

Circular 3931

5 November 2025



2026 NSW COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS ENTRY CIRCULAR

Attention: Club Presidents, Club Secretaries, Club Competition Officers, Team Managers, Coaches and Competitors.
Actioned by: Persons responsible for club entries.
Date: 5 November 2025
Contact: Belinda Cooper Competitions & Event Staging Coordinator
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Summary:	Outlines the requirements and procedures to enter the 2026 NSW Country Championships to be held at South West Rocks SLSC from Friday 23 rd – Sunday 25 th January 2026.
Action:	○ Entries open Wednesday 19th November 2025. ○ Complete and submit entries via Live Heats by 11.00pm Sunday 4th January 2026. ○ Online late entries close 11.00pm Sunday 11th January 2026 (<i>late fees apply</i>). ○ NOTE: No late entries will be accepted after this date including at the Championships (excluding changes to team events)* ○ Complete the Team Manager Declaration Form and Rash Vest Order Form by 11.00pm Sunday 4th January 2026.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The 2026 NSW Country Championships attracts Country Branch competitors from the U8's to Masters, providing an opportunity to unite over a three (3) day period showcasing one of Australia's most iconic volunteer movements, Surf Life Saving.

This year's event will be held at South West Rocks SLSC, located in the Kempsey Shire Council area, from Friday 23rd to Sunday 25th January 2026.

This document outlines key information relating to the 2026 NSW Country 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 [38th Edition Surf Sports Manual](#)
- The proficiency competition requirements for 2025/26 Season:
 - [Memo - SLSNSW 5.04 Patrol Hour Exemption Process](#)
 - [SLSNSW Regulations 5. Competition Eligibility and Exemption](#)

3. GENERAL CONTENT

Entries are to be completed via Live Heats. Each club is responsible for advising their members on who is responsible for managing a member's entries and payments. (club or member)

- Entries close **11.00pm Sunday 4th January 2026**.
- Online late entries close **11.00pm Sunday 11th January 2026** (late fees apply).
- **No late entries will be accepted after this date including at the Championships (excludes changes to team events*).**
- Clubs are reminded to complete the [Team Manager Declaration Form](#) and [Rash Vest Order Form](#) by **Sunday 4th January 2026**. This Team Manager Declaration Form includes Clubs logging their team manager contact details.
- **Note: Clubs are reminded to check all entries prior to the close of late entries on Sunday 11th January 2025 for any omissions and errors.**

4. 2026 NSW COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS COMPETITION COMMITTEE

The 2026 NSW Country Championships 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 38th 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.

SLSNSW Director of Surf Sports (Chair)	Donald van Keimpema OAM
Carnival Referee	Peter Allsopp
Local Organising Committee Representative, SWRSLSC	Rod McDonagh
Safety & Emergency Management Coordinator (SEMC)	Patrick Mullan
SLSNSW Sport Manager	Greg Pierce
SLSNSW Competition & Event Coordinator	Belinda Cooper

5. 2026 NSW COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS SAFETY & EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

The 2026 NSW Country 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 CCSEC 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)	Patrick Mullan
Deputy Carnival Referee	Nigel Penn
Powercraft Coordinator	Garry Howe
First Aid Coordinator	AESS
Water Safety Coordinator	Byron Dengate
SLSNSW Competition & Event 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 2026 NSW Country Championships. Online late entries will be added to the total number of competitors entered to ensure that the club's obligation is satisfied.

The Officials quota remains in place for 2026 and supersedes any prior versions of the Officials quota from previous years. Officials, as a minimum requirement, must have a current Core Official accreditation.

Officials Quota

Competitors Entered	Officials Required
0 to 4	Nil
5 to 8	1 Official
9 to 15	2 Officials
16 to 25	3 Officials
26 to 35	4 Officials
36 to 50	5 Officials
51 to 65	6 Officials
66 to 80	7 Officials
80+	8 Officials

To fulfil your club's quota, you are required to officiate for two (2) or more days to help run a successful event. If you can only officiate for one (1) day, your club must provide another Official for one (1) day to fulfil your quota.

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 official's quota.

If clubs do not provide sufficient officials 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.

Officials undertaking duties to meet club quotas, who have not already been appointed to a particular role, are requested to report to the Deputy Referee at South West Rocks SLSC by 6:30am 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.

6.2 Water Safety

All clubs with nipper competitors are required to provide a minimum of two (2) water safety personnel per day on a roster system. SLSNSW will release the water safety roster prior to the Country Championships (after late entries close).

Water safety personnel will need to supply their own orange rash vest, cap, fins, rescue tube. All water safety personnel must have a minimum current proficient SRC. Rescue boards for water safety will be used at the discretion and direction of the Water Safety Supervisor in the respective competition area. In this instance boards will be made available by South West Rocks SLSC.

6.3 Powercraft

To ensure the safety of all competitors competing in the 2026 NSW Country Championships, a Powercraft roster will be implemented. Clubs will be identified based on the total number of entries for the 2026 Championships.

Powercraft Drivers/Operators and crewpersons **must** fulfil the following requirements.

- **IRB Driver:** Be a current financial SLS member and be a proficient Silver Medallion IRB Driver.
- **IRB Crewperson:** Be a current financial SLS member, be a proficient IRB Crew Certificate.
- **RWC Operator:** Be a financial SLS member and hold a proficient RWC Operator Certificate.
- **Both IRB and RWC:** Be experienced in ALL levels of surf conditions and competent to deal in all surf conditions.

As the Powercraft requirements will be based on figures calculated after entries close for the 2026 event, **the Powercraft Roster will not be available until after normal entries close on Sunday 4th January 2026.**

Clubs will be required to nominate provide names and contact information for IRB Drivers and Crew personnel via the Powercraft Form which will be available the week commencing 5th January 2026. All IRB Drivers and Crew personnel must also bring with them their current SLSNSW Powercraft licence, personal compliant PFD, helmet, and appropriate clothing.

Some Clubs may also be required to bring IRB equipment to the Championships. All IRBs supplied must be registered with SLSNSW, have passed the 2025/2026 Gear and Equipment Inspection process, and be entered on SurfGuard.

Rostered crews will be required to report to the Powercraft Base Coordinator 30 minutes prior to their allocated shift.

If clubs do not report with a full crew at the allocated time, SLSNSW will stand down all athletes from that club from competition until such time as the required crew reports and is on the water.

6.4 First Aid

All first aid will be provided by SLSNSW's Australian Event Safety Services (AESS) removing the requirement for clubs to supply volunteers for these roles.

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 competitors must meet SLSNSW award, patrol, and proficiency requirements as per the 2025/2026 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](#)
- [SLSNSW Regulations 5. Competition Eligibility and Exemption](#)

The Proficiency requalification must be completed by close of “normal” entries to be eligible to participate in a SLS Championship or other event i.e., late entries will not be accepted for members who have not completed their proficiency requalification by the normal close of entries.

All exemption requests are required to be endorsed by both Club and Branch (on letter head) before being received by SLSNSW. These must be sent to bcooper@surflifesaving.com.au and will be forwarded to the State Director of Lifesaving for consideration. All exemption requests must be received no later than **Sunday 4th January 2026**.

Notwithstanding any approved flexibility/extension, all members must be proficient to participate in the Championships.

7.1 Age

For the 2026 NSW Country Championships, competitors will be required to be proficient in the relevant Junior Competition Evaluation Skills. U14 members are required to hold their SRC award.

7.2 Opens & Masters

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

- [SLSA Policy 1.02 – Use of SLSA Equipment](#)
- [Memo: SLSNSW Patrol Hour Exemption Process](#)
- [SLSNSW Regulations 5. Competition Eligibility and Exemption](#)

8. ENTRY FEES

The entry fee per competitor at the 2026 NSW Country Championships is **\$62.10** (incl. GST).

The entry fee per March Past team is **\$114.45** (incl. GST).

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 an increased late entry fee of **\$114.15** (incl. GST).

No individual late entries will be taken at the Administration Centre – South West Rocks SLSC. Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of SLSNSW 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.

Additional Events:

When additional events are entered for competitors (individual and/or team) a fee of **\$23.50** 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 South West Rocks SLSC prior to marshalling. Officials will **NOT** add athletes to events on the beach.

9. ENTRIES – LIVE HEATS

All entries to the 2026 NSW Country Championships must be completed online directly via **LIVE HEATS**.

Online entries will close **11.00pm Sunday 4th January 2026**.

Online late entries close **11.00pm Wednesday 14th January 2026** (*late fees apply*).

Please refer to the [LIVEHEATS Entry System](#) page for assistance, before and during the entry process.

If further assistance is required please contact the Surf Sports team at countrychampionships@surflifesaving.com.au

Note: Entries are restricted to Clubs from the Country Branches of NSW only. No interstate or metropolitan branch competitors may enter this Carnival.

10. LIVEHEATS

All competitors are required to have a Live Heats Race Tag with them which will be used throughout the event. All competitors will be signed into the event using Live Heats, and all event racing will be marshalled and recorded using Live Heats.

Team Managers will be responsible for team changes via Live Heats throughout the competition.

Athletes must bring their allocated Live Heats wristband. Replacement wristbands can be purchased from the Event Administration Centre at South West Rocks SLSC for \$7.00 per band.

11. EVENTS

The following events shall be conducted in their respective age group areas in accordance with the requirements of the 38th Edition Surf Sports Manual and amending Bulletins and Circulars.

Carnival Program can be found [here](#).

11.1 Age Events

Under 14 Events	Under 13 Events	Under 12 Events
Male Surf Race	Male Surf Race	Male Surf Race
Female Surf Race	Female Surf Race	Female Surf Race
Mixed Surf Teams	Mixed Surf Teams	Mixed Surf Teams
Male Board Race	Male Board Race	Male Board Race
Female Board Race	Female Board Race	Female Board Race
Mixed Board Relay	Mixed Board Relay	Mixed Board Relay
Mixed Cameron Relay	Mixed Cameron Relay	Mixed Cameron Relay
Ironman	Ironman	Ironman
Ironwoman	Ironwoman	Ironwoman
Male Beach Sprint	Male Beach Sprint	Male Beach Sprint
Female Beach Sprint	Female Beach Sprint	Female Beach Sprint
Mixed Beach Relay	Mixed Beach Relay	Mixed Beach Relay
Male Beach Flags	Male Beach Flags	Male Beach Flags
Female Beach Flags	Female Beach Flags	Female Beach Flags
Male 2km Beach Run	Male 2km Beach Run	Male 1km Beach Run
Female 2km Beach Run	Female 2km Beach Run	Female 1km Beach Run
Under 11 Events	Under 10 Events	Under 9 Events
Male Surf Race	Male Surf Race	Male Surf Race
Female Surf Race	Female Surf Race	Female Surf Race
Mixed Surf Teams	Mixed Surf Teams	Mixed Surf Teams
Male Board Race	Male Board Race	Male Board Race
Female Board Race	Female Board Race	Female Board Race
Mixed Board Relay	Mixed Board Relay	Mixed Board Relay
Mixed Cameron Relay	Male Beach Sprint	Male Beach Sprint
Ironman	Female Beach Sprint	Female Beach Sprint
Ironwoman	Mixed Beach Relay	Mixed Beach Relay
Male Beach Sprint	Male Beach Flags	Male Beach Flags
Female Beach Sprint	Female Beach Flags	Female Beach Flags
Mixed Beach Relay		
Male Beach Flags		
Female Beach Flags		
Male 1km Beach Run		
Female 1km Beach Run		
Under 8 Events		
Male Wade Race	Male Beach Sprint	Male Beach Flags
Female Wade Race	Female Beach Sprint	Female Beach Flags
Mixed Wade Relay	Mixed Beach Relay	

Special Events	
Senior Male Board Rescue (U13/U14)	Senior Female Board Rescue (U13/U14)
Junior Male Board Rescue (U11/U12)	Junior Female Board Rescue (U11/U12)
Youth Male 2 x 1km Relay^ (U14/U15)	Youth Female 2 x 1km Relay^ (U14/U15)
Junior Male 2 x 500m Relay (U11/U12/U13)	Junior Female 2 x 500m Relay (U11/U12/U13)
All Age Beach Relay (U8-U14)	All Age Board Relay (U9-U14)
Buchanan Relay (U8-U10)	Junior & Open March Past

11.2 Open Events

Swimming Events	
Under 15 Male Surf Race	Under 15 Female Surf Race
Under 17 Male Surf Race	Under 17 Female Surf Race
Under 19 Male Surf Race	Under 19 Female Surf Race
Open Male Surf Race	Open Female Surf Race
Under 15 Mixed Surf Teams	Under 17 Mixed Surf Teams
Under 19 Mixed Surf Teams	Open Mixed Surf Teams
Under 15 Male Rescue Tube	Under 15 Female Rescue Tube

Ski Events	
Under 17 Male Ski	Under 17 Female Ski
Under 19 Male Ski	Under 19 Female Ski
Open Male Ski	Open Female Ski
Under 17 Male Ski Relay	Under 17 Female Ski Relay
Under 19 Male Ski Relay	Under 19 Female Ski Relay
Open Male Ski Relay	Open Female Ski Relay
Under 19 Male Double Ski	Under 19 Female Double Ski
Open Male Double Ski	Open Female Double Ski
Open Mixed Double Ski	

Board Events	
Under 15 Male Board	Under 15 Female Board
Under 17 Male Board	Under 17 Female Board
Under 19 Male Board	Under 19 Female Board
Open Male Board	Open Female Board
Under 15 Mixed Board Relay	Under 17 Female Board Relay
Under 17 Male Board Relay	Under 19 Female Board Relay
Under 19 Male Board Relay	Open Female Board Relay
Open Male Board Relay	

Beach Events	
Under 15 Male Sprint	Under 15 Female Sprint
Under 17 Male Sprint	Under 17 Female Sprint
Under 19 Male Sprint	Under 19 Female Sprint
Open Male Sprint	Open Female Sprint
Under 15 Male Beach Relay	Under 15 Female Beach Relay
Under 17 Male Beach Relay	Under 17 Female Beach Relay
Under 19 Male Beach Relay	Under 19 Female Beach Relay
Open Male Beach Relay	Open Female Beach Relay
U15 Mixed Beach Relay	U17 Mixed Beach Relay
U19 Mixed Beach Relay	Open Mixed Beach Relay
Under 15 Male Beach Flags	Under 15 Female Beach Flags
Under 17 Male Beach Flags	Under 17 Female Beach Flags
Under 19 Male Beach Flags	Under 19 Female Beach Flags
Open Male Beach Flags	Open Female Beach Flags
Under 15 Male 2km Beach Run	Under 15 Female 2km Beach Run
Under 17 Male 2km Beach Run	Under 17 Female 2km Beach Run
Under 19 Male 2km Beach Run	Under 19 Female 2km Beach Run
Open Male 2km Beach Run	Open Female 2km Beach Run
Youth (14/15) Male 2 x 1km Relay^	Youth (14/15) Female 2 x 1km Relay^

Male U17/U19 2 x 1km Relay	Female U17/U19 2 x 1km Relay
Open Male 2 x 1km Relay	Open Female 2 x 1km Relay

Multi-Discipline Events	
Under 15 Ironman	Under 15 Ironwoman
Under 17 Ironman	Under 17 Ironwoman
Under 19 Ironman	Under 19 Ironwoman
Open Ironman	Open Ironwoman
Under 15 Male Board Rescue	Under 15 Female Board Rescue
Under 17 Male Board Rescue	Under 17 Female Board Rescue
Under 19 Male Board Rescue	Under 19 Female Board Rescue
Open Male Board Rescue	Open Female Board Rescue
Under 17 Male Taplin Relay	Under 17 Female Taplin Relay
Under 19 Male Taplin Relay	Under 19 Female Taplin Relay
Open Male Taplin Relay	Open Female Taplin Relay
Open Mixed Taplin Relay	Under 15 Mixed Cameron Relay

11.3 Masters Events *(must be minimum of 30yrs of age as of 30th September 2025)*

Swimming Events	
30-39 Male Surf Race	30-39 Female Surf Race
40-49 Male Surf Race	40-49 Female Surf Race
50-59 Male Surf Race	50-59 Female Surf Race
60+ Male Surf Race	60+ Female Surf Race
110-149 Mixed Surf Teams	150+ Mixed Surf Teams
30-39 Male Rescue Tube	30-39 Female Rescue Tube
40-49 Male Rescue Tube	40-49 Female Rescue Tube
50-59 Male Rescue Tube	50-59 Female Rescue Tube
60+ Male Rescue Tube	60+ Female Rescue Tube

Ski Events	
30-39 Male Ski	30-39 Female Ski
40-49 Male Ski	40-49 Female Ski
50-59 Male Ski	50-59 Female Ski
60+ Male Ski	60+ Female Ski
110-149 Mixed Ski Relay	150+ Mixed Ski Relay
30+ Mixed Double Ski	

Board Events	
30-39 Male Board	30-39 Female Board
40-49 Male Board	40-49 Female Board
50-59 Male Board	50-59 Female Board
60+ Male Board	60+ Female Board
110-149 Mixed Board Relay	150+ Mixed Board Relay

Beach Events	
30-39 Male Sprint	30-39 Female Sprint
40-49 Male Sprint	40-49 Female Sprint
50-59 Male Sprint	50-59 Female Sprint
60+ Male Sprint	60+ Female Sprint
140-199 Male Beach Relay	140-199 Female Beach Relay
200+ Male Beach Relay	200+ Female Beach Relay

140-199 Mixed Beach Relay	200+ Mixed Beach Relay
30-39 Male Beach Flags	30-39 Female Beach Flags
40-49 Male Beach Flags	40-49 Female Beach Flags
50-59 Male Beach Flags	50-59 Female Beach Flags
60+ Male Beach Flags	60+ Female Beach Flags
30-39 Male 2km Beach Run	30-39 Female 2km Beach Run
40-49 Male 2km Beach Run	40-49 Female 2km Beach Run
50-59 Male 2km Beach Run	50-59 Female 2km Beach Run
60+ Male 1km Beach Run	60+ Female 1km Beach Run

Multi-Discipline Events	
30-39 Ironman	30-39 Ironwoman
40-49 Ironman	40-49 Ironwoman
50-59 Ironman	50-59 Ironwoman
60+ Ironman	60+ Ironwoman
30-39 Male Board Rescue	30-39 Female Board Rescue
40-49 Male Board Rescue	40-49 Female Board Rescue
50-59 Male Board Rescue	50-59 Female Board Rescue
60+ Male Board Rescue	60+ Female Board Rescue
110-149 Mixed Taplin Relay	150+ Mixed Taplin Relay

11.3 Restriction of Events

Please note that there is a restriction to the number of teams that can compete for certain events. Please see the list below:

Buchanan Relay (U8-U10) – Two (2) teams per club

Senior M/F Board Rescue (U13/14) – Two (2) teams per gender per club

Junior M/F Board Rescue (U11/12) – Two (2) teams per gender per club

Mixed Cameron Relay (U11, U12, U13, U14) - Two (2) teams per club

All Age Beach Relay (U8-U14) – One (1) team per club

All Age Board Relay (U9-U14) – One (1) team per club

Beach Relays – Two (2) teams per club

11.4 Supplementary Information

Open Mixed Events:

- Mixed events across U15s, U17s, U19s and Opens age groups must have a minimum of one (1) male and one (1) female in each team.

Masters Teams:

- Masters Mixed Teams for Board Relay, Surf Teams, Ski Relay and Taplin Relay will consist of 3 people with a minimum of one (1) male and one (1) female in each team.
- Masters Mixed Beach Relay will consist of 4 people with a minimum of one (1) male and one (1) female in each team.
- Athletes in the 140-199 and 200+ Beach Relay events are only permitted to compete in one (1) team, either single gender or mixed, not both.**
 - If an athlete competes in the single gender relay, they are not permitted to compete in a mixed team.

U8-U14 Relays:

- All U8-U14 Relays are mixed and must have a minimum of one (1) male and one (1) female in each team.

U15-Open Beach Relays

- U15 – Open Mixed Beach Relays must have a minimum of one (1) male and one (1) female in each team.
- **Athletes in the U15 – Open Beach Relay events are only permitted to compete in one (1) team, either single gender or mixed, not both.**
 - **If an athlete competes in the single gender relay, they are not permitted to compete in a mixed team.**

Buchanan Relay:

- Buchanan Relays consists of six (6) athletes:
 - Four (4) U8 Competitors: One (1) x Wade & three (3) x Runners.
 - One (1) U9 Competitor and One (1) U10 Competitor who will either be the swimmer or board paddler.

Mixed Cameron Relay:

- The U11 – U14 Cameron Relays will be run with four (4) person teams.
- As a minimum, a female must take the position of either board paddler or swimmer.

All Age Relays

- All Age Beach Relay: U8-U14.
- All Age Board Relay: U9-U14.
- The All Age Relays can comprise of any combination of athletes. There is no minimum gender requirement.

11.5 Restriction of Masters Events

Masters competitors may only compete in their own age group in Masters individual events and in only one (1) age category in each different Masters team event entered. The minimum age for a Masters competitor is 30 as of 30 September 2025.

Note: This section does not preclude a qualified Master competitor from participating in their Masters individual Age Group and also in Open age events. A minimum of one (1) starter is required to constitute a race, provided that the competitor/team correctly completes the course. Where Championship events are contested all place getters shall be awarded placing medals (1st, 2nd & 3rd). Where event numbers are low, multiple age groups may be run together, with placings being allocated as per individual age divisions.

12. GENERAL INFORMATION

12.1 Championship Point Score

A point score will be kept for the highest overall point score for the championships (1st through to 6th).

12.2 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.
- 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).

12.3 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).

12.4 Team Managers Meeting

A compulsory Team Managers Meeting will be held onsite at South West Rocks SLSC at 4.30pm on Thursday 22nd January 2026. It is expected that Team Managers and/or dedicated Club personnel are in attendance to receive vital event specific information.

13. SCRUTINEERING

Whilst it is encouraged that all 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 NSW Scrutineering Sticker.

Random scrutineering of craft and equipment may take place throughout the duration of the carnival. Finalists may be required to have their craft scrutineered prior to racing in event finals. No craft or equipment is exempt from random scrutineering as deemed appropriate by scrutineers.

14. SPONSOR RASH VESTS

All competitors entered into the 2026 NSW Country 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 2026 NSW Country Championships. See SSM 2.5.1.

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.

The [Rash Vest Order Form](#) must be completed by **11.00pm Sunday 4th January 2026**.

Lycra Vests will be available for collection by Team Managers at the 2026 NSW Country Championships from the bottom level of South West Rocks SLSC.

15. STACK TEAM APP

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

Stack Team App will be used in the lead up to and throughout the NSW Country 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 Championship 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.

1. To register for these event updates please follow the below instructions:
2. Download the “Stack Team App” application from the App Store or Google Play.
3. Log in / Sign up to receive live event notifications.
4. Once logged in search “2026 NSW Country Championships”.
5. 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.

16. MEDIA AND PHOTOGRAPHY

16.1 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 UAV’s for both surveillance and capturing of event footage.

16.2 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 attending, 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.

16.3 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.

17. 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.

It is the responsibility of competitors, parents, coaches, team managers and clubs to manage competitor workloads and fatigue.

Any competitor or official who suffers illness or injury prior to or at the 2026 NSW Country 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.

Event attendees are asked to be mindful of the following safety considerations and risks:

- Be aware of swimmers and surfers in proximity to the competition area
- Responsible manual handling of gear and equipment
- Limited sand behind competition area, no tents to craft to block access routes
- Weather – Please ensure you plan according to prevailing weather conditions and bring appropriate hydration, shelter and clothing
- No-one is to be climbing on the boulders in the water at the western end of the competition area

To confirm, it remains the responsibility of competitor, parents, team managers and clubs to ensure their own and team safety and fatigue management.

18. 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

19. 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 Edition 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).

20. 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 **\$150.00**, payable via EFTPOS, must accompany all documentation when the process is officially submitted to the Appeals Committee for adjudication.

21. COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS ENTRY AND PAYMENT PROCESS

