



SLSA Bulletin: Surf Sports Manual 37th Edition 2021

Title:	Surf Sports Manual 37 th Edition October 2021
Document ID:	Bulletin 01/21-222
Date:	29 October 2021
Department:	Sport
Audience:	State/Territory Surf Sport Directors and Managers, Club Secretaries & Presidents, Branches, Officials, Coaches and Competitors
Summary:	This Bulletin details the publication of the new SLSA 37 th Edition Surf Sports Manual (SSM) that replaces the 36 th Edition initially published in August 2019. The 37 th Edition SSM takes effect from the date of this Bulletin.

Background

SLSA has made a number of incremental amendments, clarifications and enhancements to the rules of sport including competition organisation, conduct of events and the provision of a number of additional event diagrams.

These changes and are summarised in this Bulletin and come into effect from the date of this Bulletin.

The 37th Edition SSM can be accessed in within the Members Portal Document area of the SLSA Website at:

https://members.sls.com.au/SLSA_Online/modules/login/index.php

Please note that no paper manual be published with introduction of the 37th Edition SSM. However, the SSM may be downloaded and/or printed from the above link.

Work is continuing to update the SSM on the “SLSA Publications App” available via the Apple and Android App Stores. It is expected that this works shall be completed shortly.

Note: There has also been a small number of further changes recommended that require consideration and approval by the SLSA Board. An update will be provided as required dependent on approval.

Summary of Changes

Changes have been made reflecting the publication for the 37th Edition Manual, including publication dates, ISBN, Table of Contents, and Table of Figures.

In addition, changes have been made to the various sections of the SSM as detailed in the following subheadings:

Section 1 - Safety

Section 1.1 it is clarified that a log (including written notes, photographs and/or recordings where applicable) of responses to all rescues, emergencies or major incidents is to be maintained for reference.

Section 1.3 More specific Safety Assessment references have been made to the SLSA website members portal (refer www.slsa.asn.au) and specific SLSA Apps.



- Appendix A** A specific reference has been added to the Event Safety Guide to the SLSA website members portal (refer www.slsa.asn.au) and to specific SLSA Apps.
- Appendix E** (Ocean Contingency Options – Major Competition Event Prioritisation Table) – The position of the Lifesaver Relay has been moved from D to B2 reflecting the increased importance of the event to clubs. Added the Beach Run event as it is a simple event to conduct.
- General** Wording in this section has been reviewed and updated to be consistent with current lifesaving terminology and practices.
- General** Minor editorial alterations have also been incorporated that do not alter competition or the rules of events.

Section 2 – General Competitive Conditions

- 2.2.1 (e) (iv)** It is clarified that SLSA may also conduct inclusive water and beach based events unqualified and qualified participants.
- 2.2 (c)** It is clarified that SLSA may conduct inclusive events and to refer to Section 12 for supplementary rules.
- 2.2.3 (b)** A note has been added to clarify that an organising committee may permit the entry of composite teams into a SLSA competition for participation purposes. Unless otherwise specified composite teams shall not be eligible for awards, medals, trophies, prize money or placing points. Also Refer Section 12 – Competition Administration Supplementary Rules.
- 2.3.3** All references to the Restricted (O24 Years) age division have been deleted as events are no longer conducted in this age category. The subsequent sections have been renumbered.
- 2.3.13 (f) (v)** The youngest age grouping for surf boat masters competition is now 160 years plus.
- 2.3.4 (a) and (b)** Added wording to allow U13 aged competitors to participate in specifically designated U13-U15 5 Person R&R Events..
- 2.3.5 Note 2** Added wording to allow U13 aged competitors to participate in specifically designated U13-U15 5 Person R&R Events..
- 2.3.6 Note 3** Added wording to allow U13 aged competitors to participate in specifically designated U13-U15 5 Person R&R Events..
- 2.10.3 (a) (i) and (iv)** It is clarified that competitions may be a single event or a number of events conducted within the same competition organisational framework. It is also clarified that the terminology section may also refer to components of an event e.g., R&R Sections, Champion Patrol Sections, and Champion Lifesaver Sections etc. Further, a section does not constitute a round of an event.
- 2.14** It is clarified that Surf Teams races may consist of a maximum of 40 individuals e.g., 10 teams of four competitors, 13 teams of three etc.
- 2.19 (i) and (j)** For consistency, the one start rule is to apply to competitors aged from U12 and over in all competition including ocean and pool events.
Note: For competition up to and including the age of U11 (only), one false start per race is permitted.
- 2.27.2.1** The last dot point SLSA Code of Fair Play has been reviewed to reflect human rights considerations to treat all members equally, regardless of their sex, gender identity, intersex status, sexual orientation, age, ability, disability, race, or physical characteristics etc.
- 2.29 (b)** A further dot point “Participating contrary to the spirit of the competition (as described in the Code of Fair Play)” has been added to the list of examples of competing unfairly.



General Minor editorial alterations have also been incorporated that do not alter competition or the rules of events.

Section 3 – Lifesaving Events

- 3.3.2.5 (b)** A change has been made to increase the number of events in which each individual competitor may compete or nominate to compete to twelve events plus the IRB Relay(s) at any one competition. However, in the event of adverse weather, surf conditions, water temperature, wind chill, and/or hyperthermia risk etc., the Competition Committee, at its absolute discretion, may reduce the maximum number of events in which each competitor may participate at the competition.
- Further it is clarified that the Australian IRB Championships is one competition with events currently conducted in Open, U23 and O35 age divisions. This means that a competitor may compete or nominate to compete in a maximum of twelve events plus the IRB Relay(s) at Australian IRB Championships.
- 3.3.3.7 (a)** It is clarified that during changeovers, the crewperson and patient are to handle the IRB as detailed in Section 3.3.3.3 (b), (c) and (d).
- 3.3.4.2 (a)** It is clarified that, during changeovers, the crewperson and patient are to handle the IRB as detailed in Section 3.3.3.3 (b), (c) and (d).
- 3.3.4.3 (g)** It is clarified that during changeovers the crewperson and patient are to handle the IRB as detailed in Section 3.3.3.3 (b), (c) and (d).
- 3.4.5 (c)** It is clarified that for the Champion Lifesaver Tube Rescue Race, the placing of the tube is to be as per the Rescue Tube Race event described in Section 4 including the tube being placed flat on the sand. The swim fins (if used) are to be placed with the rescue tubes at the competitor's discretion.
- 3.5.2 (a)** A note has been added to clarify that the Champion Patrol Sections are defined as components of the event (i.e., Physical Skills, Theory, Resuscitation, and Scenario Task) and are not rounds of the event. A round is a heat or final etc.
- 3.5.2 (a)** The following words have been moved to Section 3.5.7 (b): *“Teams must complete 50% or more of the physical events and attempt all theory, resuscitation, and scenario tasks in order to be eligible for a place. If teams do not meet these requirements, they will be disqualified from the event.”*
- 3.5.2 (b)** It is clarified that in the Champion Patrol teams shall race against each other in the components of the physical skills section. In the other sections teams will be individually judged based on their performance.
- 3.5.2 (b)** It is clarified that in the Champion Patrol teams shall race against each other in the components of the physical skills section. In the other sections teams will be individually judged based on their performance.
- 3.5.2 (e)** It is clarified that for the Champion Patrol teams, the Referee, after considering the suitability of the area and the conditions, shall determine the order in which the event sections are to be conducted. However, notwithstanding the order of the conduct of sections, the conduct of the of the physical components shall be Surf Teams race followed by the Board/Tube Rescue Relay race.
- 3.5.6 (a)** It has been clarified that no substitution of competitors or change of drawn competitor positions is permitted once marshalling has been completed and the draw for positions has been undertaken. A note has also been added to clarify that sections are defined as components of the event and are not rounds of the event.



- 3.5.6 (b)** It has been clarified that, in the event of an injury or illness that results in a team member being unable to continue in a round, the team may continue in the event without that team member, or a substitution or change of positions without disqualification from the event.
- 3.5.6 (c)** It has clarified that an incapacitated/injured team member who recovers may resume their drawn position in during the that round of the Champion Patrol.
- Note:** It is the appointed medical officer at a competition (or another person approved by SLSA) who is to verify to the Referee that the competitor has recovered sufficiently to resume participation in the event.
- 3.5.6 (d)** It has been clarified that should further rounds of the Champion Patrol be conducted (e.g., a final), team members may be substituted as detailed in as per Section 2.
- 3.5.9 (b) (ii)** It is clarified that in the Champion Patrol Board/Tube Rescue Relay Race placing of the tube in preparation for the start competitors may lay the rescue tube to suit themselves provided that the tube is placed flat on the sand, and that the rope or belt harness shall not extend on the seaward side of the tube. The swim fins (if used) are to be placed with the rescue tubes at the competitor's discretion.
- 3.6.1 (a)** It is clarified that for the U15 First Aid Competition it is strongly recommended, but not mandatory, for members to undertake the SLSA Provide First Aid course (or equivalent).
- General** Minor editorial alterations have also been incorporated that do not alter competition or the rules of events.

Section 4 – Swimming Events

- 4.2.2 (b)** It is clarified that the finish of the surf race and surf teams events is between two green or arena coloured arena flags.
- 4.3.1 (a)** It is clarified that the first line of competitors in a Surf Teams Race shall, on the direction of an official, file onto the competition area with the No.1 position to the left facing the water. The first line of competitors is then followed by the second, third and fourth lines. This procedure spreads competitors from each team evenly over the starting line.
- 4.3.1 (b)** It is clarified that points in a Surf Teams Race are allotted as follows – 1 for 1st, 2 for 2nd, 3 for 3rd, 4 for 4th, and so on.
- Figure 1** The diagram wording for the Surf Race and Surf Teams start Line has been changed to read:
**“Surf Race/Surf Teams Start Line
1 - 32 Individuals/1 - 40 Team Individuals”**
- 4.5.2 (m)** It is clarified that the finish of the Rescue Tube Rescue Race (4 Person) is between the two green or arena coloured arena finish flags.
- 4.6.3 (l)** It is clarified that the finish of the Rescue Tube Rescue Race (2 Person) is between the two green or arena coloured arena finish flags.
- 4.7.3 (c)** It is clarified that in preparation for the start of the Rescue Tube Race (one person) the tube is to be placed flat on the sand.
- 4.8.2** It is clarified that the finish of the Run – Swim - Run event is between the two green or arena coloured arena finish flags.
- 4.9.2 (c)** It is clarified that the finish of the Wading Race is between two green or arena coloured arena finish flags.
- 4.10.2 (f)** It is clarified that the finish of the Wading Relay event is between two green or arena coloured arena finish flags.



Appendix A: SLSA Surf Reel Notes – It is clarified that the surf reels used in the U12 to U13 aged (but not U13 - U15 combined aged) R&R competition and the U14 and under March Past (but not U13 - U15 combined aged) March Past competition may be reduced to approximately 75% of the dimensions outlined in this specification. Such reels should be branded in minimum 25mm letters "Demonstration Use Only". It is also clarified that Full sized reels are to be used in U15 and over March Past and U14 and over R&R competition,

General Minor editorial alterations have also been incorporated that do not alter competition or the rules of events.

Section 4 – Surf Boat Events

5.1 (c) Note 1 An exception to entry limitations has been added similar to the Australian Championship conditions whereby should a member of any crew become indisposed they may be replaced subject to approval of the Carnival Referee provided the replacement crew member complies with the requirements contained in Section 2.18 of the Surf Sports Manual and any special entry requirements.

5.2.1 (f) It is clarified that the finish of Surf Boat events is between two orange and blue diagonal flags (or green or arena coloured arena finish flag (or other area colour(s) as determined by the Referee).

General Minor editorial alterations have also been incorporated that do not alter competition or the rules of events.

Section 6 – Surf Ski and Surf Board Events

6.2.1 (c) It is clarified that the finish of the Single Ski Race is between two orange or arena coloured finish flags corresponding to the orange or arena coloured buoys.

6.2.2 (d) (ii) It is clarified that a handler for dry ski finishes shall be required to wear a distinctive high visibility pink, orange, yellow, green, or red coloured vest as determined by SLSA (or relevant SLS competition Organiser) if entering the water beyond knee depth.

6.3.1 (c) It is clarified that the finish of the Double Ski Race is between two orange or arena coloured finish flags corresponding to the orange or arena coloured buoys.

6.4.1 (c) It is clarified that the finish of the Surf Board Race is between two black and white or arena coloured finish flags corresponding to the black and white or arena coloured buoys.

6.5.3 (c) It is clarified that the finish of the Surf Board and Surf Ski Relay event is between two green or arena coloured finish flags.

6.5.4.(a) to (d) The Masters Surf Board Relay and Surf Ski Relay course variation and procedure has been further reviewed to relieve potential turning flag congestion.

Diagrams Separate Diagrams (two) have been drawn for the U17 – Masters Ski and Double Ski Races and the U15 to Masters Surf Board race courses.

Separate Diagrams (three) have been drawn for the U9 and U10, U11-U13 and U14 Board Races.

Separate Diagrams (four) have been drawn for the U9 and U10, U11-U13, U14 and Masters, and U15 to Open Board Relays.

Separate Diagrams (two) have been drawn for the U7 to Open, and the Masters Ski Races.

General Minor editorial alterations have also been incorporated that do not alter competition or the rules of events.



Section 7 – Surf Board Riding Events

General Minor editorial alterations have been incorporated that do not alter competition or the rules of events.

Section 8 – Multi Discipline Events

8.2.3 (c) It is clarified that the ski turning buoys for the U19 to Masters Ironman and Ironwoman and Taplin Relay events is around three orange or area coloured buoys plus all other buoys.

8.2.3 (d) It is clarified that the finish of the Ironman and Ironwoman events is between two green flags or coloured flags corresponding to the buoy or arena colours.

8.2.4.1 The Masters Ironman and Ironwoman course has been reviewed with the turning and finish flags moved to reduce the running components. The course is similar to the Masters Taplin Relay course.

8.3.3 (d) It is clarified that the finish of the Taplin Relay events is between two green or coloured flags corresponding to the buoy or arena colours.

8.3.4 (b) The Masters Three Person Taplin Relay course variation and procedure has been further reviewed to relieve potential turning flag congestion.

8.4.3 (e) It is clarified that the finish of the Lifesaver Relay event is between two green or coloured flags corresponding to the buoy or arena colours.

8.7.3 (e) It is clarified that the finish of the Cameron Relay event is between two green or coloured flags corresponding to the buoy or arena colours.

Diagrams Separate Diagrams (three) have been drawn for the U11 to U13 Ironman/ **Ironwoman**, U14 to Open, and Masters Ironman/Ironwoman/Taplin Relay courses.

Separate Diagrams (three) have been drawn for the U9 & U10, U11 to U13, and U14 and U15 Cameron Relay courses.

General Minor editorial alterations have also been incorporated that do not alter competition or the rules of events.

Section 9 – Beach Events

Figure 34 Added the Beach Run standard distances for each age group event.

General Minor editorial alterations have also been incorporated that do not alter competition or the rules of events.

Section 10 – March Past Event

October 2021 10.1 (g) - A new point has been added to confirm that Inclusive (Competitor with a Disability) Teams of less or more than the standard 12 competitors may march in any age events for participation purposes but will not be judged unless they have the correct number of competitors and are competing with the standard, reel, line, and belt. The subsequent point has been renumbered.

10.1.1 (b) It has been clarified that teams in the combined U13-U15 March Past event shall be equipped with a standard size approved Surf Life Saving Reel, Line and Belt, a Standard (club/team flag) and pole. To assist the carrying of the reel it is permitted to use a reel equipped with less than the full length surf line. Where such equipment is used the reel must be branded in minimum 25mm letters "*Demonstration Use Only*".



10.1.1 (c) It has been clarified that U14 and under March Past events (but not the combined U13-U15 March Past) shall be conducted under the same judging procedures as the standard March Past but with all relevant dimensions, including the size of the reel, reduced to approximately 75% of those outlined herein, i.e., normal length of pace – 36cm Standard Bearer wheels at 2.025m, inside pivot wheels at 0.9m.

General Minor editorial alterations have also been incorporated that do not alter competition or the rules of events.

Section 11 – Pool Rescue Events

Nil Changes.

Section 12 – Competition Administration

12.1 (d) (viii) A new point has been added to the Supplementary Rules to assist facilitate the conduct of inclusive events.

Note: All Subsequent points have been renumbered.

General Minor editorial alterations have also been incorporated that do not alter competition or the rules of events.

Section 13 – Officials and their Duties

General Minor editorial alterations have been incorporated that do not alter competition or the rules of events.

Section 14 – Protests, Appeals and Discipline

Section 14.6 The SLSA Protest Form has been updated to reflect publication of the SLSA Surf Sports Manual 37th Edition.

General Minor editorial alterations have been incorporated that do not alter competition or the rules of events.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Should further information be required please contact the events team at:

events@slsa.asn.au

Surf Life Saving Australia PO Box 7773

Bondi Beach NSW 2026 Phone: (02) 9215 8000 Fax: (02) 9215 8180