



Surf Life Saving Australia - Circular

Title	Australian Surf Life Saving Championships 2026 - Powercraft Circular
Document ID	Circular 32/25-26
Department	Sport
Date	31 October 2026
Audience	State/Territory Surf Sport Managers, Directors, Club Secretaries, Club Surf sports director, Branches, Powercraft personnel
Summary	This circular calls for nomination of Powercraft team members to assist at Australian Surf Life Saving Championships 2026. This circular also details the requirements for clubs including the provision of powercraft for the duration of the Championships.

AUSSIES 2026 - THE POWERCRAFT AREA

The 2026 Australian Surf Life Saving Championships (Aussies) will see the continued implementation of the revised Powercraft (IRB & RWC) rostering process. Individual clubs will not be required to provide personnel. However, as SLSA is not using a quota for powercraft personnel we are reliant on clubs to pass this circular down to their operators within their clubs to nominate.

SLSA are looking to engage active and enthusiastic Powercraft personnel across varying levels of experience and expertise to manage water safety processes across all Championships. SLSA will provide accommodation, where appropriate, for those personnel engaged in the Powercraft team throughout the Championships.

SLSA is seeking expressions of interest for Powercraft Operators (includes IRB and RWC), On-Beach Coordinators, RWC Coordinator & Support Personnel to be involved for part of, or the duration of, the 2026 Australian Championships.

Personnel will also have an option to gain the SLSA Core or Technical Official's award through working in the Aussies 2026 Powercraft Area. The Championship Competition Committee will also endorse drivers and crew to be judges of fact and report any issues to Sectional Referees.

SLSA will use a quota system to allocate which clubs will be required to provide a working IRB (Inflatable Rescue Boat) with motor and relevant accessories. IRBs will be required to be delivered to Gilltrap Park Musgrave St, Coolangatta QLD 4225. Enter via the southern end of Pacific Parade compound by 11am Friday, 20 March.

NOMINATIONS

Please find below the nomination link to all available roles within the Powercraft Area at Aussies 2026. All roles can nominate on an individual basis. i.e. If nominating as a crew member able to assist, you do not need to have a driver nominate with you. Please note additional position descriptions can be found at the end of this document.

- Powercraft Operator
 - RWC Operator
 - IRB Driver
 - IRB Crewperson
- On-Beach Coordinator
- Powercraft Communications
- RWC Coordinator
- Support Personnel
- Powercraft State Ambassadors (See Note 1)



Please note, individuals may be requested to assist in other roles throughout the Championships if available.

Note 1: POWERCRAFT AMBASSADORS

The Powercraft Committee are looking to appoint Aussies Powercraft Ambassadors in each state. Each ambassador would be the primary point of contact for all state personnel to promote Aussies attendance. They would work with the Powercraft Manager and Committee to assist in skill and ability development at State level to ensure this is carried through to the Australian Championships.

This appointment would be in addition to your appointment for the event and you will be required to nominate your interest at the time of nomination.

Nominations at the following link: [AUSSIES 2026 – POWERCRAFT NOMINATIONS](#)

- First Round Nominations close Wednesday 18 November 2025
- Second Round Nominations close Friday 16 January 2026

Nominations will remain open through to the event should positions still be available. Priority for appointments will be given to first round nominations.

POWERCRAFT COMMITTEE

Name	Role
Josh Crouch	Powercraft Manager
Terry Barber	Powercraft Coordinator – Base Coordination
Kylie Ellison	Powercraft Coordinator – Personnel & Roster
Malcolm Flew	Powercraft Coordinator – Safety & Training
Kieran Menzies	Powercraft Coordinator – Equipment & Logistics

HEALTH STATEMENT

All Powercraft members should ensure they are physically capable of carrying out their important functions over the course of the Championships.

In nominating for this event, all powercraft members warrant that they are, and must remain, mentally and physically capable of carrying out all the functions of their appointed role(s) over the course of the entire event. All powercraft members should undertake a medical check prior to departure for the event. SLSA may request powercraft member to provide medical clearance if the powercraft member has had a medical incident at previous SLS event or if SLSA reasonably considers such request is reasonable and/or necessary. If requested the powercraft members must provide the medical clearance.

SLSA reserves the right in its absolute discretion to:

- a) Not appoint a member to any position whether they have nominated or not;
- b) Remove someone from any position at any time (whether before or during an SLSA event)

SLSA is not obligated to give reasons where it acts under this clause.

POWERCRAFT PERSONNEL SUBSIDY

SLSA will provide shared bunk style accommodation where appropriate for those personnel engaged in Powercraft water safety throughout the Championships. Once appointed SLSA will contact individuals to inform and arrange details. Please note, late nominations may not be eligible for accommodation.

There will be no other subsidy offered for the 2026 Championships.



IMPORTANT DATES

Please see below a summary of important dates related to the Australian Surf Life Saving Championships 2026.

October 2025	
Friday 31 October	Powercraft Nominations Open Powercraft Scholarship Nominations Open
November 2025	
Wednesday 18 November	Powercraft Nominations – First Round Close Powercraft Scholarship Nominations Close
Friday 30 November	First Round Appointments Published
January 2026	
Friday 16 January	Second Round Appointments Close
February 2026	
Friday 7 February	Second Round Appointments Published
Friday 14 February	Powercraft Equipment Requirements Released
March 2026	
Thursday 12 March	Powercraft Team Compulsory Online Briefing
Thursday 19 March	First Day for IRB Deliveries
Friday 20 March	Last day for IRB Deliveries (before 11am)
Saturday 21 March	Competition Day 1 Opening Ceremony
Sunday 22 March	Competition Day 2 The Aussies Ocean Swim
Monday 23 March	Competition Day 3 Golf Day
Tuesday 24 March	Competition Day 4 Women's Mentoring Program Event Masters Legends Hall of Fame Presentation Women in Lifesaving Dinner
Wednesday 25 March	Competition Day 5 Officials Function
Thursday 26 March	Competition Day 6
Friday 27 March	Competition Day 7
Saturday 28 March	Competition Day 8 Adaptive Events
Sunday 29 March	Competition Day 9 Ecumenical Service Welcome to Finals Day Ceremony First day for IRB pick up (2pm-5pm)
Monday 30 March	Final day for IRB pick up (7am-12pm)

POWERCRAFT COMPETENCY TESTS

All Powercraft operators (both IRB and RWC) will be required to undertake a basic competency test to certify they are competent in all surf conditions and will continue to be assessed throughout the Championships. Crew deemed not competent may be allocated another more suitable role within the Powercraft Team.

SLSA will utilise State representatives to ensure operators are competent at major state events in the lead up to Aussies 2026. A competency test may take place in the lead up and during the Championships for local operators and as requested by the Powercraft Organising Committee.

POWERCRAFT BRIEFING

A Powercraft briefing will take place online on Thursday, 12 March. Attendance is compulsory.

Briefings will also take place 45 minutes before each shift which is mandatory for both crew and driver.



CLUBS

SLSA will be using a quota system based on geographical location and competitor numbers to determine which clubs will be required to provide an IRB. Clubs required to provide an IRB will be notified by Friday, 14 February 2026.

The Aussies 2026 Powercraft requirements are as follows:

- All IRBs provided are not to be Geminis – due to length of use at Aussies and duty of care to the operators
- All IRBs (including all components) are in good working condition. Every IRB will be checked thoroughly by a marine mechanic, any component that does not meet minimum operating standards will not be accepted and that Club will be responsible for finding alternative solutions. If the marine mechanic can fix the fault the club can opt to have it fixed by the mechanic at their cost. Clubs to provide boats no older than five years old & Motors no older than three years old.
- RWCs are not required as they are provided by BRP
- If any IRBs are damaged during the championships, SLSA will, if possible, have the marine mechanic fix the IRB, otherwise SLSA will pay for any damage repairs.
- If any clubs require assistance with transporting their IRBs and or motors, please contact events@slsa.asn.au

POWERCRAFT INSPECTIONS

All powercraft provided for the Championships will be thoroughly inspected by a marine mechanic to certify that all components are in good working order. Components deemed not suitable may be removed and the Club required to source replacements. If the Powercraft provided does not meet the required standards, the Club will be required to provide a replacement that meets the required standards prior to the start of the Championships. Failure to provide the required Powercraft will be referred to the Championship Carnival Committee to determine the appropriate action.

All craft and components are to be presented to the IRB Compound at Gilltrap Park Musgrave St, Coolangatta QLD 4225. Enter via the southern end of Pacific Parade compound by 11am Friday, 20 March and will be there until the conclusion of the championship or when deemed not required by the Powercraft Coordinator.

Insurance coverage will be provided for powercraft equipment supplied by Clubs while in use for the duration of the Championships.

Please note, any existing damage will be logged and photographed by the onsite marine mechanic and will not be covered by insurance or by repair from SLSA.

DELIVERING / PICKING UP POWERCRAFT

Upon arrival at the IRB Compound, you will be required to sign your powercraft and equipment in, detailing your Club name and contact details, while onsite at The Aussies. All craft and equipment will be appropriately labelled with Club details.

Following the Championships, powercraft will be made available for collection from the IRB compound between the following times: Sunday 29 March 2pm - 5pm & Monday 30th March 7am - 12pm. You will be required to collect your powercraft by 12pm Monday 30th March 2026.

POSITION DESCRIPTIONS

Powercraft Operator

Operators include RWC Operators, IRB Drivers and IRB Crewpersons. Powercraft Operators are required to have a proficient Bronze Medallion as well as the following awards at a minimum to perform the respective roles:

- RWC Operator: Rescue Water Craft Operator Certificate
- IRB Driver: Silver Medallion IRB Driver
- IRB Crewperson: IRB Crew Certificate

On-Beach Coordinator

The On-Beach Coordinator is a technical official position. There will be one On-Beach Coordinator appointed per water area. They are the primary liaison between the on beach officials and powercraft, working directly with the sectional and/or area referees. The On-Beach Coordinator is responsible for course adjustments, area water safety configurations and initial management of powercraft response to incidents.

Powercraft Communications Officer

The Powercraft Communications Officers is responsible for monitoring and managing radio communications for powercraft and deploying assets if required. They will work directly with the Powercraft Manager for all operational/rostering and event planning. This position is based in the Event Control Centre and works directly with the safety and medical teams, as well as water police and event management.

RWC Coordinator

The RWC Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the RWC roster alongside the Powercraft Coordinator – Personnel & Roster, as well as adding new RWC operators to the event. The RWC Coordinator manages breaks and fatigue of RWC operators, maintains search and rescue tactics and response to incidents and monitors condition of equipment. They will also be responsible for training and mentoring RWC candidates and new RWC operators.

Support Personnel

Support personnel roles vary and include a range of positions such as transport drivers, fuel management, catering, compound assistants and social coordination. You do not require any formal powercraft awards to apply for these positions.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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