



## Circular 3889

28 March 2025

# 2025 Sharkskin NSW IRB Premiership & State Championship Entry Circular

**Attention:** Club Presidents, Club Secretaries, Club Competition Officers, Team Managers, Coaches, Competitors, Branch Directors of Surf Sports, Branch Presidents, and Branch CEO/Secretaries.

**Actioned by:** Persons responsible for club entries.

**Date:** 28 March 2025

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<b>Summary</b>	This circular provides information for clubs regarding the 2025 Sharkskin NSW IRB Premiership Rounds and 2025 Sharkskin NSW IRB Championship.
<b>Action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>The IRB Training Hour requirement is a MEMBER AWARD in Surfguard. This will be required to be endorsed every season and will remove the need to submit manual training logs. Please refer to <b>Section 13</b> for further details.</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Complete the <a href="#">Team Managers Registration Form</a> by Sunday 20 April 2025 to receive important information.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Entries open 5pm, 11 April 2025. Complete and submit event competitor entries via SEMS by:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Round 1 – Ocean Beach SLSC: 1pm Friday 25 April 2025</li> <li>• Round 2 – Fingal Beach SLSC: 1pm Friday 9 May 2025</li> <li>• Round 3 – Avoca SLSC: 1pm Friday 23 May 2025</li> <li>• Round 4 – Warilla-Barrack Point SLSC: 1pm Friday 6 June 2025</li> <li>• State Championships – Cape Hawke SLSC: 1pm Friday 20 June 2025</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Complete the <a href="#">SR Numbers Form</a> by Sunday 27 April 2025.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Complete <a href="#">Round 1 IRB Premiership Scrutineering Form</a> by Sunday 27 April 2025.</li> </ul>

	<input type="checkbox"/> Select your Club’s <a href="#">Time Preference for Scrutineering Session</a> for IRB State Championships by Sunday 1 June 2025. For more details see <a href="#">Scrutineering</a>
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## 1 IRB Entries, Closing Dates and Time

EVENT	VENUE	EVENT DATES	ENTRIES CLOSE
Round 1	Ocean Beach	2 - 4 May	1pm Friday 25 April
Round 2	Fingal Beach	17 - 18 May	1pm Friday 9 May
Round 3	Avoca Beach	31 May - 1 June	1pm Friday 23 May
Round 4	Warilla- Barrack Point	14 - 15 June	1pm Friday 6 June
2025 State Championships	Cape Hawke	27 - 29 June	1pm Friday 20 June

Please note there are strictly **no late entries**. This is to ensure that competition draws can be completed and circulated in advance.

## 2 Communication

### 2.1 Team Managers and Officials Briefing – Compulsory

This briefing will be held on Friday 2 May 2025 at 5:00pm in the host surf club and will cover event rules, program, revised rules of competition and a Q & A.

Further details on the exact location of the briefing will be confirmed in the final event information.

### 2.2 Memos and Circulars

Memos and documentation will be available through Surf Sports Weekly and on the [2025 Sharkskin NSW IRB Premiership Series Webpage](#).

Final event information will be released along with the first round draws at least two days prior to competition with updates, as necessary.

### 2.3 Stack Team App

Closer to and during the competitions, Stack Team App will also be utilised to deliver important information and updates, including timetable changes to Team Managers, Competitors and Officials.

It is highly recommended that everyone planning to attend any IRB event download Stack Team App when entries 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 Sharkskin NSW IRB Series**”
4. Click the “Become a member of this Stack Team App” icon at the top of the screen then select the “Competitors” group. There will also be an “Officials” group and a closed “Team Managers” group.

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.

## 3 Official Quota

To support the on-going delivery and development of IRB competition, a quota will be continued in 2025 based on a Clubs’ individual entries per Round/Championship to grow the number of IRB Technical Officials.

Clubs without sufficient currently accredited officials are advised that members should be encouraged to complete the online Technical Officials course. The face-to-face assessments will be run during the Premiership.

Members who have completed the online course will count towards the quota for the Premiership, however, must be accredited to count for the State IRB Championships.

Competitors Entered	Minimum Officials Required
0 to 4	—
5 to 11	1 Official
12 to 19	2 Officials
20+	3 Officials

Officials must be currently accredited and a current financial member of the SLSC that you are officiating for during the 2024/25 season.

#### 4 Event List

The following events will be conducted during the 2025 Sharkskin NSW IRB Premiership and State Championships:

DIVISION	TUBE	MASS	TEAMS	RESCUE	RELAY*
Open Male	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Open Female	✓	✓	✓	✓	
U23 Male	✓	✓	✓	✓	
U23 Female	✓	✓	✓	✓	
35+ Male	✓	✓	✓	✓	
35+ Female	✓	✓	✓	✓	
45+ Open	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Rookie		✓		✓	
Open					✓

**Note: Relay does not contribute to Overall Club Premiership Point score. Relay may only be run if time/conditions permit.**

**Note: Unlike the Premiership, the Relay contributes to Overall State IRB Championship Point score. Relay may only be run if time / conditions permit.**

**\* Note: a minimum of 3 starters constitutes a race.**

#### 5 Entry Conditions

##### 5.1 Proficiency and Patrol Hours

Team Managers are responsible to ensure that competitors comply with the pre-requisites and entry requirements at the completion of close of entries. The club will be notified of any non-compliant competitors, and those competitors may be excluded from the event. To avoid any issues, Team Managers or the person completing the entries must check each competitor bronze proficiency, IRB Driver or Crew proficiencies and patrol hours prior to the close of entries. Handlers must also be entered in SEMS.

## 5.2 Quick Reference for Determining Minimum Age

Refer to the SSM for the full descriptions, provided here as a quick reference only.

POSITION:	SSM:	DESCRIPTION:
Driver	3.3.2.4, a, (i)	Be minimum age of 17 years of age as at the date of competition
Crewperson	3.3.2.4, b, (i)	Be minimum age of 16 years of age as at the date of competition
Patient	3.3.2.4, c, (i)	Be a minimum age of 15 years of age as at the date of competition and be a currently proficient Bronze Medallion holder and hold a proficient IRB crewpersons award
Handler	3.3.2.4, d, (i)	Be a minimum age of 15 years of age as at the date of competition and be a currently proficient Bronze Medallion holder and hold a proficient IRB crewpersons award

## 5.3 Quick Reference for Determining Age Groups

DIVISION	SSM:	DESCRIPTION:
All	2.3.2	For the purpose of determining an age group, all competitors must have a common birth date calculated as at midnight on 30th September each year, i.e. age at midnight on 30th September determines the competitor's age category (for individual events) in that competition season. (i.e. 24/25 Season)
U23	2.3.10	Members shall be eligible to contest the U23 division after attaining the minimum ages - refer to 3.3.2.4. Members shall be no older than 22 years of age as at the 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2024.
35+	2.3.13	(a) In Masters Team events, Masters may compete in the Open/Senior age group plus only one Masters Team age category in each event discipline conducted at a competition. (b) Masters Teams are permitted to compete only in their own Masters Team/crew age category in which their team/crew qualify by way of ages unless there are insufficient starters. In such cases the team may compete in the next youngest Masters Team age category.
45+	2.3.13	(c) Two Person Events: The team age is determined by the age of the younger competitor (d) 45+ category is classified 45+ Open. Any combination of male or female competitors.

## 6 Entry Limitations

IRB competition may be conducted in different categories of age, grade, and gender. Competitors are permitted to compete in multiple events in line with the rules stated in the Surf Sports Manual.

A driver and/or crew may compete in a particular event once e.g. a driver cannot compete in an event in one team as a driver and compete again in the same event as a driver or crewperson in a separate team. If eligible to compete in multiple grades or age categories, drivers and crewpersons may do so but may only compete in a particular event once e.g. open male rescue is a different

event to the under 23 male rescue. IRB patients are to be considered as gender neutral with respect to their participation in male and female IRB events. Patients may compete in any grade, age or gender category events but may only compete in a particular event once.

### 6.1 Entry Limitations – Premiership Rounds

Due to increasing participation numbers within the SLSNSW IRB Racing Competition, a limitation has been implemented this season, relevant to Premiership Rounds only.

A competitor may compete in a maximum of **eight (8)** events plus the IRB Relay at any one (1) Premiership Round event. This limitation applies to all competitors, including patients.

### 6.2 Entry Limitations – State Championships

Limitations for State Championships will be as outlined in the SSM. A competitor may compete in a maximum of twelve (12) events plus the IRB Relay at the State Championships. This limitation applies to all competitors, including patients.

### 6.3 Competitor Audits

All competitors will be audited after the close of entries to the Premiership Round and the State IRB Championships to ensure the compliance with relevant rules set out in the Surf Sports Manual (SSM), SLSA Policies (see appendix for a list of the most relevant) and this Entry Circular.

Team Managers shall refer specifically to the following sections of the SSM:

- 3.3.2.4 Competitor Pre-Requisites (a-e)
- 3.3.2.5 Entry Limitations (a-g)

All entrants must meet SLSNSW award and proficiency requirements. **It is a Clubs responsibility to check and ensure that all members comply.**

### 6.4 Rookie Category

**Please note: Rookie division is condition dependent.**

- The Rookie Category events are restricted to entry by IRB Drivers in their first season of IRB competition. This change is a result of a review of the IRB Review Committee.
- Rookie IRB Drivers are encouraged to utilise an experienced crewperson; however, a Rookie crewperson is also permissible.
- Rookie events will not contribute to the overall point score at any round/event.
- If you compete in Rookie Division as a Driver, you cannot compete in any other category/events (as a Driver)
- If you compete in the Rookie Division as a Crewperson or Patient, you can compete in any other division in the same events as long as it complies with 3.3.2.5 Entry Limitations (a-g).

### 6.5 45+ Category

- The 45+ Male and 45+ Female will be combined into one (1) category.
- This will be an 'Open' category with no gender limitations. Teams can be comprised of any combination of athletes; i.e.: two (2) Males, two (2) Females or one (1) Male and (1) Female.
- Category identified as 45+ Open.

## 6.6 Composite Teams

Composite teams will be considered in the Rookie division only. Requests must be received prior to entry close for Round 1 and must remain consistent across all rounds. These requests will be reviewed by the IRB Premiership Competition Committee prior to each event.

If you would like to apply for a composite team, please email [surfsports@surflifesaving.com.au](mailto:surfsports@surflifesaving.com.au) by Sunday 27 April 2025.

## 7 Entry Process

### 7.1 Sport Event Management System (SEMS)

Club entries to the 2025 Sharkskin IRB Premiership Rounds and Championship must be submitted using SEMS.

To be assigned SEMS functions the user must have an active Members Area log in account. If you have already been assigned access, please login to SEMS using your Members Area login details.

If you do not have access to SEMS, kindly complete a [SLSA Form49](#) requesting SEMS access and return completed form by logging a support ticket at <https://help.sls.com.au>, Fax or Post as per details at the top of the form.

Entries may be altered by clubs at any time up to the closing date of each round listed in this Circular.

For assistance with SEMS, please contact [sems@slsa.asn.au](mailto:sems@slsa.asn.au)

### 7.2 Team Names

Clubs that have more than one team in any event should **give each team a name** rather than a letter or number **for the duration of the Premiership**. Team names must be alpha characters only **and must not** contain numbers or non-alphanumeric characters such as exclamation marks or commas. This affects the reports generated impacts on the calculation of the point score. SLSNSW reserves the right to reject team names deemed offensive.

If a team composition is changed from round to round, it is asked that clubs use the same team names as the previous round. If a new team is created and that team would like to accumulate points from a previously named team, a new team name must be created and entered.

Team names must be suitable for publications and public facing documents. If in doubt, please contact SLSNSW for approval.

## 8 Finance

### 8.1 Competitor Entry Fee

The cost of entry per competitor is \$51.65 (incl. GST) for each of the Premiership Rounds and State IRB Championships. Members who are entered as handlers only are not required to pay an entry fee.

#### **LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**

The only entries accepted after the closing date will be for athletes replacing other athletes that have already been entered at that round.

Entry fees are **not** refundable if members withdraw or do not take part in these events due to illness (COVID included) or injury.



Please see [Refund Policy](#) of this document for more details regarding refunds in the event of cancellation/suspension or change of contingency location.

## 8.2 Invoicing

SLSNSW will forward an invoice to each club after the close of entries. Clubs will be able to view a summary of the fees that are due within SEMS. Please do not pay until the invoice is received.

## 9 Event Cancellation and/or Suspension

### 9.1 Background

SLSNSW always strives to deliver the best competition experiences for our membership, however, safety will remain the first priority, and some changes may be necessary. As has always been the case, weather, surf, or other weather conditions may also present safety concerns resulting in postponement or cancellation of events.

### 9.2 Go / No Go Dates

In order to reduce the impact of cancellations, a “Go” or “No Go” cancellation process will be in place. Approximately 72 hours prior to the commencement of the event, a review of conditions will be made by the Organising Committee, and a decision will be subsequently communicated to Clubs and Teams.

These decisions will be made with the best judgement based on the information available at the time. This may include, but will not be limited to:

- Bureau of Meteorology weather forecasts and warnings
- Advice from medical or safety personnel

The intent is to provide fair and timely communications to avoid undue costs/impact to members travelling to an event where it is subsequently cancelled **before** the scheduled competition start time. It is noted that some members will not be able to access refunds for accommodation and although beyond the control of SLSNSW this process aims to provide members with enough time to make alternative arrangements.

This builds on the standard risk assessment process in place and given that conditions change, there is still the possibility of cancellation or suspension of competition even after “Go” decision. The difference is the earlier notification where possible.

#### **Go Decision**

This refers to the event going ahead as per plan and/or with amendments to the procedure in place. A Go Decision is determined by the organisers being confident as at the specified Go / No Go date & time, that the event is able to start safely with a likeliness of completion within the scheduled timeframe.

Amendments to the program of events will be made by the respective Referee and Deputy Referee closer to the event and may include changes to schedule of events, including cancellation of some events or change of event location.

#### **No Go Decision**

This refers to the event not going ahead as per plan. A No Go Decision is determined by the Organising Committee having a low confidence in the event starting and/or reduced likeness of

completion within the scheduled timeframe, due to weather, surf, and other environmental conditions and other information available at the time of the Organising Committee meeting.

This does not preclude SLSNSW from making a decision that is in the best interest of the event and the safety of event attendees.

### 9.3 Refund Policy

- a) No refunds for competition withdrawals or did not compete.
- b) No refunds in the event a **Go Decision** is made and subsequently competition is suspended or postponed.
- c) If a **No-Go Decision** is made:
  - o Premiership Rounds
    - i. Entry fees in that specific Round will be carried over to the Back Up Round only (if available).
    - ii. If a backup round is unavailable, 75% of the fees of the affected round(s) will be credited to the Club (invoice will be reversed and fees paid will be credited). 25% will be retained for administration costs.
  - o State Championships
    - i. 75% of the fees will be credited to the Club (invoice will be reversed and fees paid will be credited). 25% will be retained for administration costs.

**Disclaimer: This policy is intended as a guideline for competitors, officials and spectators when making their accommodation and travel plans and/or taking time off work. It is the responsibility of competitors, officials, and spectators to investigate their own personal situation and potential financial consequences and make their own decisions as to whether they wish to attend the Championships.**

## 10 Point Score

### 10.1 Premiership Series Point Score

Points will be awarded from 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> in each event point score:

(1<sup>st</sup> = 10 points | 2<sup>nd</sup> = 8 points | 3<sup>rd</sup> = 6 points | 4<sup>th</sup> = 5 points | 5<sup>th</sup> = 4 points | 6<sup>th</sup> = 3 points | 7<sup>th</sup> = 2 points and 8<sup>th</sup> = 1 point).

The Premiership Series Point Score will be decided by the accumulation of the four best results throughout the season for **both event category and club points score**. The overall point scoring winner for each event in the **Premiership** will be the team who accrues the greatest number of points over the best four rounds. If a round is cancelled due to adverse conditions, the Premiership will be decided by the accumulation of the best three results and so forth.

The top placed crew from each club in the final will only receive points towards the overall point score. i.e. If Forster A finish 1<sup>st</sup>, Forster B finish 2<sup>nd</sup> and Windang A finish 3<sup>rd</sup>, only Forster A will receive points towards the overall point score, Forster B will not, and Windang will get points for 3<sup>rd</sup>. The next highest placed club will be awarded the points for the consecutive places.

If a team is disqualified or fails to finish an event, then that team fails to gain points for the event and club point score.

Where a dead heat (as defined in Section 2 of the Surf Sports Manual) occurs in the final of an event the teams will share the placing points. The club of the next teams to finish will receive the relative

placing points based on the number of teams finishing ahead of them. For example, if two teams finish equal 1st, both teams shall receive 10 points each. The next placing team shall be awarded the 6 points and the bronze medal.

The overall point scoring winner for each event in the **Premiership** will be the team who accrues the greatest number of points in all the carnivals. In the event of a tied overall point score, a 'count back system' will be enforced where the club with the greater number of first or higher placing positions will determine the winner.

## 10.2 State Championships Point Score

Points will be awarded from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> in each final:

(1<sup>st</sup> place = 6 points | 2<sup>nd</sup> place = 5 points | 3<sup>rd</sup> place = 4 points | 4<sup>th</sup> place = 3 points | 5<sup>th</sup> place = 2 points | 6<sup>th</sup> place = 1 point).

Where a dead heat (as defined in Section 2 of the [Surf Sports] Manual) occurs in the final of an event the teams will share the placing points. The club of the next teams to finish will receive the relative placing points based on the number of teams finishing ahead of them. For example, if two teams finish equal 1st, both teams shall receive 6 points each. The next placing team shall be awarded the 4 points and the bronze medal for coming 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Unlike the IRB Premiership, if 2 crews from the same club earn points from a final, both teams **will be** eligible for points towards the club point score. If a team is disqualified or fails to finish an event, then that team fails to gain points for the event and club point score. The Club with the highest accumulated total at the completion of all finals will be deemed the Overall Champion Club.

## 11 Approved Gear and Equipment

### 11.1 IRB Surf Rescue Registration

All IRBs taking part in the IRB Premiership and the NSW IRB Championships must be registered with SLSNSW and carry the appropriate 'SR' number. If you have any questions regarding registering of IRBs with SLSNSW please contact Lifesaving on 9471 8000.

Prior to the Premiership Round, all Clubs will be required to submit the SR numbers of the vessels which will be used throughout the Premiership Round and the NSW Championships. Please Complete the [SR Number Survey](#) by **Sunday 27 April 2025**.

## 12 Scrutineering

Scrutineering of motors and props will be conducted from 11am on Friday 2 May 2025, prior to the commencement of Round 1 at Ocean Beach SLSC. Clubs are to present all motors and props that they intent to race with this season, noting 2 motors per hull and 2 props per motor.

Scrutineering for State Championships will be conducted on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> and Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025. No teams are permitted to compete without undergoing Technical Scrutineering. i.e. If a Club or Crew decided not to compete in Round 1, they must arrange for their Motors/Propellers to be scrutineered prior to participating.

Random scrutineering of all equipment will be conducted during all Premiership Rounds.

All gear and equipment must be presented ready for inspection as per the Scrutineering memo. i.e. air boxes off, restrictor plates and props separate. Team Managers **MUST** complete Scrutineering

forms for Hulls/Motors/Propellers with all the required information and submit the forms to the scrutineering registrar prior to entering the competition area.

No post manufacture modifications will be permitted i.e. engine must be as is “out of the box”. Any clubs found to be using equipment in the 2025 Premiership Rounds or 2025 NSW State Championship that does not meet manufacturers or IRB Gear & Equipment Regulations 2024, shall be referred to the Competition Committee. Any equipment that does not meet these regulations may be excluded from the event and clubs, team managers and competitors may face further disciplinary action.

Any club, coach, team manager or competitor found to have deliberately modified gear and equipment will be referred to the Competition Disciplinary Committee for further action.

### **12.1 IRB Premiership Round 1**

Scrutineering of motors and props will be conducted from 11am on Friday 2 May 2025, prior to the commencement of Round 1 at Ocean Beach SLSC. Please fill in [Round 1 IRB Premiership Scrutineering Form](#) to note your time preference by Sunday 27 April 2025.

### **12.2 IRB Premiership Round 1, 2, 3 & 4.**

During competition, (on Saturday & Sunday) random scrutineering will take place in the competition area and some clubs may be selected to present all their equipment to the scrutineering team for a detailed technical examination at the end of the day. Any equipment that is to be used in these rounds or any new clubs competing in the Premiership MUST arrange for full technical scrutineering prior to arrival.

### **12.3 State IRB Championship**

Full technical scrutineering will take place on Thursday 26 and Friday 27 June 2025. We are anticipating a commencement of competition from 11am on Friday and all scrutineering must be completed by 10am. Timeslots will be available between 12pm and 4pm on Thursday and 7am and 10am on Friday.

Clubs may nominate their preferred time by filling out the [form online](#) by Sunday 1 June 2025, however, high demand timeslots will be allocated to clubs based on distance clubs are required to travel.

Clubs are to be ready 30 minutes prior to their allocated timeslot with completed paperwork and equipment ready for inspection.

***More detailed information about scrutineering will be provided in subsequent Memos to be released in due course and may supersede any information detailed above.***

### **12.4 One Hull Policy**

From January 1, 2024, SLSA implemented the one hull policy in IRB sport racing. NSW IRB competition Clubs are reminded of this transition whereby all hulls in competition shall be as per the one hull policy applicable to the IRB competition season of 2025. Clubs using previous models of Class 1 soft hull and former Class 2 rigid hull IRB's, will be allowed to continue to use these hulls for surf sport purposes until 1 January 2025. Approved technical specifications are available online in the Members Area [https://members.sls.com.au/members/document\\_library](https://members.sls.com.au/members/document_library)

## **13 IRB Training Hours**

The IRB Training Hour requirements for competition, from April 2025, has become a Member award, “IRB Training – Competition Eligibility”. This is required to be updated yearly and is a pre-requisite for entry into IRB competitions. The pre-requisite for this award will be the Silver Medallion IRB Driver OR Proficient IRB Crew.

Clubs will be required to ensure competitors are proficient in this award (including completion & proof of the required 20hrs training) on SurfGuard before entering competitors into SEMS.

## **14 Safety**

The purpose of this section of the circular is to provide awareness of the various safety components related to IRB competition. To be clear, competitors & team management shall refer to the appropriate sections of the current Surf Sports Manual for full reference.

### **14.1 Safety Essentials**

WARNING: IRB competition can be inherently dangerous. IRB competition participants acknowledge that they are exposed to certain risks during IRB competition including but not limited to leg, spinal and neck injuries, physical exertion, contact with the IRB, temperature, weather, and water conditions and even drowning. IRB competition participants acknowledge that accidents can and often do happen which may result in IRB competition participants being injured or even killed. All members through their participation in IRB events agree with, acknowledge, and understand this warning and accept and assume the inherent risks in IRB competition.

### **14.2 Safety Infringements**

- a) A strong emphasis will be placed on safe driving, crewing and patient safety practices. All competitors must complete each event in a safe and controlled speed and manner or will face immediate disqualification from the event, and/or issue of a safety infringement and consideration for further penalties.
- b) A safety infringement shall be issued to any competitor deemed to have committed an unsafe practice. This will result in immediate disqualification of the competitor and their entire team (i.e. crew and patient/s) from the event in which the infringement occurred. The name of the competitor and the details of the infringement shall be logged through the safety infringement register of the relevant State and National Office.
- c) If a competitor receives more than one safety infringement in any one competition they shall be disqualified from the entire competition.
- d) Should a history of safety infringements be identified by an SLSA office or official in a twelve-month period, the matter shall be referred to the relevant state or national officer/s for consideration of further penalties or disciplinary action.

### **14.3 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

Note: In all training and competition, it is compulsory for competitors to wear high visibility (conspicuous colour) SLSA approved level 50 Australian Standard (AS4758) lifejackets or Type 2 (AS1499-1996) lifejackets. (Level 50S lifejackets unless listed on the SLSA Approved Gear and Equipment List are not approved.) It is not required for high visibility safety vests to be worn over the top of lifejackets. See also Section 2 of the Surf Sports Manual.

SLNSW will not be issuing lifejackets (PFDs) – this is the responsibility of the individual/club.

#### 14.4 High Visibility Garments

Due to the PFD requirement, pink high visibility vests are not required if wearing a PFD as stated above.

Handlers are required to wear a competition cap and shall be required to wear a distinctive high visibility vest if entering the water beyond knee depth. Alternatively, handlers may wear a high visibility (conspicuous colour) SLSA approved level 50 Australian Standard (AS4758) lifejacket or Type 2 (AS1499-1996) lifejackets. (Level 50S lifejackets unless listed on the SLSA Approved Gear and Equipment List are not approved.) It is not required for high visibility safety vests to be worn over the top of lifejackets.

SLSNSW will not be supplying High Visibility Garments – this is the responsibility of the individual/club.

To assist with judging coloured rash shirt sleeves or belts for each lane will be worn with the lifejacket. This will apply to the IRB Driver only. SLSNSW will be providing these garments.

#### 14.5 Helmets

The wearing of approved helmets is compulsory for patients in all events (other than the Rescue Tube Race). IRB patients are to wear helmets in both training and in competition. See also Section 2 of the Surf Sports Manual.

**SLSNSW will not be issuing helmets – this is the responsibility of the individual/club.**

#### 14.6 Warm Up Areas

Competitors who enter the competition area and warm up will be deemed to have committed an unsafe practice. A designated 'warm up' area will be communicated closer to each event.

#### 14.7 Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) and Drones

SLSNSW prohibits the use of drones or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) at IRB competition by members and/or public unless approved by SLSNSW, 7 days prior to the event. The operator must supply an operations manual (including risk management plan), provide public liability insurance and comply with all Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) requirements.

#### 14.8 Injuries & Return to Surf Duties

Members who receive treatment from First Aid are to ensure their details are recorded in an incident report. Workers Compensation may be payable under the Workers Compensation Act. An iCare form must be completed within 48 hours of injury to make a claim.

More information can be found on the workers compensation page here:

<https://www.surflifesaving.com.au/resources/workers-compensation>

Members who seek further medical treatment/advice will be required to provide a medical clearance letter from a health professional to return to duties.

## 15 Prizes

SLSNSW is again providing prizes throughout the 2025 IRB Competition Season, giving clubs an incentive and reward to all competing in the 2025 IRB season with Clubs in the running to win fuel vouchers up to the value of \$150 and Sharkskin vouchers up to the value of \$500. The overall club point score winners for the Premiership or the State Championships will receive 1x IRB Motor with the support of Lakeside Marine. See below for further details.

### 15.1 Sharkskin Prizes

Sharkskin and SLSNSW are proud to announce that for the 2025 NSW Sharkskin IRB Premiership, Sharkskin will provide \$6,500.00 worth of prizes. The overall winners in each category/division will receive Sharkskin store credit to the value of \$200, with the winners of the relay receiving \$500!

The following prizes will be awarded:

DIVISION	RESCUE TUBE	MASS RESCUE	TEAMS	RESCUE	RELAY
Open Male	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	
Open Female	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	
U23 Male	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	
U23 Female	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	
O35 Male	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	
O35 Female	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	
O45 Open	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	
Rookie		\$200		\$200	
Open					\$500

### 15.2 Premiership Prizes

Overall Premiership point score medals will be presented at the completion of Round 4 for each event. In addition, the overall champion club at the conclusion of the Premiership will receive a new IRB Motor that they will be able to pick up from the closest Authorised Tohatsu Dealer.

The following prizes will be awarded:

	1st	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3rd
Round 1	\$150 Fuel Voucher	\$100 Fuel Voucher	\$50 Fuel Voucher
Round 2	\$150 Fuel Voucher	\$100 Fuel Voucher	\$50 Fuel Voucher
Round 3	\$150 Fuel Voucher	\$100 Fuel Voucher	\$50 Fuel Voucher
Round 4	\$150 Fuel Voucher	\$100 Fuel Voucher	\$50 Fuel Voucher
Overall Champion Club	IRB Motor*		

### 15.3 State IRB Championship Prizes

Championship Medals will be awarded at the State Championships for each event at the conclusion of competition.

Championship Trophies will be awarded to the overall point score winner for the following categories:

- U23 Championship
- Open Championship
- Masters Championship
- Overall Champion Club

In addition, the overall Champion Club at the conclusion of the State Championships will receive a new IRB Motor.

	1st	2nd	3rd	Random Draw
<b>State IRB Championships</b>	IRB Motor* OR \$200 Voucher*	\$150 Fuel Voucher	\$100 Fuel Voucher	\$50 Fuel Voucher

\*(**Note:** The same club cannot win both the Premiership Motor and State Championships Motor. If the State Champion club is also the Premiership Club, then a \$200 Sharkskin voucher will be the prize, and the IRB Motor will be awarded to the second placed Club at the State IRB Championships).

## 16 Sharkskin Merchandise

SHARKSKIN is very proud to support Surf Life Saving and Surf Life Saving Members and volunteers Australia wide.

Online purchases for official merchandise products are strongly recommended and are available at [sharkskin.com](http://sharkskin.com). Whilst Official Merchandise items will also be available to purchase at each event from the SHARKSKIN merchandise tent, stock at events will be limited. If not available at a particular event, we can arrange collection at the subsequent IRB round two weeks later.

Official Merchandise for this event is in production and will be available for shipping just prior to round one. Collection can also be arranged at each weekend event.

2025 Sharkskin Official Merchandise will be available shortly.

[Sharkskin SLS Product Range](#)

[Sharkskin SLS Members Only](#)

## 17 SLSA Rules and Policies Index

Reference is made to the following circulars and bulletins issued by SLSA and SLSNSW. This is not an exhaustive list and SLSA circulars and updates are available on the Members Portal:

[https://members.sls.com.au/members/document\\_library](https://members.sls.com.au/members/document_library)

It will be up to the individual to review the SLSA Member's Portal for any updates that may affect IRB competition.

[Surf Sports Manual 37<sup>th</sup> Edition \(November 2024\)](#)

[IRB Competition Gear and Equipment Regulations 2025](#)

[Bulletin 06.23-24 – Updates to lifejacket branding guidelines](#)

[Circular 44-24-25 SSM 37<sup>th</sup> Edition Update Revised Nov24](#)

[SSM Complete 37<sup>th</sup> Edition Revised November 2024 \(highlighting rule changes\)](#)

- [Fuel Safety and Compliance Record Check](#)
- [Hull Compliance Check Record](#)
- [Outboard Motor and Propeller Guard and Compliance Check Record](#)
- [Propeller Safety and Compliance Check Record](#)