



IRB Course Review - Key Changes Summary

The IRB Crew (IRBC) and Silver Medallion IRB Driver (SMIRBD) resources and 8th edition Powercraft Training Manual were reviewed as part of the ongoing SLSA course review schedule which ensures that national resources continue to achieve their intended purpose, meet best practice, and align with applicable units of competency (UOC).

The resources will supersede the current resources as of 1st July 2024, when they will be made available on the SLS Members Area, and the eLearning and Manual will be made live. At the same time, the current award resources will be removed.

1. Training Manual

It was agreed at an early stage in the review process by the Powercraft Advisory Group that the RWC components currently within the 8th edition Powercraft Training Manual would not be included in the new manual. Instead, a separate 1st edition RWC Training Manual will be developed as part of the RWC course review scheduled for the 2024/25 season (release 2025/26).

The 9th edition IRB Training Manual is available as a digital manual in Manula; where the PSAR35 and others are located. You can access this [here](#) and it is free for all members.

The manual layout has changed from the previous manual and there is now an increased emphasis on safety and wellbeing.

2. eLearning

There are 10 compulsory eLearning modules that have been introduced for both courses. This provides flexible learning options for members by allowing them to complete this in their own time and introduce them to the information prior to the practical skills sessions. The eLearning includes the use of branching scenarios which puts concepts into realistic situations which the candidate may be faced with during their duties.

3. Instructional Videos

Instructional videos have been developed and form part of the eLearning and the Training Manual. These videos will ensure that techniques are taught consistently, are nationally communicated and candidates can see the techniques they will be required to practice and demonstrate before getting in the water.

4. Assessment

The IRBC course contains 16 multiple choice theory questions, and the SMIRBD contains 26 multiple choice theory questions. These are contained within the eLearning and need to be completed at the conclusion of the online modules.

Practical skills will be assessed through third party reports, observations, and scenarios. Assessments have been mapped to meet the requirements of the aligned units of competency.



Candidates will now also be assessed in safely exiting and re-entering the IRB and responding in an emergency such as a capsized IRB. All candidates will need to complete a risk assessment (either electronically or paper based).

Prior to assessment IRBC course candidates should complete:

- Eight (8) nominal hours of practical demonstration, where the candidate is actively performing tasks as a trainee IRB Crewperson;
 - With at least 50% of the nominal hours to be sea time;
 - Over at least three (3) separate days;
 - In a variety of conditions.

Prior to assessment SMIRBD course candidates should complete:

- Twelve (12) nominal hours of practical demonstration, where the candidate is actively performing tasks as a trainee IRB Driver;
 - With at least 50% of the nominal hours to be sea time;
 - Over at least five (5) separate days;
 - In a variety of conditions.

National Course Resources

Course resources include the following documents:

- 9th Edition IRB Training Manual
- Delivery and Assessment Guide (including the introduction of a drill sheet)
- Assessment Portfolio
- PowerPoint Presentation (introduction session only)
- Instructional videos (embedded into eLearning and the Training Manual)

There is no longer a Learners Guide due to the introduction of eLearning.

New Techniques

- 1 o'clock angle for wave negotiation
- 2 o'clock angle for all patient pick-ups
- Introduction of the Approach, Contact, Hold, Pick-up principles for all patient pick ups
- New method of performing a conscious/ assisted patient pick-up
- Alternate option to perform a bounce pick up
- New crewing positions with the addition of the rise, standing and emergency punch position
- Modification of the locked-in position.

Additional Key Changes

- One specification IRB hull and motors with a surf kit have been used throughout all resources.



- There has been a realignment of terminology throughout the manual which now mirrors the naming conventions in the technical specification document for the one specification IRB.
 - The *pontoon* is now referred to as the *buoyancy tube*
 - *Carry handles* are now called *lifting handles* (with the three handles named)
 - *Crew and Driver handles* are now *operator handles*
 - *Pontoon rope* is now called the *lifelines*
 - *Rollover rope* is now called the *re-righting rope*
- SMEAC is now referred to as SMEACS to align with new incident management protocols
- The Powercraft code of conduct has been updated. This is no longer written from a driver perspective with the second S (in the SLSC acronym) having changed from SAR to SOPs

Course Entry Requirements

As outlined in Circular 33/17-18, the SLSA Board resolved that the IRBC award can be undertaken alongside the Bronze Medallion. This has been included for those who utilise this pathway for their members. Please refer to the circular for more information. All other entry requirements remain the same.

For SMIRBD, the completion of the *Entry Requirement Confirmation* form verifying a minimum of eight operational hours as a qualified crewperson or similar experience is required prior to commencement. All other entry requirements remain the same.

Skills Maintenance Requirements

The addition of the option to demonstrate at least three hours of sea time (IRBC) or five hours of sea time (SMIRBD) over the previous 12 months; and undertake a familiarisation and demonstration of any pre-season updates relevant to the award in lieu of performing an annual skills maintenance check

IRB TAF Professional Development Requirements

To ensure that all IRB TAFs are comfortable with the new resources and techniques they will need to complete the following professional development to be re-endorsed as an IRB TAF.

1. Complete the IRB TAF eLearning covering the key content updates. This covers two (2) modules of the eLearning for both IRBC and SMIRBD: the operations and rescue modules. While TAFs are encouraged to review all the eLearning content, this is not mandatory.
2. Attend the TAF Professional Development Webinar to go through the key changes and rational on Thursday 4th July at 7pm AEST or Tuesday 16th July at 7pm AEST. If you are unable to attend on these date, you can watch the recording later.
3. Complete a practical skills session delivered by your state/ territory where you will have the opportunity to practice the new techniques both on land and in the water.