



Surf Life Saving Australia – Circular (47/23-24)

Title:	Surf Life Saving Australia Officials Scholarship
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Officials play a vital role in Surf Life Saving Sport. The Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA) Officials Scholarship Program aligns with the SLSA Participant Development Pathway, ensuring officials are trained and supported to continue their officiating progression. The Scholarship Program will increase opportunities and create a progressive pathway for our aspiring officials, supporting National Officiating Accreditation Scheme (NOAS) accredited members in their officiating development.

This will be achieved by providing the recipients with the opportunity to gain officiating experience at The Australian Surf Life Saving Championships (The Aussies).

Officials Scholarship Program Criteria

- Experience:** Applicants must have a record of positive performance and commitment in officiating at branch and/or state level events.
- Qualifications:** Applicants must have a current Technical Official or Senior Official accreditation.
- Support from Branch or State:** A statement of support must be provided by a senior member of the applicant's Branch or State Surf Sports Committee or equivalent.
- Ongoing Participation:** The Officials Scholarship Program runs for a two-year duration. The applicants must be committed to the two-year program*.
- Eligibility:** You will be deemed ineligible if you have already officiated more than once at the National Championship which you are applying for i.e Aussies, IRB or pool. Please note, however, that each Australian Championship is recognised as having its own scholarship program, so therefore if you have officiated at more than one Aussies in the past, you will be ineligible to apply for the scholarship for Aussies, however you *WILL* be eligible to apply for IRB or Pool Championships, and vice versa. Please also note that anyone who has been unsuccessful in the past, is still eligible to apply.

What is included in the Officials Scholarship?

SLSA will create a schedule for four (4) scholarship recipients to maximise learning and development opportunities through working with appointed mentors, exposure to carnival set up and carnival meetings, and a meal with the selector's panel and senior carnival officials.

SLSA will cover reasonable expenses for the four (4) successful scholarship recipients as outlined below:

First Year: Reimbursement of travel/accommodation related expenses for the event to the value of \$500 pp.

Second Year: Reimbursement of travel/accommodation related expenses for the event to the value of \$200 pp.

Any other costs associated with officiating will be the responsibility of the scholarship recipient.



Expectations of Scholarship recipients

*Scholarship recipients must be available to officiate at The Aussies for the duration of one of the options outlined below:

Option 1: Youth and Masters events from 13 -16 April 2024

Option 2: Masters and Open events from 15 – 21 April 2024

Option 3: Youth and Open events (13-14 and 17-21 April 2024)

Note: those appointed to Lifesaving Competition may work different dates to those above

Recipients are required to officiate to the best of their ability in their allocated events and prepare appropriately to carry out their allocated duties. Contact details of an appropriate mentor will be provided prior to the Championships to assist with preparation for the event. Feedback and support will be provided to the recipient on their performance during the Championships.

How to apply for the Officials Scholarship Program

Applications can be submitted via the online application form:

[Officials Scholarship Online Application Form](#)

Applications close on Monday 19th February 2024.

How will Scholarship recipients be selected?

The Official's Scholarship Panel comprising SLSA representatives (including Senior Officials), will perform an objective evaluation of valid applications.

Applicants may be required to provide additional information or take part in an interview, if required by the panel.

If successful, all applicants must (*if not nominated already*) nominate for a role through the appointment process. Officials who have already nominated for a role, are most welcome to nominate for the scholarship program, providing eligibility is met.

Please note: there are very few positions still available for this year's Aussies so you would need to either apply for an available position (having checked the latest appointments) or have already been appointed.

Successful applicants will be notified by Friday 23rd February 2024.

More information

For more information about the Officials Scholarship Program, please contact Narelle Duggan – narelle.duggan@sls.com.au