



Circular 3937

Released 26 November 2025



2026 NSW SURF LIFE SAVING ADAPTIVE 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

Contact: Belinda Cooper Competitions & Event Staging Coordinator

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Summary:	This circular outlines the requirements and procedures to enter the 2026 NSW Surf Life Saving Adaptive Championships to be held on Sunday 22 nd February 2026.
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Submit entries via Live Heats by 11.00pm Sunday 8th February 2026.○ <i>There is no cost associated with Adaptive Championship entries.</i>

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1. INTRODUCTION

The 2026 NSW Surf Life Saving Adaptive Championships attracts competitors from the Under 8's to Masters, providing opportunity for members to unite as part of one of Australia's most iconic volunteer movements, Surf Life Saving.

SLSNSW is committed to the inclusion of people of all abilities and following the success of previous competitions, this year's Adaptive Championships will be held on **Sunday 22nd February 2026** at Swansea Belmont SLSC in the Lake Macquarie Council area.

This document outlines some key information relating to the 2026 NSW Surf Life Saving Adaptive Championships. Please note that SLSNSW may issue subsequent bulletins, memos or circulars which may supersede information provided in this Circular.

2. GENERAL CONTENT

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

- Entries open on **Wednesday 26th November 2025**.
- Entries close **11.00pm Sunday 8th February 2026**.
- There is no cost associated with ADAPTIVE Championship entries.

3. 2026 NSW ADAPTIVE CHAMPIONSHIPS COMPETITION COMMITTEE

The 2026 NSW Age/Adaptive 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
ADAPTIVE Carnival Referee	Michael Wasley / Michael Day
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

4. 2026 NSW AGE/ADAPTIVE SAFETY EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

The 2026 NSW Age/Adaptive Safety Emergency Committee (SEC) will direct all matters relating to the safety of the competition. This includes the arena where the Adaptive events take place. 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 Coordinator	tbc
Deputy Age Carnival Referee	Tara Neal & Louis Tassone
Powercraft Coordinator	Ben Forrester
First Aid Coordinator	AESS
SLSNSW Competitions & Event Staging Coordinator	Belinda Cooper

5. VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS

To support the adaptive events at the NSW Championships, clubs are required to provide water safety for competitors taking part. Please work with your club to ensure that you bring sufficient water safety to support members in these events.

6. ELIGIBILITY TO COMPETE

The 2026 NSW Surf Life Saving Adaptive Championships welcome all members who participate in surf lifesaving, but who may not be able to meet the requirements to compete at the Age, Open or Masters Championships e.g., preliminary skills, competition skills evaluation, Surf Rescue Certificate or Bronze Medallion. Note: these events are not to assist competitors who have suffered an injury but intended to provide members with a medical condition or injury causing permanent physical, sensory, or cognitive impairment which impacts their execution of the skills and requirements of Surf Sports the ability to compete.

To participate, members must be:

- Financial members of a SLS Club.
- Aged 7 and above.
- Have a physical, intellectual, or sensory disability; and
- If competing in water events; participants must bring their own water safety.
- If competing in board events; participants must bring their own board.

7. ENTRIES – SEMS

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

Online entries will close 11pm Sunday 8th February 2026.

8. LIVEHEATS

SLSNSW will be 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. Bands will not be available on the beach prior to the start of racing.

9. EVENTS

The following events shall be conducted in their respective age group areas. Please note that age groups and genders may be joined across events, and there are no restrictions on entry numbers from clubs.

Please note all competitors are required to bring their own boards. If you require any assistance with boards, please contact our membership team at memberservices@surflifesaving.com.au.

Under 8 Events
Male Wade Race
Female Wade Race
Male Beach Sprint
Female Beach Sprint
Male Beach Flags
Female Beach Flags
Under 10 Events
Male Wade Race
Female Wade Race
Male Surf Race
Female Surf Race
Male Board
Female Board
Male Beach Sprint

Under 9 Events
Male Wade Race
Female Wade Race
Male Surf Race
Female Surf Race
Male Board
Female Board
Male Beach Sprint
Female Beach Sprint
Male Beach Flags
Female Beach Flags
Under 11 Events
Male Wade Race
Female Wade Race
Male Surf Race
Female Surf Race
Male Board
Female Board
Male Beach Sprint

Female Beach Sprint
Male Beach Flags
Female Beach Flags
Under 12 Events
Male Wade Race
Female Wade Race
Male Surf Race
Female Surf Race
Male Board
Female Board
Male Beach Sprint
Female Beach Sprint
Male Beach Flags
Female Beach Flags
Under 14 Events
Male Wade Race
Female Wade Race
Male Surf Race
Female Surf Race
Male Board
Female Board
Male Beach Sprint
Female Beach Sprint
Male Beach Flags
Female Beach Flags
Under 17 Events
Male Wade Race
Female Wade Race
Male Surf Race
Female Surf Race
Male Board
Female Board

Female Beach Sprint
Male Beach Flags
Female Beach Flags
Under 13 Events
Male Wade Race
Female Wade Race
Male Surf Race
Female Surf Race
Male Board
Female Board
Male Beach Sprint
Female Beach Sprint
Male Beach Flags
Female Beach Flags
Under 15 Events
Male Wade Race
Female Wade Race
Male Surf Race
Female Surf Race
Male Board
Female Board
Male Beach Sprint
Female Beach Sprint
Male Beach Flags
Female Beach Flags
Under 19 Events
Male Wade Race
Female Wade Race
Male Surf Race
Female Surf Race
Male Board
Female Board

Male Beach Sprint
Female Beach Sprint
Male Beach Flags
Female Beach Flags
Open Events
Male Wade Race
Female Wade Race
Male Surf Race
Female Surf Race
Male Board
Female Board
Male Beach Sprint
Female Beach Sprint
Male Beach Flags
Female Beach Flags

Male Beach Sprint
Female Beach Sprint
Male Beach Flags
Female Beach Flags
Masters Events
Male Wade Race
Female Wade Race
Male Surf Race
Female Surf Race
Male Board
Female Board
Male Beach Sprint
Female Beach Sprint
Male Beach Flags
Female Beach Flags

Special Events

- Junior Run-Wade-Run – U11 – U13 age groups
- Youth Run-Wade-Run – U14 – U15 age groups
- Senior Run-Swim-Run – U17 – Masters

10. GENERAL INFORMATION

10.1 Adaptive Championship Medals & Point Score

Medals will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd placegetters in each event. Participation medals will not be awarded. ADAPTIVE events will not contribute to Age, Open or Masters Championships Club Point Score.

10.2 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).

10.3 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.

11. SPONSOR RASH VESTS

All competitors entered into the 2026 NSW Adaptive 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 Adaptive 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.

Rash Vests orders are to be collected from the Administration Centre on the lower level of Swansea Belmont SLSC (access via the courtyard) by Team Managers only.

12. MEDIA AND PHOTOGRAPHY

12.1 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.

12.2 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.

12.3 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.

13. 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 2025 NSW Adaptive 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.

14. 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

15. 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).

16. 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.

17. 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](#).



18. ADAPTIVE CHAMPIONSHIPS ENTRY PROCESS

