

## 2021-22 SLSNSW Awards of Excellence

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**Attention:** Members, Clubs and Branches

**Actioned by:** Branches

**Date:** Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022

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<b>Summary</b>	<p>This circular outlines the information related to the Surf Life Saving New South Wales (SLSNSW) Awards of Excellence recognising the 2021/22 season.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Section 1 – General Conditions</li><li>• Section 2 – Summary of Awards</li><li>• Section 3 – Nomination Process</li></ul>
<b>Objective</b>	<p>To recognise outstanding achievements and contributions from members, clubs and branches in the 2021/22 season.</p>
<b>Key Strategy Ref. No.</b>	<p>2. Develop and Support our People</p>
<b>Action</b>	<p>Branches are to endorse and submit one nomination per category to SLSNSW by Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022.</p>

We all know them – members who care, give up their time and want to make a difference in the organisation. The Surf Life Saving NSW Awards of Excellence celebrate the incredible people in our organisation and the impact they have on their clubs, its members and their local communities.

This year's awards will be presented at the SLSNSW Awards of Excellence function on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2022. This event will be held at Luna Park, Milsons Point, Sydney, NSW 2061.

### Changes for the 2021/22 Awards

1. SLSA have updated the wording for the Community Education Award
2. Additional 'criteria pointers' have been added to assist in applications for Coach and Official nominations.

Note that there has been no change to sport award criteria or age cut offs due to an ongoing Sport category review at SLSA, which has now been pushed to the 2023 season.

## Section 1 – General Conditions

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### General notes

- Branches are encouraged to use the online nomination template for their Branch Awards. SLSNSW will accept one award from each Branch, per category to ensure the process is streamlined and transparent.
- All nominees must be SLSA financial members (or affiliated organisations). Nominations should focus on activities during the 2021/22 Surf Life Saving season, from 1st July 2021 – 30th June 2022.
- Where ages are mentioned, this refers to the members age as at 30 September in the 2021/22 season.
- Winners may be called upon to act as ambassadors of Surf Life Saving, both within the organisation and to external audiences.
- Surf Life Saving NSW State events or teams will not be considered for nomination for these awards.
- Paid employees at any level may apply for the awards listed. However, paid service will only be counted if applying for the Lifeguard of the Year or Coach of the Year awards. All other awards recognise voluntary contributions only. Unless otherwise specified, these awards are in recognition of individual achievements, team submissions will not be considered.

### Guidelines for submission

- Applicants are required to complete and submit an [online nomination form](#) by **27 June 2022**. No nominations will be accepted via email only.
- **Applicants must address the criteria for their nominated award** (*found in Section 3 of circular*).
- Nominations are to include a digital profile image of the nominee (for individual awards) or logo (for group/team awards) via the online nomination form. Please ensure all nominee photographs are from the shoulders up.

### Selection Process

- Finalists for the 'Surf Lifesaver of the Year', 'Volunteer of the Year', 'Youth Surf Lifesaver of the Year' and 'Youth Volunteer of the Year' will be invited to participate in an online interview; details of which will be available following the close of nominations. The selection panel will determine a winner from both a review of the application and the interview.
- Finalists from the remaining awards will be determined by a volunteer selection panel and will involve a review of applications.

### SLSNSW Winners

- Winners of Awards listed in the 'SLSA Volunteer Awards' list will be nominated for the SLSA Awards of Excellence. All SLSNSW categories are aligned with SLSA selection criteria.
- The SLSA Awards of Excellence will be held on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2022 on the Gold Coast, QLD.

## Section 2 – Summary of Awards

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## **SLSA Awards** *Winners will progress to the SLSA Awards of Excellence*

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### **Surf Lifesaver of the Year**

An active patrolling member who has made an outstanding contribution to the delivery and development of surf lifesaving frontline services.

### **Youth Surf Lifesaver of the Year**

An active patrolling member (between the ages of 15-21, this refers to the members age as at 30 September in the 2020/21 season) who has made an outstanding contribution to the delivery and development of surf lifesaving frontline services.

### **Volunteer of the Year\***

An impressive member who has made a difference through their volunteering efforts.

### **Club of the Year**

An outstanding SLS-affiliated club that is committed to improving the experience of its members, providing a safer environment for the community, and improving club operations.

### **Athlete of the Year\*\***

An athlete aged 15 or older who has achieved sporting excellence in Open Aged Competition.

### **Youth Athlete of the Year\*\***

An athlete aged between 15-18 (this refers to the members age as at 30 September in the 2021/22 season) who has achieved sporting excellence in Youth and/or Open Aged Competition.

### **Coach of the Year**

An accredited coach who has made a significant contribution to athlete performance at a state, national and/or international level, to the development of athletes in SLS activities outside of surf sports, and to the educational development of other coaches in SLS.

### **Official of the Year**

An accredited surf sports official who has made a significant contribution to both officiating at a state, national and/or international level, and to the educational development of other officials in SLS.

### **Trainer of the Year**

An endorsed Trainer who is passionate about building the skills of others, consistently delivers a positive learning experience, and who encourages other members to engage in the delivery of training.

### **Assessor of the Year**

An endorsed Assessor who is passionate about building the skills of others, consistently delivers a positive and supportive assessment experience, and who encourages other members to engage in training or assessment.

### **Community Education Program of the Year**

A non-commercial activity or program that is targeted to non-members who are an identified at-risk group within the community. The purpose should contribute significantly to the organisation's mission of saving lives, creating great Australians and building better communities.

### **Innovation Award\*\*\***

A well-researched concept, piece of equipment, program or event which is/has been implemented to improve any facet of Surf Life Saving.

\*Applications that focus on significant achievements in one particular area may not be considered if this area is also covered by other awards (e.g. Lifesaver, Coach, Official, Trainer and Assessor of the Year).

\*\*A youth aged competitor (i.e. aged 15 to 18 years as at 30 September in a season) may be nominated for both the Athlete of the Year and Youth Athlete of the Year. However, only results achieved in Open Age Events and Open Age Team representation are considered for Athlete of the Year Award.

\*\*\* The innovation may have been developed in conjunction with an external body/sponsor but must be owned by a member or group of members of an affiliated SLS club.

## **SLSNSW Awards**

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### **Youth Volunteer of the Year**

An impressive member (between the ages of 15-21, this refers to the members age as at 30 September in the 2021/22 season) who has made a difference through their volunteering efforts.

### **Patrol Captain of the Year**

A Patrol Captain who is passionate about improving the service their patrol offers to the community, or the experience it offers to members.

### **Support Operations Member of the Year**

A Member involved in Support Operations (Duty Officer, Rescue Water Craft, Jet Rescue Boat, Offshore Rescue Boat, UAV) who has made a difference through their volunteering efforts in support operations.

### **Administrator of the Year**

An Administrator who consistently goes the extra mile to make the lives of other members easier, or to make the services and programs delivered by the club run smoother.

### **Services Team of the Year**

An outstanding team who have made a positive impact in Surf Life Saving or the community through their volunteer services.

### **Branch of the Year**

A Branch which demonstrates commitment to improving the experience of its members, and to delivering tailored support to its clubs to enable them to overcome challenges.

### **Masters Athlete of the Year**

An athlete over the age of 30 who has achieved sporting excellence.

### **Surf Sports Team of the Year**

An exemplary Surf Sports Team that has achieved notable success. Teams may represent any Surf Life Saving sporting discipline as defined in the Surf Sports Manual.

### **Facilitator of the Year**

A Facilitator who encourages members to engage in training or assessing, is passionate about building the skills of others, and consistently delivers a positive learning experience.

## Section 3 – Nomination Process

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### Volunteer and Program/Innovation Awards

#### SLSA Awards

- Surf Lifesaver of the Year
- Youth Surf Lifesaver of the Year
- Volunteer of the Year
- Coach of the Year
- Official of the Year
- Trainer of the Year
- Assessor of the Year
- Community Education Program of the Year
- Innovation Award

#### SLSNSW Awards

- Youth Volunteer of the Year
- Patrol Captain of the Year
- Support Operations Member of the Year
- Administrator of the Year
- Services Team of the Year
- Facilitator of the Year
- Branch of the Year

To nominate for the above awards, complete the [online nomination form](#) which includes answering the three questions below (with each answer no more than 400 words).

1. Tell us about the member/individual or program/innovation being nominated.
2. What has been achieved?
3. What impact has this had, and for whom?

*For Surf Lifesaver and Youth Surf Lifesaver of the Year awards, nominations require patrol hours to be uploaded for the 2019/20, 2020/21, and 2021/22 season (extracted from Surfguard).*

When showcasing members' achievements, you may want to consider the questions below to boost the quality of your nomination...

- What relevant positions, roles, or responsibilities do they hold?
- Have they done something in response to an identified need or problem?
- Have they done something new or different to achieve results?
- Have they inspired others to think or to do things differently?
- Have they had to overcome any challenges to make a difference or achieve success?
- Do they model positive and supportive attitudes, behaviours and actions?

When showcasing the achievements of programs or innovations, you may want to consider the questions below to boost the quality of your nomination...

- What was the motivation or research which drove the program/innovation?
- What were the aims and objectives?
- What did it look like (location, duration, resources required etc.)?
- How was it evaluated to ensure it achieved its aims and objectives?
- Were there any challenges which needed to be overcome to achieve success?
- You may wish to attach photographs, include links to any promotional material created or media coverage received.

When showcasing the **Official of the Year** nominations, you may want to consider the questions below to boost the quality of your nomination.

1. How long has the member been officiating and what level of accreditation do they hold
2. What events has the Official officiated at over the past 12 months, what roles did they under-take during that period

### **Input into Competition**

- Give examples of the Officials interaction with Branch and/or State Referees
- How has the Official been involved in the training of new Officials – provide examples of your role
- How has the Official Mentored members to assist them in gaining their awards, provide examples of your role
- How has the Official been involved in Assessing candidates during the past year, provide examples of the Officials role

### **Training & Education**

- What qualities does the Official bring to surf sports events to facilitate competition?
- How does the Official believe we can encourage club members to become and stay accredited officials?
- Is the Official satisfied with the training programs used for new and developing officials? How can they be improved?

When showcasing the ***Coach of the Year*** nominations, you may want to consider the questions below to boost the quality of your nomination...

1. Club, Branch, State and National coaching positions.
2. Results achieved due to the coach's influence for athletes coached for 90% of the season.
3. The capability of athletes and the coach's contribution to their development, both in and outside of surf sports.
4. Personal development undertaken to improve coaching performance e.g. participated in courses, conferences etc.
5. How the nominee has contributed to Coach Education e.g. presented at clinics, conferences, courses
6. Additional coaching information regarding the nominee.

## Sport Awards

### SLSA Awards

- Athlete of the Year
- Youth Athlete of the Year

### SLSNSW Awards

- Masters Athlete of the Year
- Surf Sports Team of the Year

To nominate for the above awards, complete the [online nomination form](#) which includes answering the three questions below (with each answer no more than 400 words).

1. How have they achieved sporting excellence? What were their results at major competitions (e.g. state, national, international)? For athlete awards, have they been part of a representative team and if so, how did they contribute to the success of that team?
2. How are they a positive role model, a good sportsman and/or an ambassador for Surf Life Saving? How do they contribute to broader lifesaving activities and engage with other members (including juniors)?

## Club of the Year

To nominate for the Club of the Year award, complete the [online nomination form](#), attaching your club's strategic and/or operational plan, and your answer to the five questions below (with each answer no more than 400 words).

1. Tell us about the club.
2. What has been achieved?
3. Why and how it has made a difference, and to whom?
4. What are your plans for future development and continuous improvement?
5. What is the ONE lesson that your club can teach and share with all other SLS clubs both here in Australia and internationally?

When showcasing club achievements, you may want to consider the questions below to boost the quality of your nomination...

- How does your club support the SLS 2025 Strategic Plan?
- What new initiatives, programs or events did your club implement last season that furthered your strategic objectives? How did you identify the need for this?
- How does your club deliver a range of sustainability and improvement measures across areas of governance, leadership, development, community engagement (or community support initiatives), and delivery of lifesaving services?
- What, if any, challenges did the club had to overcome to achieve success?
- How does your club management team model positive and supportive attitudes, behaviours and actions?
- You may wish to attach any photographs, reference letters or media coverage to your nomination.

### Note:

*If your club has been a successful Club of the Year at a Branch, State or National level in the past five (5) years, please note this on your nomination.*