



Circular 3869

Released 19 November 2024



2025 NSW Surf Life Saving Lifesaving Championships, proudly presented by Your local club Entry Circular

Attention: Club Presidents, Club Secretaries, Club Competition Officers, Team Managers, Coaches and Competitors.

Actioned by: Persons responsible for club entries.

Date: 19 November 2024

Contact: Belinda Cooper - Competitions & Event Staging Coordinator
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<p>Summary:</p>	<p>This circular outlines the requirements and procedures to enter the 2025 NSW Lifesaving Championships. Lifesaving events to be held at Freshwater SLSC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Friday 28th February: U14, U15 & U17 Champion Lifesaver ○ Saturday 1st March: U19, Open & Masters Champion Lifesaver ○ Sunday 2nd March: Champion Patrol ○ Saturday 8th March: U17 & U19 First Aid ○ Sunday 9th March: U15 & Open First Aid
<p>Action:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Complete and submit entries via SEMS by 11pm Wednesday 22nd January 2025. ○ Online late entries close 11pm Sunday 9th February 2025 (<i>late fees apply</i>). ○ NOTE: No late entries will be accepted after this date including at the Championships (excludes changes to team events)* ○ SLSNSW will issue invoices to all Clubs after online late entries close. Do not pay until the invoice is received. ○ Complete the Team Manager Declaration Form by 11pm Sunday 9th February 2025.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The 2025 NSW Lifesaving Championships attracts competitors from the U14's to Masters age groups, providing the opportunity for surf lifesavers to unite over multiple days, showcasing one of Australia's most iconic volunteer movements, Surf Life Saving.

This year Freshwater SLSC will host the Lifesaving events from Friday 28th February – Sunday 9th March 2025. Queenscliff SLSC will host the Age, Youth, Opens, Masters, and Surf Boat competitions.

This document outlines some key information relating to the 2025 NSW Lifesaving Championships. Please note that SLSNSW may issue subsequent bulletins, memos or circulars which may supersede information provided in this Circular.

2. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Reference is made to:

- The current [37th Edition Surf Sports Manual \(Revised July 2024\)](#)
- The proficiency competition requirements for 2023/24 Season:
 - [Memo – SLSNSW 5.04 Patrol Hour Exemption Process](#)

3. GENERAL CONTENT

Entries are to be completed online using the [Sports Events Management System \(SEMS\)](#).

- Entries open **Friday 22nd November 2024**.
- Entries close **11.00pm Wednesday 22nd January 2025**.
- Online late entries close **11.00pm Sunday 9th February 2025** (late fees apply).
- **No late entries will be accepted after this date including at the Championships (excludes changes to team events*)**.
- SLSNSW will send invoices to all Clubs after the event. Do not pay until the invoice is received.
- Clubs are reminded to complete the [Team Manager Declaration Form](#) by **11.00pm Sunday 9th February 2025**. This Team Manager Declaration Form includes Clubs logging their team manager contact details. This is to ensure all event communications such as changes to timetables, re-locations etc. can be sent via SMS and Email. Details about the Team Managers meeting format will be available soon.
- **Note: Clubs are reminded to check all entries prior to the close of late entries on Sunday 9th February 2025 for any omissions and errors.**
 - **Note: SLSNSW will only respond to calls or emails from Team Managers/Club Registrars regarding entries. SLSNSW will be reverting all calls and emails from individual members back to clubs.**

4. NSW LIFESAVING CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION COMMITTEE

The NSW Lifesaving Competition Committee (CC) will direct all matters relating to the actual conduct of the competition. The CC may (subject to the rules in the Surf Sports Manual [37th Edition] and event rules, any subsequent amending bulletins, and this Circular) postpone, cancel and/or alter any or all Championship events, and alter the venue of the competition.

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Competition Committee Chairperson	Darren Moore
SLSNSW Director of Surf Sports	Donald van Keimpema OAM
Championship Referee	Adrienne Lowe
Local Organising Committee Representative	Richard Hawtin
Safety & Emergency Management Coordinator (SEMC)	TBC
SLSNSW Chief Operating Officer	Phil Ayres
SLSNSW Sport Manager	Jim Pinnington

5. NSW LIFESAVING SAFETY EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

The NSW Championships Safety Emergency Committee (SEC) will direct all matters relating to the safety of the competition.

A review of the following will be conducted at each SEC meeting:

- a) Risk Assessment of the current conditions of the beach, environmental risks and back of beach area.
- b) Injury management statistics.
- c) Current weather predictions.
- d) Competition statistics.

The SEC may consult and seek advice from appropriate officials, athletes and other personnel on local weather, surf conditions and safety issues when required. The SEC will then advise the CC.

The SEC is responsible for enacting the contingency plan for this event. The Safety Operations Manual developed for this event is to be applied by the Referee when considering and making recommendations, in consultation with relevant emergency services and lifesaving authorities.

Safety & Emergency Management Coordinator (Chair)	TBC
Council Representative/Lifeguard	Steve Dowman
Deputy Carnival Referee	Steve Haggett
Powercraft Coordinator	Adrian Hill
First Aid Coordinator	Australian Event Safety Services
SLSNSW Competitions & Event Staging Coordinator	Belinda Cooper

6. VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS

6.1 Officials

A quota system for clubs to provide Accredited Officials based upon the number of competitors entered (not the number actually competing) is in place for the 2025 NSW Lifesaving Championships. Online late entries will be added to the total number of competitors entered to ensure that the club's obligation is satisfied.

Officials, as a minimum requirement, must have a current Core Official accreditation. The Lifesaving Championships will also accept officials who are only ARTC qualified.

Champion Lifesaver Quota

Competitors Entered	Officials Required
0 to 3	1 Official
4 to 6	2 Officials
7 to 9	3 Officials
10 to 12	4 Officials
13 to 15	5 Officials
16 to 18	6 Officials
19 to 21	7 Officials
21 and above	8 Officials

Champion Patrol Quota

Teams Entered	Officials Required
1 team	1 Official
2 teams	2 Officials
3-4 teams	3 Officials
5-6 teams	4 Officials

First Aid Competition Quota

Teams Entered	Officials Required
1 team	1 Official
2 teams	2 Officials
3 teams	3 Officials
4 teams	4 Officials
5-6 teams	5 Officials

If sufficient officials are not provided by clubs according to the provided quotas, SLSNSW will stand down all athletes from that club from competition until such time as the required officials are present.

Please be aware the quota system is based on the number of competitors entered into the event, not the number of competitors starting. Clubs are reminded before entering their competitors into the entry system that they **MUST** meet the officials' quota.

Officials undertaking duties to meet club's quotas, who have not already been appointed, will be requested to report to the Referee at Freshwater SLSC by 7:00am each morning of competition.

It is essential that clubs work with their officials to ensure that they (the officials) understand the effect on the championships if they do not communicate with SLSNSW regarding non-attendance or changes to the Official's Appointments. Clubs should check that officials appointed are attending on the days that they are appointed for, as this could have a significant impact on whether athletes can compete or not.

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6.2 Patients

- For Champion Lifesaver: One (1) Patient per Club will be required.
- For First Aid Events: One (1) Patient per Team will be required.
- For Champion Patrol: One (1) Patient per Team will be required.
- Note: Patients DO NOT replace Officials. Officials Quota must be maintained.
- Must be current financial SLS members and be Bronze or SRC proficient.

6.3 Commitment to Child Safety

Child Safe Awareness Course

All coaches and officials are required to complete the SLS Child Safe Awareness course as part of their accreditation and re-accreditation.

The course can be accessed via the member area eLearning platform and will automatically be recorded in SurfGuard upon completion.

Working with Children Checks

Coaches, officials and boat sweeps must have a [Working with Children Check \(WWCC\)](#) if they volunteer (or are likely to volunteer) with members under the age of 18 for more than 5 days in a calendar year.

Working with Children Check numbers must be provided to clubs who will verify through the Office of the Children's Guardian and update SurfGuard with current WWCC information.

Clubs and Team Managers are reminded to use the [SLSNSW Child Safe Activity Guide](#) to help plan their touring team requirements when members under the age of 18 are involved.

7. ELIGIBILITY TO COMPETE

For clubs to be eligible for Championship Competition, clubs must have their Life Saving Agreement (LSA) in place for competitors to represent that club.

All entrants must meet SLSNSW award, patrol, and proficiency requirements as per the 2024/25 proficiency competition requirements and any other subsequent bulletins issued.

Reference is made to the following documents which apply to this event:

- SLSA Policy 1.02 – Use of SLSA Equipment
- [Memo – SLSNSW 5.04 Patrol Hour Exemption Process](#)

Late Proficiency and Exemption Requests are required to be endorsed by both Club and Branch (on letter head) before being received by SLSNSW. This process is detailed in the [SLSNSW 5.04 Patrol Exemption Process](#) and must be followed. All exemption requests **MUST** be received no later than **Sunday 9th February 2025**. **No requests will be accepted after this date.**

8. ENTRY FEES

The entry fee per competitor at the 2025 NSW Lifesaving Championships is **\$79.37** (incl. GST).

SLNSW will issue invoices to all Clubs after the event. Clubs must not pay their entry fees prior to the Championships. Payment terms are as stated on the invoice.

Entry fees are not refundable if members do not take part in these Championships, or if events or the entire Championships are cancelled.

Late Entries:

All online late entries received after the initial closing date will incur a late fee of **\$111.50** (incl. GST).

No individual late entries will be taken at the Administration Centre. Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of SLNSW e.g., a competitor must be a team member replacing another team member in a team already entered. It is suggested that Clubs still enter members if there is a chance that they will be competing and then withdraw their entry prior to the close of late entry.

Additional Events:

When additional events are entered for competitors (individual and / or team) after normal entries close, a fee of **\$21.07** (incl. GST) per event / per competitor will be charged. Note: **The competitor must be already entered into the Carnival.**

Additional individual event entries must be received at the Event Administration Centre at Freshwater SLSC by no later than 7am on the day of competition.

Team Substitutions:

No late fees will be charged for team event substitutions if the substitute is already entered into the carnival.

9. ENTRIES – SEMS

Club entries for the 2025 NSW Lifesaving Championships must be submitted online **DIRECTLY** into [SEMS](#).

Online entries will close at **11pm on Wednesday 22nd January 2025.**

Online late entries will close at **11pm on Sunday 9th February 2025.**

Please refer to the [SEMS User Guide](#) and [SEMS Club Entry Webinar](#), before and during the entry process.

Note: NO reserves are to be entered into SEMS for team events.

10. SCHEDULED EVENTS

The following events shall be conducted in their respective age group areas in accordance with the requirements of the current edition of the SLSA Surf Sports Manual and amending Bulletins and Circulars.

10.1 Lifesaving Events

The following events shall be conducted in their respective age group areas in accordance with the requirements of the current edition of the [SLSA Surf Sports Manual \(37th Edition\)](#) and amending Bulletins and Circulars.

Lifesaving Events	
Open First Aid Competition [3]	Under 19 First Aid Competition [3]
Under 17 First Aid Competition [3]	Under 15 First Aid Competition [3]
Open Patrol Competition [2]	Under 17 Patrol Competition [2]
Open Male Champion Lifesaver [2]	Open Female Champion Lifesaver [2]



Under 19 Male Champion Lifesaver [2]
Under 17 Male Champion Lifesaver [2]
Under 15 Male Champion Lifesaver [2]
Under 14 Male Champion Lifesaver [2]
30-39 yrs Male Champion Lifesaver [2]
40-49 yrs Male Champion Lifesaver [2]
50-59 yrs Male Champion Lifesaver [2]
60+ yrs Male Champion Lifesaver [2]

Under 19 Female Champion Lifesaver [2]
Under 17 Female Champion Lifesaver [2]
Under 15 Female Champion Lifesaver [2]
Under 14 Female Champion Lifesaver [2]
30-39 yrs Female Champion Lifesaver [2]
40-49 yrs Female Champion Lifesaver [2]
50-59 yrs Female Champion Lifesaver [2]
60+ yrs Female Champion Lifesaver [2]

Competitors are permitted to enter and compete in one (1) age group only.

NOTE: First Aid Competitors may compete in their own age category and can also compete up one (1) age group if they have placed 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in their age category, i.e., this will only apply to U17's who may compete up in U19 **OR** Open, and U19 can compete up into Open category.

****The above events are restricted events for the Australian Championships and entry nominations for these events shall be submitted by SLSNSW. (NSW quotas shown in brackets [] after each event).**

10.2 Special Circumstances

Any competitor wishing to obtain special circumstances approval MUST supply documentation regarding their disability by close of entry nominations. Documentation will not be accepted during the carnival. For more information, please see Section 2.4(c) and Section 2.2.1(e) of the SLSA Surf Sports Manual 37th Edition.

Please supply Surf Sports SLSNSW with the required information and documentation at statechampionships@surflifesaving.com.au

10.3 Handlers

Handlers must be current financial members of a SLSNSW club. Those who handle for a competitor who are not financial members of a SLSNSW club will not be covered under the SLSNSW Insurance Policy. Handlers are required to wear a high visibility vest (or at the discretion of the referee; may wear a high visibility bib/jacket type garment).

11. GENERAL INFORMATION

11.1 Championship Point Score

A point score will be kept for the highest overall club point score for each respective Championships.

11.2 Results

In the case of a dead heat for positions 1st, 2nd, or 3rd each competitor will receive a respective medal and the following medal allocations will apply:

- Dead heat for 1st place: Two (2) gold and one (1) bronze will be awarded (no silver will be awarded).
- One competitor in 1st place, dead heat for 2nd place: One (1) gold and two (2) silver will be awarded (no bronze will be awarded).
- One competitor in 1st place, one competitor in 2nd place, dead heat for 3rd place: One (1) gold, one (1) silver and two (2) bronze will be awarded.

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- Dead heat for 1st place and dead heat for 2nd place: Two (2) gold and two (2) bronze will be awarded (no silver will be awarded).

12. SCRUTINEERING

Whilst it is encouraged that Members and clubs have their craft and equipment inspected regularly by an accredited scrutineer/s, all surf craft carrying manufacturers compliance decals and/or a SLSA endorsed sticker should guarantee the craft meets SLSA standards and therefore, does not require a Scrutineering Sticker.

Random scrutineering of craft and equipment will take place throughout the duration of the carnival. No craft or equipment is exempt from random scrutineering as deemed appropriate by scrutineers. Finalists may be required to have their craft scrutineered prior to racing in event finals. Scrutineering will be available for all members at no cost however members should expect to experience significant delays.

13. SPONSOR RASH VESTS

All competitors entered into the 2025 NSW Lifesaving Championships will be issued an official high visibility pink competition lycra vest. It is a requirement for all competitors to wear the supplied Lycra vest in competition at the 2025 NSW Lifesaving Championships. See SSM (12.1, d, xviii).

Clubs must ensure that competitors wear the approved lycra vest in competition, no other branded vests may be worn. Competitors may be requested to wear the approved lycra vest as part of medal presentations.

14. MEDIA AND PHOTOGRAPHY

14.1 Drones

For the safety of competitors, officials, and spectators SLSNSW prohibits the use of drones or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) at these Championships by members and/or public. SLSNSW and its telecast production contractors will be operating UAVs for both surveillance and capturing of event footage.

14.2 Photography

As a condition of entry, all competitors agree to have photos and video taken during the Championships used for promotional material by SLSNSW.

SLSNSW will not be issuing media/photography accreditation to team members or Clubs. Professional photographers will be in attendance and material will be available via social media and to Clubs on request. Clubs are welcome to take photographs from outside the competition area.

Go Pro's may only be used within the competition area on approved fittings and fixtures as set out in relevant SLSA bulletins.

14.3 Media Statements

No competitor, team manager, official or spokesperson for a club shall make media statements which could bring the State Championships, its sponsors, or officials into controversy or disrepute. Such statements will be a breach of policy and could potentially result in sanctions against members involved. Please note that statements to the media regarding the State Championships will be made by authorised spokespeople.

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15. HEALTH & WELLBEING

The welfare of all competitors is of paramount importance and athletes or their parent / guardian in the case of underage competitors should seek advice prior to the competition from a qualified professional for any health concerns if required.

Any competitor or official who suffers illness or injury prior to or at the 2023 State Championships **MUST** seek medical clearance before resuming their normal activities which includes training and competition.

In addition, SLSNSW may, at its sole discretion, require a competitor and/or official to be assessed for physical and/or psychological fitness to participate in the competition. This ensures the safety and wellbeing of the athlete concerned and fellow competitors while also ensuring all parties and Surf Life Saving NSW are not placed at risk.

16. ANTI-DOPING & MATCH FIXING

It is strongly recommended that all Team Managers complete both the [Sport Integrity Australia](#) Level 1 Anti-Doping and Match Fixing e-learning courses. Both courses are free of charge and provide an opportunity to develop a knowledge and understanding of anti-doping and match fixing in sport. Moving forward, SLSNSW strongly believe this is a great addition to the structure of any touring team and/or squad and is vital for elite competition and athlete development.

SLSNSW fully supports the new SLSA Anti-Doping and Match Fixing policies (SLSA Members Area > Library > Governance > SLSA > Policy 5.1.1 & 5.02). Following the completion of each course, a completion certificate/email must be forwarded to Surf Sports surfsports@surflifesaving.com.au. SLSNSW have organised with SLSA to have these courses uploaded on to SurfGuard as an award. Once completed, the courses do not have to be completed again, unless there is an update in information from the organisations. If anyone has previously completed either course, proof must be sent through to Surf Sports in order to be recognised.

For further information regarding the courses please contact Surf Sports, on (02) 9471 8000 or surfsports@surflifesaving.com.au

17. BEHAVIOUR/MISCONDUCT

Any misconduct while at the Championships will not be tolerated. This includes the days leading into competition and any official social activities following the conclusion of the Championship. Offending members risk disciplinary action against both themselves, and their Clubs.

Parents or supporters, particularly those appointed as Officials, are not allowed to assist competitors during the competition. Any breach of this policy may result in the disqualification of an athlete from the remainder of the competition and is at the discretion of the Referee.

Parents or supporters must also understand that they are role models for young athletes. Clubs should make sure that parents and supporters understand that abuse of officials, other competitors or clubs will not be tolerated. Team Managers and Club Presidents should ensure that their parents and supporters understand their role at this competition and that expected standards of behaviour are clearly explained.

Please refer to 37th Surf Sports Manual sections 2.27 SLSA Code of Behaviour and 2.28 Abuse/Inappropriate Behaviour and the Policy 6.05 – Member Protection Policy (available online at Members Area > Library > Governance > Policy > SLSA > Policy 6.05).

18. PROTESTS

All protests shall be lodged with the appropriate Liaison Officer in each Area in accordance with the procedures set down in the current edition of the SLSA Surf Sports Manual and any subsequent bulletins and shall identify the specific sections/clauses in the Competition Manual and or event rules upon which the protest is based.

Protest Forms are available from the Liaison Officer. An “Appeals Fee” of \$110.00 must accompany all documentation when the process is officially submitted to the Appeals Committee for adjudication.

19. STACK TEAM APP

Important Information and updates will be communicated by Stack Team App.

Stack Team App will be used in the lead up to and throughout the 2025 NSW Surf Life Saving Championships as a platform to communicate information, documentation and updates including timetable changes to Team Managers and Competitors.

It is highly recommended that everyone planning to attend any NSW State Championships event download Stack Team App when Entry Nominations are submitted. If you cannot download the App onto a phone or tablet, you may also access Stack Team App in a web browser on any computer.

To register for these event updates please follow the below instructions:

- 1) Download the “Stack Team App” application from the App Store or Google Play .
- 2) Log in / Sign up to receive live event notifications.
- 3) Once logged in search “2025 NSW State Championships”.
- 4) Click the “Become a member of this Stack Team App” icon at the top of the screen then select the appropriate group you wish to receive notifications from.

By joining the event and turning on your mobile app notifications, you will receive notifications and email updates as they are posted, ensuring you never miss any important information.

PLEASE NOTE: It is an individual’s/Club’s obligation (SSM 2.17) to ensure they listen for announcements and marshalling. Not receiving a Stack Team App update is not an excuse for missing events.

20. NORTHERN BEACHES COUNCIL

Northern Beaches Council is thrilled to welcome the NSW Surf Life Saving State Championships to Queenscliff in 2025.

The Northern Beaches offers an array of ocean beaches, coastal rock pools, a 36km coastal walkway, five (5) aquatic reserves brimming with sea life, national surfing reserves at Manly-Freshwater and Narrabeen, and so much more.

With an unlimited list of things to see, do, eat, drink, and buy, you’re going to want to stay for a few days! Choose from 5-star hotels, holiday apartments, B&Bs or camping.

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While you are here, enjoy delicious food and drinks and outdoor adventures. If you need a steer in the right direction, head to our online visitor information centre, Hello Manly at hellomanly.com.au



21. LIFESAVING CHAMPIONSHIPS ENTRY AND PAYMENT PROCESS

