



Surf Life Saving Australia - Circular

Title:	SLSA Meritorious Awards
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Summary:	This circular identifies the recognition process and award criteria for the SLSA Meritorious Awards.

BACKGROUND

Surf lifesavers and lifeguards provide an essential service to communities throughout Australia, performing many exceptional rescues and providing first aid in emergency situations, which are over and above normal duties. These actions showcase excellence in lifesaving training, skills and procedures, which deserve special recognition. Meritorious Awards are awarded to affiliated clubs and/or their members, and/or the public for outstanding deeds of bravery performed during lifesaving operations of SLSA (during and outside of designated patrol hours).

It is important to note that the SLSA Meritorious Awards aim to recognize excellence in lifesaving and service delivery, measured against industry best practice and operating procedures. It is not to encourage unnecessary risk, neglect safety considerations or Standard Operating Procedures.

AWARD CATEGORIES

Outlined below is a list of categories which will be considered by the SLSA Meritorious Awards Committee for each nomination received.

Individual Meritorious Awards

- **Silver Medallion**
Very high level of risk to rescuer, combined with optimal application of skills and supporting systems. Outcome for patient/s without rescue attempt would have resulted in definite fatality.
- **Bronze Medallion**
High level of risk to rescuer, combined with very good application of skills and supporting systems. Outcome for patient/s without rescue attempt would have resulted in a high chance of a fatality.
- **Certificate of Merit**
Moderate level of risk to rescuer, combined with good application of skills and supporting systems. Outcome for patient/s without rescue attempt would have resulted in serious injury or possible fatality.

Group or Club Meritorious Awards

The group or club award is issued for rescues of exceptional merit, in which a group of members are involved and where no individuals can be singled out for an award.

- **Certificate of Merit with Silver Medallion inset**
Very high level of risk to rescuer, combined with optimal application of skills and supporting systems. Outcome for patient/s without rescue attempt would have resulted in definite fatality.
- **Certificate of Merit with Bronze Medallion inset**
High level of risk to rescuer, combined with very good application of skills and supporting systems. Outcome for patient/s without rescue attempt would have resulted in a high chance of a fatality.
- **Certificate of Merit**
Moderate level of risk to rescuer, combined with good application of skills and supporting systems. Outcome for patient/s without rescue attempt would have resulted in serious injury or possible fatality.

Commendation

Commendations recognise outstanding team work, rescue skills, rescue management, individual displays of initiative and resourcefulness, and well conducted rescue activity (e.g. first aid, resuscitation, IRB rescues, board and tube rescues etc.) by members of Surf Life Saving Australia. This recognition award includes rescues or application of lifesaving skills by club members in exceptional circumstances on or off the beach, e.g. resuscitation of a person struck by lightning.



This award is presented to lifesavers involved in exceptional rescues. After consideration, a Commendation may be awarded to an individual or group, club or service.

NOMINATION PROCESS

All nominations must be submitted using the [SLSA Meritorious Awards Nomination Form](#) before **10 September 2022**. The eligibility period for nominations is between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022.

SLSA Rescue Medal: All nominations submitted for the SLSA Rescue Medal, will automatically be considered in the selection of Meritorious Award recipients. If a nomination has already been submitted for the SLSA Rescue Medal, a second nomination does not need to be submitted for a Meritorious Award.

Selection Process

The SLSA Meritorious Awards Committee shall be determined by the SLSA Board appointed Chair - Lifesaving, with the General Manager Coastal Safety as Executive Officer to this Committee. The committee will review all applications and determine their merit against the award categories.

The selection of award recipient(s) is final and there will be no correspondence entered into.

NOMINATION GUIDELINES

Eligibility

- Rescues, first aids (or other lifesaving actions) conducted during or outside of patrol hours, year round, on or off the beach. These should be considered above that of "business as usual".
- Eligibility period for nominations: 1 September 2021 - 31 August 2022
- All nominations are to be submitted via the [SLSA Meritorious Awards Nomination Form](#) before 10 September 2022.
- Late nominations will not be eligible for the Meritorious Awards, but can be recognised by the Branch or State/Territory independently.
- SLSA and the States/Territory reserve the right to promote details of rescues and the nominated rescuer(s) internally and externally in promotion of SLS services/clubs/members and the SRM program.
- Nomination for the Meritorious Awards serve as agreement to the conditions as stated above.

Supporting Documentation

The following documentation should be provided with the nomination:

- Incident Report Log
- Supporting statements (eg. Police, Ambulance, Public Witness statements)
- Information or reports of rescues from media agencies
- Copy of the patrol log (where applicable)

Criteria

The following areas form the basis of evaluating each nomination:

- Application of Skills and Resource Utilisation
- Response to situation, what was done and how this went beyond "business as usual"
- Environmental Conditions
- Any bravery or other aspects of notation

FURTHER INFORMATION

For questions relating to SLSA Meritorious Awards, please contact Lifesaving Services Coordinator, Sandi Davis via email sdavis@slsa.asn.au.