd, only Forster A will receive points towards the overall point score, Forster B will not and Windang will get points for 3rd. The next highest placed club will be awarded the points for the consecutive places.

If a team is disqualified or fails to finish an event, then that team fails to gain points for the event and club point score. Where a dead heat (as defined in Section 2 of the [Surf Sports] Manual) occurs in the final of an event the teams will share the placing points. The club of the next teams to finish will receive the relative placing points based on the number of teams finishing ahead of them. For example, if two teams finish equal 1st, both teams shall receive 10 points each. The next placing team shall be awarded the 6 points and the bronze medal for coming.

The overall point scoring winner for each event in the **Premiership** will be the team who accrues the greatest number of points in all the carnivals. In the event of a tied overall point score, a 'count back system' will be enforced where the club with the greater number of first or higher placing positions will determine the winner.

12.2. State IRB Championships Point Score

Points will be awarded from 1st to 6th in each final:

(1st place = 6 points | 2nd place = 5 points | 3rd place = 4 points | 4th place = 3 points | 5th place = 2 points | 6th place = 1 point).

Where a dead heat (as defined in Section 2 of the [Surf Sports] Manual) occurs in the final of an event the teams will share the placing points. The club of the next teams to finish will receive the relative placing points based on the number of teams finishing ahead of them. For example, if two teams finish equal 1st, both teams shall receive 6 points each. The next placing team shall be awarded the 4 points and the bronze medal for coming 3rd.

Unlike the IRB Premiership, if 2 crews from the same club earn points from a final, both teams **will be** eligible for points towards the club point score. If a team is disqualified or fails to finish an event, then that team fails to gain points for the event and club point score. The Club with the highest accumulated total at the completion of all finals will be deemed the Overall Champion Club.

13. Approved Gear and Equipment:

13.1. IRB Surf Rescue Registrations:

All IRBs taking part in the IRB Premiership and the NSW IRB Championships must be registered with SLSNSW and carry the appropriate 'SR' number. If you have any questions regarding registering of IRBs with SLSNSW please contact Laura Schuetz on 9471 8000.

Prior to the Premiership Round, all Clubs will be required to submit the SR numbers of the vessels which will be used throughout the Premiership Round and the NSW Championships. Please Complete the [SR Number Survey](#) by **TBC**

14. Scrutineering:

Full Technical Scrutineering will be conducted on the day prior to Premiership Round 1 and the day prior to the NSW State Championships. Separate Scrutineering Memos will be released for Round 1 and State Championships.

All gear and equipment must be presented ready for inspection i.e. floors out, air boxes off, restrictor plates and props separate. Team Managers **MUST** complete Scrutineering forms for Motors/Hulls/Fuel/Propellers with all the required information and submit the forms to the scrutineering registrar prior to entering the competition area.

No post manufacture modifications will be permitted i.e. engine must be as is "out of the box". Any clubs found to be using equipment in the 2021 Premiership Rounds or 2021 NSW State Championship that does not meet manufacturers or SLSA specification as set out in the current SLSA Bulletin Surf Sport IRB Competition - Gear and Equipment Regulations could be excluded from the event and may face disciplinary action.

14.1. IRB Premiership Round 1

Full Technical scrutineering will take place on Friday 14 May, the day before competition. Timeslots will be available between 1pm and 3:30pm.

Clubs may complete expression of interest for their preferred time by filling out the [JotForm online here](#) by close of entries for Round 1, however, high demand timeslots will be allocated to clubs based on distance clubs are required to travel.

Clubs are to be ready 30 minutes prior to their allocated timeslot with completed paperwork and equipment ready for inspection.

14.2. IRB Premiership Rounds 2, 3, and 4

Any equipment that is to be used at these rounds and was not registered at round 1 or any new clubs entering the Premiership MUST have scrutineering form/s completed and submitted to the registrar prior to entering the competition area. During competition, (on Saturday & Sunday) random scrutineering will take place in the competition area and some clubs may be selected to present all their equipment to the scrutineering team for a detailed technical examination at the end of the day. State IRB Championships.

14.3. State IRB Championships

Full technical scrutineering will take place on Friday 9th July, the day before competition. Timeslots will be available between 10am and 4pm.

Clubs may complete expression of interest for their preferred time by filling out the [JotForm online here](#) by close of entries for Round 1, however, high demand timeslots will be allocated to clubs based on distance clubs are required to travel.

Clubs are to be ready 30 minutes prior to their allocated timeslot with completed paperwork and equipment ready for inspection.

More detailed information about scrutineering will be provided in a subsequent Memos to be released in due course and may supersede any information detailed above.

14.4. One Hull Policy

From January 1, 2024, SLSA will implement the one hull policy in IRB sport racing. NSW IRB competition Clubs are reminded of this transition whereby all hulls in competition shall be as per the one hull policy applicable to the IRB competition season of 2024. Clubs using previous models of Class 1 soft hull and former Class 2 rigid hull IRB's, will be allowed to continue to use these hulls for surf sport purposes until 1 January 2024. Approved technical specifications are available online in the Members Area https://members.sls.com.au/members/document_library

15. Training Logs:

At the close of entries for IRB Round 1, please submit copied of training logs for each competitor to surfsports@surflifesaving.com.au.

Where competitors have previously completed and submitted their training logs, a declaration must be submitted by the coach confirming:

- (a) When training logs were completed and submitted e.g. 2019 IRB Season and
- (b) That the competitor retains fitness and competence to compete in a safe and controlled manner

For further details, please see [SLSA Bulletin 02/20-21 Surf Sports Manual 36th Edition - Changes to IRB Competition Rules](#).

16. Safety:

The purpose of this section of the circular is to provide awareness of the various safety components related to IRB competition. To be clear, competitors & team management shall refer to the appropriate sections of the current Surf Sports Manual for full reference.

16.1. Safety Essentials

WARNING: IRB competition can be inherently dangerous. IRB competition participants acknowledge that they are exposed to certain risks during IRB competition including but not limited to leg, spinal and neck injuries, physical

exertion, contact with the IRB, temperature, weather, and water conditions and even drowning. IRB competition participants acknowledge that accidents can and often do happen which may result in IRB competition participants being injured or even killed. All members through their participation in IRB events agree with, acknowledge, and understand this warning and accept and assume the inherent risks in IRB competition.

16.2. Safety Infringements

(a) A strong emphasis will be placed on safe driving, crewing and patient safety practices. All competitors must complete each event in a safe and controlled speed and manner or will face immediate disqualification from the event, and/or issue of a safety infringement and consideration for further penalties.

(b) A safety infringement shall be issued to any competitor deemed to have committed an unsafe practice. This will result in immediate disqualification of the competitor and their entire team (i.e. crew and patient/s) from the event in which the infringement occurred. The name of the competitor and the details of the infringement shall be logged through the safety infringement register of the relevant State and National Office.

(c) If a competitor receives more than one safety infringement in any one competition they shall be disqualified from the entire competition.

(d) Should a history of safety infringements be identified by an SLSA office or official in a twelve-month period, the matter shall be referred to the relevant state or national officer/s for consideration of further penalties or disciplinary action.

16.3. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Note: In all training and competition it is compulsory for competitors to wear high visibility (conspicuous colour) SLSA approved level 50 Australian Standard (AS4758) lifejackets or Type 2 (AS1499-1996) lifejackets. (Level 50S lifejackets unless listed on the SLSA Approved Gear and Equipment List are not approved.) It is not required for high visibility safety vests to be worn over the top of lifejackets. See also Section 2 of the Surf Sports Manual.

SLSNSW will not be issuing lifejackets (PFDs) – this is the responsibility of the individual/club.

16.4. High Visibility Garments

Due to the PFD requirement, pink high visibility vests are not required if wearing a PFD as stated above.

Handlers are required to wear a competition cap and shall be required to wear a distinctive high visibility pink coloured vest if entering the water beyond knee depth. Alternatively, handlers may wear a high visibility (conspicuous colour) SLSA approved level 50 Australian Standard (AS4758) lifejacket or Type 2 (AS1499-1996) lifejackets. (Level 50S lifejackets unless listed on the SLSA Approved Gear and Equipment List are not approved.) It is not required for high visibility safety vests to be worn over the top of lifejackets.

SLSNSW will not be supplying High Visibility Garments – this is the responsibility of the individual/club.

To assist with judging coloured rash shirt sleeves or belts for each lane will be worn with the lifejacket. This will apply to the IRB Driver only. SLSNSW will be providing these garments.

16.5. Helmets

The wearing of approved helmets is compulsory for patients in all events (other than the Rescue Tube Race). IRB patients are to wear helmets in both training and in competition. See also Section 2 of the Surf Sports Manual.

SLNSW will not be issuing helmets – this is the responsibility of the individual/club.

16.6. Warm Up Areas

Competitors who enter the competition area and 'warm up' will be deemed to have committed an unsafe practice in terms of section 3.5 above. A designated 'warm up' area will be communicated closer to each event.

16.7. Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) and Drones

SLNSW prohibits the use of drones or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) at IRB competition by members and/or public unless approved by SLNSW, 7 days prior to the event. The operator must supply an operations manual (including risk management plan), provide public liability insurance and comply with all Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) requirements.

16.8. Injuries & Return to Surf Duties

Members who receive treatment from First Aid are to ensure their details are recorded in an incident report. If you Workers Compensation may be payable under the Workers Compensation Act. An iCare form must be completed within 48 hours of injury to make a claim.

More information can be found on the workers compensation page here:

<https://www.surflifesaving.com.au/resources/workers-compensation>

Members who seek further medical treatment/advice will be required to complete the Return to Surf Duties process.

17. Prizes:

SLNSW is again providing fantastic prizes throughout the 2021 IRB Competition Season, giving clubs a terrific incentive and reward to all competing in the 2021 IRB season with Clubs in the running to win fuel vouchers up to the value of \$150 and Sharkskin vouchers up to the value of \$500. The overall club point score winners for the Premiership or the State Championships will receive 1x IRB Motor with the support of Lakeside Marine. See below for further details.

Please note, due to the impact of COVID-19, an official presentation may not be possible. Presentation process will be confirmed closer to the day, depending on restrictions at the time.

17.1. Sharkskin Prizes

Sharkskin and SLNSW are proud to announce that for the 2021 NSW Sharkskin IRB Premiership, the overall winners in each category/division will receive Sharkskin store credit to the value of \$200, with the winners of the relay receiving \$500! Terms and Condition apply and can be [found here](#).

The following prizes will be awarded:

DIVISION	RESCUE TUBE	MASS RESCUE	TEAMS	RESCUE	RELAY*
Open Male	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	
Open Female	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	
U23 Mixed	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	
35+ Mixed	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	
45+ Mixed	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	
Rookie		\$200		\$200	
Open					\$500

17.2. Premiership Prizes

Overall Premiership point score medals will be presented at the completion of Round 4 in each event. In addition, the overall champion club at the conclusion of the Premiership will receive a new IRB Motor that they will be able to pick up from Lakeside Marine.

The following prizes will be awarded:

	1st	2nd	3rd	Random Draw
Round 1	\$150 Voucher	\$100 Voucher	\$50 Voucher	N/A
Round 2	\$150 Voucher	\$100 Voucher	\$50 Voucher	N/A
Round 3	\$150 Voucher	\$100 Voucher	\$50 Voucher	N/A
Round 4	\$150 Voucher	\$100 Voucher	\$50 Voucher	N/A
Final Point Score	IRB Motor*	N/A	N/A	\$150 Voucher

17.3. State IRB Championships Prizes

Championship Medals will be awarded at the State Championships for each event at the conclusion of competition. In addition, the overall Champion Club at the conclusion of the State Championships will receive a new IRB Motor.

	1st	2nd	3rd	Random Draw
State IRB Championships	IRB Motor* OR \$200 Voucher*	\$150 Voucher	\$100 Voucher	\$50 Voucher

*(**Note:** The same club cannot win both the Premiership Motor and State Championships Motor. If the State Champion club is also the Premiership Club, then a \$200 voucher will be the prize and the IRB Motor will be awarded to the second placed Club at the State IRB Championships).

18. SLSA Rules and Policies Index:

Reference is made to the following circulars and bulletins issued by SLSA and SLSNSW. This is not an exhaustive list and SLSA circulars and updates are available on the Members Portal:

https://members.sls.com.au/members/document_library

It will be up to the individual to review the SLSA Member's Portal for any updates that may affect IRB competition.

[36th REVISED Edition Surf Sports Manual \(SSM\) – Updated March 2021](#)

[SLSA – Gear & Equipment Regulations – Updated June 2019](#)

- Fuel Safety and Compliance Record Check
- Hull Compliance Check Record
- IRB Competition – Gear and Equipment Guidelines
- IRB Competition Judging Guide
- Outboard Motor and Propeller Guard and Compliance Check Record
- Propeller Safety and Compliance Check Record

[SLSA Policy 5.04 - Eligibility to Compete in SLSA Competitions – Updated August 2017](#)

[Memo: Competition Eligibility Policy \(5.04\) – 2020-21 Season Service Hour Requirements](#)

[SLSA - IRB Motor Sealing Requirements – Issued July 2017](#)