

Circular 3938
UPDATED 4 February 2026



2026 NSW SURF LIFE SAVING MASTERS 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
Phone: (02) 9471 8000
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<p>Summary:</p>	<p>UPDATED</p> <p>The 190+ Mixed Taplin Relay, Ski Relay, Board Relay and Beach Relay although listed in the program were not initially included in the Entry Circular or Live Heats.</p> <p>Entries can still be completed. If you wish to change an already entered team to this division please email statechampionships@surflifesaving.com.au</p> <p>This circular outlines the requirements and procedures to enter the 2026 NSW Surf Life Saving Masters Championships to be held at Swansea Belmont SLSC on Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th February 2026.</p>
<p>Action:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online late entries close 11.00pm Wednesday 11th 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 Masters Championships attracts competitors from the 30 to 75+ age groups, providing an opportunity for surf lifesavers to unite over a two (2) 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 Wednesday 25th to Thursday 26th March 2026. Caves Beach SLSC will host the First Aid events on Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd February 2026.

This document outlines key information relating to the 2026 NSW Surf Life Saving Masters 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 Monday 2nd February 2026**
- Online late entries close **11.00pm Wednesday 11th February 2026** (late fees apply)
- **No late entries will be accepted after this date including at the Championships (excludes change 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 MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION COMMITTEE

The 2026 NSW Masters Championship 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	Peter Carney
Local Organising Committee Representative	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 MASTERS SAFETY EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

The 2026 NSW Surf Life Saving Masters 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 Coordinator	Tbc
Deputy Carnival Referee	Jeff Mowbray
Powercraft Coordinator	Ben Forrester
First Aid Coordinator	AESS
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 Masters 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 for the 2026 Championships and supersedes any prior versions of the Officials quota from previous years. Officials, as a minimum requirement, must have a current Core Official accreditation.

Masters Championships Quota

Competitors Entered	Officials Required
1 to 4	-
5 to 10	1 Official
11 to 15	2 Officials
16 to 40	3 Officials
41 to 50	4 Officials
51+	5 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 Championship).

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.

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 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 Powercraft

To ensure the safety of all competitors competing in the 2026 NSW Surf Life Saving Masters 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 based on figures calculated after entries close for the 2026 event, the **Powercraft Roster will not be prepared until after normal entries close on Sunday 1st February 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: SLSNSW 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 on SurfGuard.

6.3 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.

6.4 First Aid

All first aid will be provided by SLSNSW Services.

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.

Entrants must meet SLSNSW award, patrol, and proficiency requirements as per the 2025/26 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](#)

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 **Sunday 1st February 2026. No requests will be accepted after this date.**

8. ENTRY FEES

The entry fee per competitor at the 2025 NSW State Masters 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 at Swansea Belmont SLSC. It is suggested that Clubs still enter members if there is a chance that they will be competing.

Additional Events:

When additional events are required for competitors (individual and / or team) a fee of **\$23.50** (incl. GST) 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 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 Masters Championships must be submitted online **DIRECTLY** through Live Heats.

Online entries will close **09:00am Monday 2nd February 2026.**

Online late entries will close **11.00pm Wednesday 11th February 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 \(38th Edition\)](#) and amending Bulletins and Circulars.

10.1 Lifesaving Events

Lifesaving events will be held on the following days:

Swansea Belmont SLSC

- 30-39, 40-49 & 50-59 and 60+ Champion Lifesaver will be conducted on Saturday 14th February 2026.
- Open Champion Patrol will be conducted on Sunday 15th February 2026.

Caves Beach SLSC

- Open First Aid Competition will be held on Sunday 22nd February 2026.

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

10.2 Surf Boat Events

Masters Surf Boat Events will be conducted on Friday 27th February 2026.

For more information, please see the Surf Boats Championships Entry Circular.

10.3 Scheduled Masters Events

Swimming Events			
30-34 Years Male Surf Race		30-34 Years Female Surf Race	
35-39 Years Male Surf Race		35-39 Years Female Surf Race	
40-44 Years Male Surf Race		40-44 Years Female Surf Race	
45-49 Years Male Surf Race		45-49 Years Female Surf Race	
50-54 Years Male Surf Race		50-54 Years Female Surf Race	
55-59 Years Male Surf Race		55-59 Years Female Surf Race	
60-64 Years Male Surf Race		60-64 Years Female Surf Race	
65- 69 Years Male Surf Race		65-69 Years Female Surf Race	
70-74 Years Male Surf Race		70-74 Years Female Surf Race	
75 Years & over Male Surf Race		75 Years & over Female Surf Race	
110 Years min Male Surf Teams		110 Years min Female Surf Teams	
130 Years min Male Surf Teams		130 Years min Female Surf Teams	
150 Years min Male Surf Teams		150 Years min Female Surf Teams	
170 Years min Male Surf Teams		170 Years min Female Surf Teams	
190 Years min Mixed Surf Teams			

Rescue Tube Events			
30-34 Years Male Rescue Tube		30-34 Years Female Rescue Tube	
35-39 Years Male Rescue Tube		35-39 Years Female Rescue Tube	
40-44 Years Male Rescue Tube		40-44 Years Female Rescue Tube	
45-49 Years Male Rescue Tube		45-49 Years Female Rescue Tube	

50-54 Years Male Rescue Tube
55-59 Years Male Rescue Tube
60-64 Years Male Rescue Tube
65-69 Years Male Rescue Tube
70-74 Years Male Rescue Tube
75 years and over Male Rescue Tube

50-54 Years Female Rescue Tube
55-59 Years Female Rescue Tube
60-64 Years Female Rescue Tube
65-69 Years Female Rescue Tube
70-74 Years Female Rescue Tube
75 years and over Female Rescue Tube

Multi-Discipline Events			
30-34 Years Ironman		30-34 Years Ironwoman	
35-39 Years Ironman		35-39 Years Ironwoman	
40-44 Years Ironman		40-44 Years Ironwoman	
45-49 Years Ironman		45-49 Years Ironwoman	
50-54 Years Ironman		50-54 Years Ironwoman	
55-59 Years Ironman		55-59 Years Ironwoman	
60-64 Years Ironman		60-64 Years Ironwoman	
65-69 Years Ironman		65-69 Years Ironwoman	
70-74 Years Male Ironman		70-74 Years Female Ironwoman	
75 Years & over Male Ironman		75 Years & over Female Ironwoman	
110 Years min Male Taplin		110 Years min Female Taplin	
130 Years min Male Taplin		130 Years min Female Taplin	
150 Years min Male Taplin		150 Years min Female Taplin	
170 Years min Male Taplin		170 Years min. Female Taplin	
190 Years min Mixed Taplin			

Board Rescue Events			
30-34 Years Male Board Rescue		30-34 Years Female Board Rescue	
35-39 Years Male Board Rescue		35-39 Years Female Board Rescue	
40-44 Years Male Board Rescue		40-44 Years Female Board Rescue	
45-49 Years Male Board Rescue		45-49 Years Female Board Rescue	
50-54 Years Male Board Rescue		50-54 Years Female Board Rescue	
55-59 Years Male Board Rescue		55-59 Years Female Board Rescue	
60-64 Years Male Board Rescue		60-64 Years Female Board Rescue	
65-69 Years Male Board Rescue		65-69 Years Female Board Rescue	
70-74 Years Male Board Rescue		70-74 Years Female Board Rescue	

75 Years & over Male Board Rescue

75 Years & over Female Board Rescue

Ski Events

30-34 Years Male Single Ski	30-34 Years Female Single Ski
35-39 Years Male Single Ski	35-39 Years Female Single Ski
40-44 Years Male Single Ski	40-44 Years Female Single Ski
45-49 Years Male Single Ski	45-49 Years Female Single Ski
50-54 Years Male Single Ski	50-54 Years Female Single Ski
55-59 Years Male Single Ski	55-59 Years Female Single Ski
60-64 Years Male Single Ski	60-64 Years Female Single Ski
65-69 Years Male Single Ski	65-69 Years Female Single Ski
70-74 Years Male Single Ski	70-74 Years Female Single Ski
75 Years & over Male Single Ski	75 Years & over Female Single Ski
110 Years min Male Ski Relay	110 Years min Female Ski Relay
130 Years min Male Ski Relay	130 Years min Female Ski Relay
150 Years min Male Ski Relay	150 Years min Female Ski Relay
170 Years min Male Ski Relay	170 Years min Female Ski Relay
190 Years min Mixed Ski Relay	
30-34 Years Male Double Ski	30-34 Years Female Double Ski
35-39 Years Male Double Ski	35-39 Years Female Double Ski
40-44 Years Male Double Ski	40-44 Years Female Double Ski
45-49 Years Male Double Ski	45-49 Years Female Double Ski
50-54 Years Male Double Ski	50-54 Years Female Double Ski
55-59 Years Male Double Ski	55-59 Years Female Double Ski
60-64 Years Male Double Ski	60-64 Years Female Double Ski
65-69 Years Male Double Ski	65-69 Years Female Double Ski
70-74 Years Male Double Ski	70-74 Years Female Double Ski
75 Years & over Male Double Ski	75 Years & over Female Double Ski

Board Events

30-34 Years Male Board	30-34 Years Female Board
35-39 Years Male Board	35-39 Years Female Board
40-44 Years Male Board	40-44 Years Female Board
45-49 Years Male Board	45-49 Years Female Board

50-54 Years Male Board
55-59 Years Male Board
60-64 Years Male Board
65-69 Years Male Board
70-74 Years Male Board
75 Years & over Male Board
110 Years min Male Board Relay
130 Years min Male Board Relay
150 Years min Male Board Relay
170 Years min Male Board Relay
190 Years min Mixed Board Relay

50-54 Years Female Board
55-59 Years Female Board
60-64 Years Female Board
65-69 Years Female Board
70-74 Years Female Board
75 Years & over Female Board
110 Years min Female Board Relay
130 Years min Female Board Relay
150 Years min Female Board Relay
170 Years min Female Board Relay

Beach Events	
30-34 Years Male Beach Sprint	30-34 Years Female Beach Sprint
35-39 Years Male Beach Sprint	35-39 Years Female Beach Sprint
40-44 Years Male Beach Sprint	40-44 Years Female Beach Sprint
45-49 Years Male Beach Sprint	45-49 Years Female Beach Sprint
50-54 Years Male Beach Sprint	50-54 Years Female Beach Sprint
55-59 Years Male Beach Sprint	55-59 Years Female Beach Sprint
60-64 Years Male Beach Sprint	60-64 Years Female Beach Sprint
65-69 Years Male Beach Sprint	65-69 Years Female Beach Sprint
70-74 Years Male Beach Sprint	70-74 Years Female Beach Sprint
75 Years & over Male Beach Sprint	75 Years & over Female Beach Sprint
140 Years min Male Beach Relay	140 Years min Female Beach Relay
170 Years min Male Beach Relay	170 Years min. Female Beach Relay
200 Years min Male Beach Relay	200 Years min. Female Beach Relay
230 Years min Male Beach Relay	230 Years min Female Beach Relay
30-34 Years Male Beach Flags	30-34 Years Female Beach Flags
35-39 Years Male Beach Flags	35-39 Years Female Beach Flags
40-44 Years Male Beach Flags	40-44 Years Female Beach Flags
45-49 Years Male Beach Flags	45-49 Years Female Beach Flags
50-54 Years Male Beach Flags	50-54 Years Female Beach Flags
55-59 Years Male Beach Flags	55-59 Years Female Beach Flags
60-64 Years Male Beach Flags	60-64 Years Female Beach Flags

65-69 Years Male Beach Flags	65-69 Female Beach Flags
70-74 Years Male Beach Flags	70-74 Years Female Beach Flags
75 Years & over Male Beach Flags	75 Years & over Male Beach Flags
30-34 Years Male 2km Beach Run	30-34 Years Female 2km Beach Run
35-39 Years Male 2km Beach Run	35-39 Years Female 2km Beach run
40-44 Years Male 2km Beach Run	40-44 Years female 2km Beach Run
45-49 Years Male 2km Beach Run	45-49 Years Female 2km Beach Run
50-54 Years Male 2km Beach Run	50-54 Years Female 2km Beach Run
55-59 Years Male 2km Beach Run	55-59 Years Female 2km Beach Run
60-64 Years Male 1km Beach Run	60-64 Years Female 1km Beach Run
65-69 Years Male 1km Beach Run	65-69 Years Female 1km Beach Run
70-74 Years Male 1km Beach Run	70-74 Years Female 1km Beach Run
75 Years & over Male 1km Beach Run	75 Years & over Female 1km Beach Run

10.4 Supplementary Information

- All Taplin Relays will be three (3) person relays.
- All Ironperson events will include the ski.
- The event order of iron events will be drawn prior to the commencement of the Championships.

10.5 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.

Beach Relays – In an effort to encourage entries and to allow water competitors the opportunity for a break, competition in the water will be paused during the conduct of the beach relay events. ***Please note this is subject to change.***

10.6 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

statechampionships@surflifesaving.com.au

10.7 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).

11. LIVEHEATS

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.

12. GENERAL INFORMATION

12.1 Championship Point Score

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

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).

13. 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.

14. 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.

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 during the collection times below:

Tuesday 24 th February	2.00pm – 4.30pm
Wednesday 25 th February	6.15am – 7.30am

15. MEDIA AND PHOTOGRAPHY

15.1 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.

15.2 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 SLSC bulletins.

15.3 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.

16. HEALTH & WELLBEING

SLSNSW reserves the right to alter event competitor eligibility & attendance and spectator & official attendance should any Public Health Orders in force during the event place limits on the number of attendees and/or the vaccination status of attendees.

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.

17. 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

18. 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).

19. 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.

20. 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.

Join the event and [turning on your mobile app notifications](#).

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.

21. LAKE MACQUARIE COUNCIL MAYOR'S WELCOME

On behalf of Lake Macquarie City Council, I'm delighted to welcome competitors, officials and visitors back to Blacksmiths Beach for the 2026 NSW Surf Life Saving Championships.

This year marks the beginning of three more consecutive years of hosting this premier event at Blacksmiths, a proud achievement for our city and a testament to the strength of our partnership with Swansea Belmont Surf Life Saving Club.

Lake Macquarie City Council is proud to support the Championships and showcase our beautiful coastal location. I wish every athlete, official and spectator an unforgettable experience and look forward to cheering on the lifesavers as they compete for glory at Blacksmiths Beach.

- Adam Shultz, Mayor of Lake Macquarie

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](#).



22. MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS ENTRY PROCESS

