

Circular 3935

Released 26 November 2025



2026 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: 26 November 2025
Contact: Belinda Cooper Competitions & Event Staging Coordinator
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Summary:	This circular outlines the requirements and procedures to enter the 2026 NSW Lifesaving Championships. Swansea Belmont SLSC ○ Friday 13th February: U14, U15 & U17 Champion Lifesaver ○ Saturday 14th February: U19, Open & Masters Champion Lifesaver ○ Sunday 15th February: Champion Patrol Caves Beach SLSC ○ Saturday 21st February: U15, U17 & U19 First Aid ○ Sunday 22nd February: Open First Aid
Action:	○ Entries open Wednesday 26th November 2026. ○ Submit entries via Live Heats by 9am Wednesday 14th January 2026. ○ Online late entries close 11pm Wednesday 21st January 2026 (<i>late fees apply</i>). ○ NOTE: No late entries will be accepted after this date including at the Championships (excludes changes to team events)*

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1. INTRODUCTION

The 2026 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 Swansea Belmont SLSC will host the Champion Lifesaver and Champion Patrol event from Friday 13th February to Sunday 15th February 2026 and Caves Beach SLSC will host the Champion First Aid Competition on Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd February 2026.

This document outlines some key information relating to the 2026 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 [38th Edition Surf Sports Manual \(Revised October 2025\)](#)
- The proficiency competition requirements for 2025/26 Season:
 - [Memo - SLSNSW 5.04 Patrol Hour Exemption Process](#)

3. GENERAL CONTENT

Entries are to be completed online through Live Heats.

- Entries open **Wednesday 26th November 2025**.
- Entries close **09:00am Wednesday 14th January 2026**.
- Online late entries close **11.00pm Wednesday 21st 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 check all entries prior to the close of late entries for any omissions and errors.

4. 2026 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 [38th Edition] and event rules, any subsequent amending bulletins, and this Circular) postpone, cancel and/or alter any or all Championship events, and/or alter the venue of the competition.

Competition Committee Chairperson / DoSS	Donald van Keimpema OAM
Championship Referee	Adrienne Lowe
Local Organising Committee Representative	Jeff Mowbray / Graham Burge / Stacey Gay
Safety Coordinator (SEMC)	Michael Wasley / James Crittenden
SLSNSW Chief Operating Officer	Phil Ayres
SLSNSW Sport Manager	Greg Pierce
SLSNSW Competition & Event Coordinator	Belinda Cooper

5. 2026 LIFESAVING SAFETY EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

The NSW Championships Safety Emergency Committee (SEC) will direct all matters relating to the safety of the competition. The SEC will consider and advise the CC on all matters relating to competition and non-competition safety and emergency services. The SEC is responsible for enacting the contingency plan for this event.

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

Safety Coordinator (Chair)	Michael Wasley
Council Representative/Lifeguard	tbc
Deputy Carnival Referee	Steve Haggett
Powercraft Coordinator	Ben Forrester
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 2026 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	3 Officials
7 to 9	4 Officials
10 to 12	5 Officials
13 to 15	6 Officials
16 to 18	7 Officials
19 to 21	8 Officials
21 and above	9 Officials

Champion Patrol Quota

Teams Entered	Officials Required
1 team	1 Official
2 teams	2 Officials

Teams Entered	Officials Required
3-4 teams	3 Officials
5-6 teams	4 Officials

Champion First Aid Competition Quota

Teams Entered	Officials Required
1 team	2 Official
2 teams	3 Officials
3 teams	4 Officials
4 teams	5 Officials
5-6 teams	6 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 the competition location 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.

6.2 Patients

- For Champion Lifesaver: One (1) Patient per Club will be required.
- For Champion 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 2025/26 proficiency competition requirements and any other subsequent bulletins issued.

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 **Wednesday 14th January 2026**. **No requests will be accepted after this date.**

8. ENTRY FEES

The entry fee per competitor at the 2026 NSW Lifesaving Championships is **\$88.10** (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 a late fee of **\$121.65** (incl. GST).

No individual late entries will be taken at the Administration Centre. It is suggested that Clubs still enter members if there is a chance that they will be competing.

9. ENTRIES – SEMS

All entries to the 2026 NSW Surf Life Saving Lifesaving Championships must be submitted online **DIRECTLY** through Live Heats.

Online entries will close at **11pm on Wednesday 14th January 2026**.

Online late entries will close at **11pm on Sunday 21st January 2026**.

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 \(38th Edition\)](#) and amending Bulletins and Circulars.

Lifesaving Events	
Open Champion First Aid [3]	U19 Champion First Aid [3]

U17 Champion First Aid [3]
Open Champion Patrol [2]
Open Male Champion Lifesaver [2]
U19 Male Champion Lifesaver [2]
U17 Male Champion Lifesaver [2]
U15 Male Champion Lifesaver [2]
U14 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]

U15 Champion First Aid [3]
U17 Champion Patrol [2]
Open Female Champion Lifesaver [2]
U19 Female Champion Lifesaver [2]
U17 Female Champion Lifesaver [2]
U15 Female Champion Lifesaver [2]
U14 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, this applies to U17's who may compete up in U19 **OR** Opens, U19 can compete up into Open category, and U15's can compete up into the U17 category provided they have a current Provide First Aid Certificate.

****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 38th Edition.

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

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.

- 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

SLSNSW recommends competitors 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.

All boards and skis must carry manufacturer compliance decals.

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.

As per the SSM 38th Edition section 2.8, penalties for surf craft and/or equipment not meeting SLSA/Specifications may include removal of the craft and/or equipment from the competition, disqualification from the event, and/or other penalties deemed appropriate.

13. SPONSOR RASH VESTS

All competitors entered into the 2026 NSW Age 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 Age Championships.

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.

SLSNSW advises each competitor must have their age clearly numbered on the upper arm.

Selection of rash vest sizes will be made through Live Heats when completing individual entries.

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.

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 2026 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 38th 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 \$150.00 must accompany all documentation when the process is officially submitted to the Appeals Committee for adjudication.

19. STACK TEAM APP

It is highly recommended that everyone planning to attend any event download Stack Team App as it will be used in the lead up to and throughout the Competition as a platform to communicate information, documentation and updates including timetable changes to Team Managers and Competitors.

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 “**2026 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.

Our partners at Ingenia Holiday Parks are here to support you on your NSW Surf Life Saving Championships journey. Every member who books a stay of 3 or more nights at their Lake Macquarie Park between the dates of: 12th Feb - 3rd March, 2026 will receive a 25% discount on their stay using promo code [SLSNSW25](#).



20. LIFESAVING CHAMPIONSHIPS ENTRY PROCESS

