



Circular 3936

Released 26 November 2025



2026 NSW SURF LIFE SAVING AGE 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 competitor entries.

Date: 26 November 2025

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Summary:	This circular outlines the requirements and procedures to enter the 2026 NSW Surf Life Saving Age Championships to be held from Thursday 19 th to Sunday 22 nd February 2026.
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Entries will open in Live Heats on Wednesday 26th November 2026.○ Submit entries via Live Heats by 09:00am Sunday 25th January 2026.○ Online late entries close 11.00pm Sunday 1st February 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 Surf Life Saving Age Championships attracts competitors from the U9's to U14's, providing an opportunity for young surf lifesavers to unite over a four (4) day period, showcasing one of Australia's most iconic volunteer movements, Surf Life Saving.

This year's event will return to Swansea Belmont SLSC in the Lake Macquarie City Council area from Thursday 19th to Sunday 22nd February 2026.

This document outlines key information relating to the 2026 Age 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 \(Revised October 2025\)](#)

3. GENERAL CONTENT

Entries are to be completed online through Live Heats.

- Entries open **Wednesday 26th November 2025**.
- Entries close **09:00am Sunday 25th January 2026**.
- Online late entries close **11.00pm Wednesday 1st February 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 NSW AGE CHAMPIONSHIPS COMPETITION COMMITTEE

The 2026 NSW Age Championship Competition Committee (CC) will direct all matters relating to the delivery of the event and conduct of the competition. The CC may (subject to the rules in the Surf Sports Manual (38th edition), event rules and 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
Carnival Referee	Darren Moore
Local Organising Committee Representative	Jeff Mowbray / Graham Burge
Safety Coordinator (SC)	James Crittenden
SLSNSW Chief Operating Officer	Phil Ayres
SLSNSW Sport Manager	Greg Pierce
SLSNSW Competition & Event Coordinator	Belinda Cooper

5. 2026 NSW AGE SAFETY EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

The 2026 NSW Age 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)	James Crittenden
Council Representative/Lifeguard	tbc
Deputy Safety and Emergency Management Coordinator	tbc
Deputy Carnival Referee	Tara Neal & Louis Tassone
Powercraft Coordinator	Ben Forrester
First Aid Coordinator	AESS
Water Safety Coordinator	tbc
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 Surf Life Saving Age 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 hold a current Junior Officiating or Core Official accreditation.

NSW Age Championships Officials Quota Daily Requirement

****This quota will apply to both beach and water entries****

Example: If you have 45 competitors in water and 15 competitors in the beach, you require 4 officials in the water area and 1 official in the beach area per day.

Competitors Entered	Officials Required
1 to 4	0 Officials
5 to 20	1 Official
21 to 30	2 Officials

Competitors Entered	Officials Required
31 to 40	3 Officials
41 to 50	4 Officials
51 to 70	5 Officials
71 to 90	6 Officials
91 to 110	7 Officials
111 to 130	8 Officials
131 and above	9 Officials

Officials who wish to share a role with someone else MUST communicate this to SLSNSW. Two (2) officials sharing one (1) role fulfils one (1) official in the quota (the quota is based on attendance per day of the Championships).

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 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.

Officials undertaking duties to meet club's quotas, who have not already been appointed to a position, will be requested to report to the Deputy Referee at Swansea Belmont SLSC by 7:00am each morning of competition. Procedures for this to be confirmed in the Final Event Information to be released prior to the start of the Championships.

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 Officials 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 children can compete or not.

6.2 Water Safety

The following quota will apply for water safety during the 2026 NSW Surf Life Saving Age Championships. Water Safety relates to the personnel responsible for the 'in water' safety support during events. This is a separate quota requirement to the Powercraft and Officials requirements.

The following is the water safety ratio for the 2026 NSW Surf Life Saving Age Championships and replaces any previous versions of the Water Safety quota.

NSW Age Championships Water Safety Quota

Competitors Entered	Water Safety Required
1 to 9	0
10 to 19	1
20 to 29	2
30 to 39	3
40 to 49	4

Competitors Entered	Water Safety Required
50 to 59	5
60 to 69	6
70 to 79	7
80 to 94	8
95 to 109	9
110 to 124	10
125 to 139	11
140 to 154	12
155 to 169	13
170 to 185	14
186 to 200	15
<i>Note: There is no longer any cap on the water safety ratio. For every 15 competitors above 200, 1 more water safety personnel will be required.</i>	

The Water Safety roster will be finalised, distributed to all Team Managers and will be able to be downloaded from the State Championships event web page once the online late entries for the Age Championships have closed.

Water Safety personnel are required to hold the following **minimum** requirements (as per SLSA Water Safety Policy 1.2):

- A proficient Surf Rescue Certificate (CPR endorsed) and be a current financial SLS member (25/26).

6.3 Powercraft

To ensure the safety of all competitors competing in the 2026 NSW Surf Life Saving Age 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 current 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 including entries for the 2026 event, **the Powercraft Roster will not be prepared until after normal entries close on Sunday 25th January 2026.**

All IRB Drivers and Crew personnel must also bring with them their own personal compliant PFD, helmet, and appropriate clothing.

Clubs that fail to meet their rostered requirements: SLNSW will stand down all athletes from that club from competition until such time as the required powercraft personnel are present AND undertaking their required shift.

**** If there are any clubs that already intend to engage SLSNSW Services fulfill their IRB quota shifts, please complete this [form](#) by Sunday 18 January 2026 ****

Some Clubs may also be required to bring IRB equipment to the Championships. All IRBs supplied must be registered with SLSNSW, have passed the 2025/26 Gear and Equipment Inspection process, and be entered in SurfGuard.

6.4 RWC

All RWC shifts will be provided by SLSNSW Services.

We invite members who are qualified and have experience operating an RWC at Surf Sports Carnivals and are interested in undertaking paid shifts at the State Championships to complete the [Expression of Interest](#). SLSNSW Services will then reach out to suitably qualified and experienced members to seek availability and onboard you as a staff member if required.

6.5 First Aid

All first aid will be provided by SLSNSW Services.

6.6 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 and officials 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 and proficiency requirements as per the 2025/26 proficiency competition requirements and any 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 endorsed exemption requests **MUST** be received no later than **Sunday 25th January 2026**. **No requests will be accepted after this date.**

8. ENTRY FEES

The entry fee per individual competitor at the 2026 NSW Surf Life Saving Age Championships is **\$88.10** (incl. GST).

Entry fees are payable upon submission of entries through Live Heats.

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 Event Administration Centre at Swansea Belmont SLSC. It is advised that Clubs still enter members if there is a chance that they may be competing.

Additional Events:

When additional events (individual or team) are required for competitors a fee of **\$23.50 (incl. GST)** per event / per competitor will be charged. Eg: Competitor is already entered in the carnival in surf race but had not been entered in the board race. **Note: The competitor must be already entered into the Carnival in other event/s.**

Additional individual event entries must be received at the Event Administration Centre at Swansea Belmont SLSC by no later than 8am on the day of competition.

9. ENTRIES – LIVE HEATS

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

Online entries will close at **9am Sunday 25th January 2026.**

Online late entries will close at **11pm Sunday 1st February 2026.**

10. LIVE HEATS

SLSNSW will continue using LiveHeats for on-beach carnival management. 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 LiveHeats, and all event racing will be marshalled and recorded using LiveHeats.

Athletes must bring their allocated LiveHeats wristband. Replacement wristbands can be purchased from the Event Administration Centre at Swansea Belmont SLSC for \$7.00 per band.

Team managers will be responsible for team changes via LiveHeats throughout the competition.

11. 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.

11.1 Age Events

Under 14 Events
Male Surf Race
Female Surf Race
Male Surf Teams
Female Surf Teams
Ironman*
Ironwoman*
Male Board
Female Board
Male Board Relay
Female Board Relay
Male Board Rescue*
Female Board Rescue*
Male Cameron Relay
Female Cameron Relay
Male Beach Sprint
Female Beach Sprint
Male Beach Relay
Female Beach Relay
Mixed Beach Relay
Male Beach Flags
Female Beach Flags
2km Male Beach Run
2km Female Beach Run
Male 2 x 1km Beach Run Relay
Female 2 x 1km Beach Run Relay
Mixed 2 x 1km Beach Run Relay
Under 12 Events
Male Surf Race
Female Surf Race
Male Surf Teams
Female Surf Teams

Under 13 Events
Male Surf Race
Female Surf Race
Male Surf Teams
Female Surf Teams
Ironman*
Ironwoman*
Male Board
Female Board
Male Board Relay
Female Board Relay
Male Board Rescue*
Female Board Rescue*
Male Cameron Relay
Female Cameron Relay
Male Beach Sprint
Female Beach Sprint
Male Beach Relay
Female Beach Relay
Mixed Beach Relay
Male Beach Flags
Female Beach Flags
2km Male Beach Run
2km Female Beach Run
Male 2 x 1km Beach Run Relay
Female 2 x 1km Beach Run Relay
Mixed 2 x 1km Beach Run Relay
Under 11 Events
Male Surf Race
Female Surf Race
Male Surf Teams
Female Surf Teams

Male Board
Female Board
Ironman*
Ironwoman*
Male Board Rescue*
Female Board Rescue*
Male Board Relay
Female Board Relay
Mixed Cameron Relay
Male Beach Sprint
Female Beach Sprint
Male Beach Relay
Female Beach Relay
Mixed Beach Relay
Male Beach Flags
Female Beach Flags
1km Male Beach Run
1km Female Beach Run
Male 2 x 500m Beach Run Relay
Female 2 x 500m Beach Run Relay
Mixed 2 x 500m Beach Run Relay
Under 10 Events
Male Surf Race
Female Surf Race
Male Surf Teams
Female Surf Teams
Male Board
Female Board
Male Board Relay
Female Board Relay
Male Beach Sprint
Female Beach Sprint
Male Beach Relay

Male Board
Female Board
Ironman*
Ironwoman*
Male Board Rescue*
Female Board Rescue*
Male Board Relay
Female Board Relay
Mixed Cameron Relay
Male Beach Sprint
Female Beach Sprint
Male Beach Relay
Female Beach Relay
Mixed Beach Relay
Male Beach Flags
Female Beach Flags
1km Male Beach Run
1km Female Beach Run
Male 2 x 500m Beach Run Relay
Female 2 x 500m Beach Run Relay
Mixed 2 x 500m Beach Run Relay
Under 9 Events
Male Surf Race
Female Surf Race
Male Surf Teams
Female Surf Teams
Male Board
Female Board
Male Board Relay
Female Board Relay
Male Beach Sprint
Female Beach Sprint
Male Beach Relay

Female Beach Relay
Mixed Beach Relay
Male Beach Flags
Female Beach Flags

Female Beach Relay
Mixed Beach Relay
Male Beach Flags
Female Beach Flags

Qualifying events - Not included in Live Heats entry system

11.2 Special Events

The All Age Board Relay and All Age Beach Relay will be held as the first events on **Saturday 21st February 2026**. These events will consist of U9-U14 competitors.

All Age Board Relay (Qualifying event - Not included in Live Heats entry system)

All Age Beach Relay (Included in Live Heats Entry System)

11.3 March Past

The March Past will be held at 7.45am on **Sunday 22nd February 2026**.

March Past (Included in Live Heats Entry System)

11.4 R & R Events

All R & R events will be held at Swansea Belmont SLSC on **Saturday 21st February 2026**.

U10/U11 - 2 Person R & R

U13/U14 - 2 Person R & R

U12 - 2 Person R & R

U14/U15 - 2 Person R & R

U13-U15 - 5 Person R & R

Note 1: An U14 aged competitor is permitted to participate only in the U13/U14 or U14/U15 age category but not both.

Note 2: With the exception of the U13 - U15 5 Person R & R, an U13 aged competitor is permitted to participate only in the U13/U14 age category.

Note 3: The U13 - U15 R & R may be contested by any combination of male and female U13, U14 and U15 aged competitors.

Note 4: U13 aged competitors competing with U14s in team events are permitted under SLSA rules as detailed in Sections 2.3.4 and 2.3.5 of the Surf Sport Manual (SSM).

Note 5: At the NSW Surf Life Saving Age Championships, the composition of U13/14 2 Person R & R teams shall be any combination of U13 and U14 aged competitors.

Note 6: At the NSW State Age Championships an U14 aged competitor is permitted to participate in the U13/U14 or U14/U15 R & R team age category but not both.

11.5 Adaptive Championships

All Adaptive Events will take place from on **Sunday 22nd February 2026** at Swansea Belmont SLSC:

Inclusive	
Surf Race	Wade Race
Board Race	Run-Wade-Run / Run-Swim-Run
Beach Flags	Beach Sprint

For more information, please see the Adaptive Championships Entry Circular.

11.6 Lifesaving Events

Lifesaving events will be held at Swansea Belmont SLSC and will be held on the following days:

- U14 Champion Lifesaver will be conducted on **Friday 13th February 2026**.

The U14 Champion Lifesaver event will be conducted in separate male and female categories.

Note 1: There shall be no U13 Champion Lifesaver conducted as an eligibility prerequisite for this event includes a proficient Surf Rescue Certificate.

Note 2: U13 aged competitors are ineligible to compete in individual U14 aged events including the Champion Lifesaver.

For more information, please see the Lifesaving Championships Entry Circular.

11.7 Supplementary Information

- During the Age Championships, all Cameron Relay and Ironperson events will have a standard leg order of swim followed by board.
- U13 competitors competing with U14s in team events are permitted under SLSA rules as detailed in Sections 2.3.4 and 2.3.5 of the Surf Sport Manual (SSM).
- All team events must comprise of competitors from the same club. **No interclub teams are permitted.**

Cameron Relay (both mixed and single gender)

- All Cameron Relays will be a three (3) person team.
 - Teams to consist of 1 x swimmer, 1 x board paddler, 1 x runner (running twice).
 - In the U11/12 Mixed Cameron Relays, as a minimum, a female must take the position of either board paddler or swimmer.

Mixed Beach Relay

- Teams will comprise of two (2) males and two (2) females.

All Age Relays (Beach & Board)

- Teams will comprise of a minimum of three (3) females.

12. RESTRICTION OF EVENTS

- **Surf Teams (U9 to U14)** – Three (3) male teams and three (3) female teams per club per age group.
- **Ironperson (U11 to U14)** - Branch selection via quota, **not included in Live Heats entry system.**
- **Beach Relays (U9 to U14)** – Three (3) male teams and three (3) female teams per club per age group.
- **Mixed Beach Relays (U9 to U14)** – Three (3) teams per club per age group.

- **Beach Run (Distance) Relay (U11 to U14)** – Three (3) male teams and three (3) female teams per club per age group.
- **Mixed Beach Run (Distance) Relay (U11 to U14)** – Three (3) teams per club per age group.
- **Cameron Relay (U11 to U14)** – Three (3) teams per club per age group.
- **Board Rescue (U11 to U14)** – Branch selection via quota, **not included in Live Heats entry system.**
- **Board Relay (U9 to U14)** – Three (3) male teams and three (3) female teams per club per age group.
- **All Age Beach Relay (U9 to U14)** – One (1) team per club. The order will be U9 (1), U10 (2), U11 (3), U12 (4), U13 (5) & U14 (6). There will be a minimum of three (3) females. Competitors arms must be marked with the number. A reminder that as this is an ALL AGE event. Competitors must compete in their own age group and are not allowed to compete up an age. E.g., an U11 cannot do the U12 leg. There must be a minimum of three (3) females.
- **All Age Board Relay (U9 to U14)** – Two (2) teams per metropolitan branch and one (1) team per Country branch (U9 to U15 years) **not included in Live Heats entry system.** The order will be U9 (1), U10 (2), U11 (3), U12 (4), U13 (5) & U14 (6). Competitors arms must be marked with the number. A reminder that as this is an ALL AGE event. Competitors must compete in their own age group and are not allowed to compete up an age. E.g., an U11 cannot do the U12 leg. There must be a minimum of three (3) females.

NOTE: There will be a separate entry process for the restricted events of the Ironperson, Board Rescue and All Age Board Relay events. Branches are to complete the form by **Tuesday 10th February 2026**. More information to be sent directly to branches.

NOTE: No special consideration will be given to competitors who attempt to compete in more than one (1) area. (i.e., Events will not be delayed for this reason).

NOTE: Handlers will not be required to be entered into the Live Heats system. It is highly recommended that handlers are current financial members of a SLSNSW club. Those who handle for a competitor that are not financial members of a SLSNSW club will not be covered under the SLSNSW Insurance Policy. Handlers are required to provide and wear their own high visibility vest (or at the discretion of the referee; may wear a high visibility bib/jacket type garment).

13. GENERAL INFORMATION

13.1 Championship Point Score

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

13.2 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).

13.3 Clashing of Events

While every effort will be made to avoid clashes in the timetable, athletes will have to decide to contest one or the other.

13.4 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

13.5 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).

14. 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.

Note: The onus of compliance rests with the competitor using the craft/equipment during competition.

15. 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.

The wearing of the approved lycra vest for the distance runs / relays is **OPTIONAL**, although competitors will be required to wear approved lycra vest during any presentation ceremonies.

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

Rash Vests orders are to be collected from the Administration Centre located on the lower level of Swansea Belmont SLSC (access from courtyard) by Team Managers only during the below collection times:

Wednesday 18 th February	2.00pm – 4.30pm
Thursday 19 th February	6.15am – 7.30am & 2.00pm – 4.30pm
Friday 20 th February	6.15am – 7.30am

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 UAVs 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 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.

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.

Any competitor or official who suffers illness or injury prior to or at the 2026 NSW Surf Life Saving Age 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.

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 surfspots@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 38th 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 must accompany all documentation when the process is officially submitted to the Appeals Committee for adjudication.

21. 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 Ingénia 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 12th Feb - 3rd March, 2026 will receive a 25% discount on their stay using promo code [SLNSW25](#).



Your local club



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22. AGE CHAMPIONSHIPS ENTRY PROCESS

