

Memorandum

To:	Team Managers, Club Secretaries, Directors of Surf Sports, Branch Directors of Surf Sports & Branch Secretaries
From:	Phil Ayres, Chief Operating Officer & Jim Pinnington, Sports Manager
Date:	1 March 2022
Pages:	3
Subject:	Championships Update – 2022 NSW Surf Life Saving Championships, supported by Your local club

As members would be aware the east coast of NSW has experienced on-going and significant rainfall over the past week. This is coupled with an East Coast low which is developing off Sydney and will impact the Championship site at Queenscliff & North Steyne.

Firstly, our thoughts are with members from Northern NSW who have been directly impacted by the floods and thank those members who are involved in the current flood response efforts.

Regarding the State Championships, there have been numerous meetings held by the Safety and Championships Committees since the commencement of the event last week. The issues we have and are continuing to contend with include:

- Water quality and clarity issues due to the excessive rainfall at all Sydney beaches
- A gastro outbreak in Sydney over the weekend of 26/27th February which impacted some competitors and spectators
- The forecast of an East Coast Low (ECL) which will impact both beach & surf conditions at Queenscliff and North Steyne. In addition, the acute easterly swell direction impacts all contingency locations. We anticipate the impact of the ECL will be felt from Wednesday 2 March through to the weekend.

On this basis The Championships Committee has determined significant changes to the Championships program which were initially announced on Saturday 27th February.

SLNSW has received feedback around the various decisions and announcements. Please be aware the decisions which the Championships Committee have made have been in the best interests of participants with a view to try as best as possible to ensure the Championships continue and members can participate in a safe and equitable manner. These decisions have been made with the best of information and advice available, alongside other factors including the constraints of volunteer resources and timeframes. Unfortunately, this means some decisions will inconvenience some participants and few will not be able to participate in events they have entered.

Specifically:

- The Youth Championships were cancelled on Saturday due to an outbreak of gastro-like symptoms amongst competitors and spectators. Given the number affected and the information from NSW Health of a major outbreak in Sydney (and specifically the northern beaches), for the health of all attendees it was determined the event should be cancelled. Unfortunately, we are unable to re-schedule these events due to both time & resource constraints.
- Masters & Opens Championships (water) postponements were made with the best forecast information possible. The forecast remains clear that the conditions will be so severe that we would not be able to hold them on the scheduled days. It was considered prudent to make an early decision so as participants could seek to change travel bookings as far in advance as possible. We understand not all participants will be able to push existing bookings without additional charges. However, on balance, a postponement was more favorable than a straight cancellation or encouraging members to travel to the event given the almost certainty of its cancellation on the coming weekend.
- Masters Championships (water) rescheduled dates. We are attempting to find a suitable date within the constraints of time, the Aussies, available locations and volunteer fatigue. We will advise Masters entrants and team managers as soon as we have determined a position.
- Opens and Masters Beach Competitions. Given the likely impact on the beaches, it was considered favorable to hold these events on the 5th & 6th to then allow additional space for the water events the following week. We will be monitoring the impact on the beach areas from the surf conditions and advise members of any changes as soon as beach suitability is determined.
- Lifesaving Events. Similarly, we have had to schedule Lifesaving events around the fact we cannot have any water events this coming weekend. This has created clashes for some competitors which did not originally exist. Again, scheduling has been compressed and this is unavoidable. Please refer to the Restricted Entries section of the Circular for information regarding qualification for Aussies.

Amended 2022 NSW Surf Life Saving Schedule:

Date	Championships	Location
Saturday 5 March	Open - Beach (as scheduled) First Aid (as scheduled)	North Steyne Freshwater
Sunday 6 March	Open March Past (as scheduled) Masters - Beach First Aid (as scheduled)	North Steyne North Steyne Freshwater
Friday 11 March	Masters - Surf Boats (as scheduled) Open - Water Champion Life Saver Day 1	North Steyne Queenscliff Freshwater
Saturday 12 March	Open - Surf Boats (as scheduled) Open - Water Champion Life Saver Day 2	North Steyne Queenscliff Freshwater
Sunday 13 March	Open - Surf Boats (as scheduled) Open - Water Patrol Competition	North Steyne Queenscliff Freshwater

Amended IRB Roster

The re-scheduling of events for the NSW Surf Life Saving Championships has brought about a host of changes to previously circulated rosters. As such SLSNSW have revised the IRB roster. **Please review the amended IRB Roster to ensure your club fulfills their allocated shift.**

The new roster is not too different from the original individual craft/swim (4th – 6th March) and Surfboats (11th-13th March). As best spread the requirements of individual clubs so as they are not 'doubled up' SLSNSW have made some slight changes. **Please read the new rosters thoroughly to ensure your club has the required crews in place for your allocations.** It is essential clubs fulfill allocated shifts. The rosters reflect the entry numbers for clubs into the championships and whilst we appreciate the change of dates may impact the availability of some club IRB personnel, it is essential that shifts are covered to ensure the Championships can proceed.

The most recent IRB Roster for the weekend of 11-13 March can be found here:

<https://www.surflifesaving.com.au/members/resources/2022-nsw-surf-life-saving-championships-irb-roster-amended/>

Changes to Entries

There will be no late or additional entries allowed for rescheduled competition. Where a team can no longer compete due to a competitor now being unavailable for rescheduled dates, clubs may apply to the Competition Committee for a late entry exemption in order to fill the team. Replacement competitors would only be able to compete in the respective team events and will not be able to compete in individual events.

Restricted Events

Competitors in the Lifesaving events which have restricted entries for Aussies who now have a clash may apply for an exemption as a wild card for Aussies which will be assessed by the Competition Committee. This will only be considered for competitors who were already entered into the respective events. All exemption requests will be assessed by the Competition Committee.

Contact

Please contact the Surf Sports team at statechampionships@surflifesaving.com.au or 9471 8000 if you have any questions.