



Circular

Title:	SLSA Surf Sports Manual (SSM) Minor Amendments and Clarifications
Document ID:	Circular 56/23-24
Date:	14 March 2024
Department:	Sport
Audience:	State/Territory Surf Sport Directors and Managers, Club Secretaries & Presidents, Branches, Officials, Coaches and Competitors
Summary:	This Circular details a small number of minor amendments to the SSM plus clarifications and edits to assist with interpretation of the sport rules.

Detail

The Sports Advisory Committee, Chair of Sport and Sports Manager has considered and a number of minor amendments to the SSM. In addition, a number of clarifications and edits have also been made to the SSM to assist with interpretation of the sport rules.

The updated SSM Manual may accessed at: www.sls.com.au/ssm

In addition, the updated source PDF version of the SLISA's 37th Edition Surf Sports Manual (March 2024 Revised Edition) is located within the [Members Area Document Library](#). The amended SSM comes into immediate effect.

For ease of reference the changes include:

Surf Risk Rating

The note referencing the term Surf Hazard Rating (SHR) in Section 1.4 has been replaced with the term Surf Risk Rating (SRR) as this system is now used for all competition disciplines including Surf Boats.

Sample Safety Guide Worksheet Contingency Considerations

Inclusive/Adaptive participants (formerly referenced as "Competitors with a Disability") have been added to Appendix A and Appendix E.

Handler Rules

A new section referencing handlers has been added to Section 2.3.14. As result the following section relating to Female/Male Only Events and Gender Guidelines has been renumbered as 2.13.15.

Note: In addition, the specific duties of handlers have been reviewed for each discipline i.e., IRBs (Section 3), Surf Belt (Section 4), Surf Boats (Section 5), Craft (Section 6), Multi Discipline (Section 8), and Pool Rescue Events (Section 11).

Caps

Section 2.5.2(c) has been amended to remove the word "inadvertently" from the clause relating to the displacement or loss of a cap. However, the advisory note under this clause has been retained i.e., it is advisable not to remove a cap (or helmet) until advised by an official.

Seeding of Competitors

Section 2.13 has been redrafted to assist with the effective conduct of competition at all levels.

Competitor Limitations in Events

Competitor limitations detailed in Section 2.14 have been reviewed and changes made for the Beach Run, Beach Run Relay, Ironman/Ironwoman and Ocean M Eliminator, and Beach Flag events.

Start of Events

The start of events detailed in Section 2.19 has been redrafted to better define the start and to reorder the clauses describing the start process. In addition, it is clarified that the one start rule applies to competitors in the U12 and older age competitions and that a one false start rule applies for competitors in U8 to U11 years events.



Transgender/Gender-Diverse Inclusion Guidelines

The Section 2 heading and wording in Appendix A has been amended to read “Transgender/Gender-Diverse Inclusion Athlete Guidelines”. This is more consistent with the current Sport Integrity Australia terminology.

IRB

The rules for the positioning of the IRB at the start of events detailed in Section 3.3.3.3(c) have been amended to be consistent with the boat change-over rules for IRB teams and relay events as detailed in Section 3.3.3.7(a). Resultant from this the definition of the “correct IRB starting position” detailed in Section 3.3.3.2(e) now includes handlers being permitted to place the IRB at an angle to assist the driver and/or crew entry if it is safe to do so. Also refer to Rule 3.3.3.3(c) below.

In Section 3.3.4.1(n) it has been clarified that in the Rescue Tube event the patient is to maintain a secure grip on the rescue tube rope in addition to the lanyard/harness so that the rope does not snag on anything within the IRB on the return journey to the beach. Disqualification Code D10 has also been amended to reflect this clarification.

Surf Teams

In Section 4.3.1(a) it has been clarified that the number of members in each Masters Surf Team is three competitors. In addition, the note, clarifying that team numbers has been moved from Section 4.3.1(d) to 4.3.1(a).

Surf Boats

References to the term Surf Hazard Rating (SHR) in Sections 5.1(a, f, and g) have been replaced with the term Surf Risk Rating (SRR) as this system is now used for all competition disciplines including Surf Boats.

The Annexure A Surf Boat-Robin point score has been amended. In addition, the Round-Robin countback procedures have been amended to determine a finish result and/or progression to further rounds of competition in the event of tied scores.

Board Races

A note has been added in Section 6.4.2(h) for alternate Board Race finishes and for Board Relays detailing the provision of handlers and their duties.

The diagram for the U11-U13 Surf Board Relay Race shown at Section 6.5, Figure 29 has been replaced. The board course diagram now shows as a full string line of buoys plus a single apex board turning buoy (i.e., the course buoys are now consistent with the individual U11- U13 Surf Board Race).

Ironman/woman, and Ocean M Eliminator Events

Section 8.2.4.3 has been amended to increase the number of starters in events to 24 and related numbers to be qualify for each subsequent elimination race.

Ocean M and Ocean M Lifesaver Relay

To bring the SSM into line with the International Lifesaving (ILS) events, the order of legs in these events have been prescribed as being swim, board, and ski (with run first in the Ocean M Lifesaver Relay) unless otherwise advised by the Competition Organiser/ Committee. Sections 8.5.1(c) and 8.5.1(d).

Four Person Taplin Relay, Lifesaver Relay, Cameron Relay

In Sections 8.3.4(c), 8.4.3(e) and 8.7.3(a) it has been clarified that the porpoising/duck diving technique of runners after tagging an incoming competitor may include an above water arm action as part of the movement.

The diagram for the U11-U13 Surf Board Relay Race shown at Section 8.7, Figure 40 has been replaced. The board course diagram now shows as a full string line of buoys plus a single apex board turning buoy (i.e., the course buoys are now consistent with the individual U11- U13 Ironman/woman events).



Beach Flags

A correction has been made in Section 9.4.6 (d) to the wording for beach flag events to clarify that the one start rule applies to competitors in the U12 and older age competitions and that one false start per run through is permitted in beach flags for the ages U8 to U11 years.

Pool Events

A number of clarifications have been made to Sections 11.4.5 and 11.4.6 in relation to the Patient Tow with Fins, and the 4x25m Brick Carry events to ensure consistency with the ILS rules for similar events.

Protests and Appeals

Two clarifications have been made to Section 14.3.2 (a) and (b). A new point has been added clarifying the wording in Section 2 that there can be no protest or appeal against the start decision of the Starter or Referee. Further, it is clarified that while there can be no protest or appeal against a finish judge's decision, officials, upon request and at their discretion, may review their order of finish decisions before finalising a result.

In addition, a note has been added to Section 14.3.3 (a) clarifying that there is no fee payable when protesting a decision or if the Referee (or their delegate) refers a protest directly to the Appeals Committee without first making a decision on the protest.

Further Information

Should further information be required please contact the SLS events team: events@slsa.asn.au