

Circular 3939

Released 26 November 2025



2026 NSW SURF LIFE SAVING OPEN 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 OPEN Championships to be held from Thursday 26 th February to Sunday 1 st March 2026.
Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entries will open in Live Heats on Wednesday 26th November 2026. Complete and submit entries via Live Heats by 09:00am Monday 2nd February 2026. 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 Open Championships attracts competitors from Under 15 to Open age groups, providing an opportunity for 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 and also Caves Beach SLSC in the Lake Macquarie City Council area from Thursday 26th February to Sunday 1st March 2026.

This document outlines key information relating to the 2026 Open 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 OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS COMPETITION COMMITTEE

The 2026 NSW Open 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	Michael Wasley
Local Organising Committee Representative	Jeff Mowbray / Graham Burge
Safety Coordinator (SC)	Mick Mottley
SLSNSW Chief Operating Officer	Phil Ayres
SLSNSW Sport Manager	Greg Pierce
SLSNSW Competition & Event Coordinator	Belinda Cooper

5. 2026 NSW OPEN SAFETY EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

The 2026 NSW Open 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)	Mick Mottley
Council Representative/Lifeguard	Tbc
Deputy Safety Coordinator	James Crittenden
Deputy Carnival Referee	Michael Day
Powercraft Coordinator	Ben Forrester
First Aid Coordinator	AESS
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 Open Championships. Online late entries will be added to the total number of competitors entered to ensure that the club's obligation is satisfied.

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

Open Championships Quota

Competitors Entered	Officials Required
1 to 4	0 Officials
5 to 10	1 Official
11 to 20	2 Officials
21 to 30	3 Officials
31 to 40	4 Officials
41 to 50	5 Officials

Competitors Entered	Officials Required
51 to 60	6 Officials
61 to 70	7 Officials
71 to 100	8 Officials
101 to 150	9 Officials
151 and above	10 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 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 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. Procedure 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 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 Open Championships, a Powercraft roster will be implemented. Clubs will be identified based on the total entries from 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 Monday 2nd February 2026.**

All IRB Drivers and Crew personnel must also bring with them their current SLSNSW Powercraft licence, 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 in 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.

6.5 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.

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 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 **Monday 2nd February 2026**. **No requests will be accepted after this date.**

8. ENTRY FEES

The entry fee per competitor at the 2025 NSW State Open Championships is **\$88.10**(incl. GST).

The entry fee per March Past team is **\$337.50** (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 may be competing.

Additional Events:

When additional events are required for competitors (individual and / or team) after entries have closed, 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 Age 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

- U14, U15 & U17 Champion Lifesaver will be held on Friday 13th February 2026.
- U19, Open & Masters Champion Lifesaver will be conducted on Saturday 14th February 2026.
- U17 & Open Champion Patrol will be conducted on Sunday 15th February 2026.

Caves Beach SLSC

- U15, U17 & U19 First Aid Competition will be conducted on Saturday 21st February 2026.
- Open First Aid will be held on Sunday 22nd February 2026.

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

- **Surf Belt & Rescue Tube events will be held on Thursday 26 February 2026. (1.30pm Report)**

10.2 Surf Boat Events

- Masters and Reserves Surf Boat events will be conducted on Friday 27 February 2026.
- U19, U23 and Open Surf Boat events will be conducted on Saturday 28 February and Sunday 1st March 2026.

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

10.3 Lifesaver Relay

It is intended that the Lifesaver Relay be run as 1 (one) continuous event as the first event on Sunday Morning. Surf Boats. The Lifesaver Relay entry conditions are described in the 38th Edition of the Surf Sports Manual and age and gender requirements will be strictly adhered to.

10.4 R & R Events

R & R for the 2025 NSW Open Championships will be held at Swansea Belmont SLSC on Saturday 28th February 2026. R&R events scheduled for this day are:

U17 2 Person R & R	U17 5 Person R & R
U19 2 Person R & R	U19 5 Person R & R
U23 5 Person R & R	Open Male 5 Person R & R
Open Female 5 Person R & R	Open Mixed 5 Person R & R
Open 2 Person R & R	Open 6 Person R & R

10.5 March Past

The March Past will be held at Swansea Belmont SLSC on 28th February 2026 (4pm Report).

Open March Past	Under 23 March Past
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10.6 Scheduled Open Events

Surf Belt Events			
*** Please note Surf Belt Races will be held from 2pm on Thursday 26 th February 2026 ***			
Open Male Belt Race		Open Female Belt Race	
Under 19 Male Surf Belt Race		Under 19 Female Surf Belt Race	
Under 17 Male Surf Belt Race		Under 17 Female Surf Belt Race	
Swimming Events			
Open Male Surf Race		Open Female Surf Race	
Under 19 Male Surf Race		Under 19 Female Surf Race	
Under 17 Male Surf Race		Under 17 Female Surf Race	
Under 15 Male Surf Race		Under 15 Female Surf Race	
Open Male Surf Teams		Open Female Surf Teams	
Under 19 Male Surf Teams		Under 19 Female Surf Teams	
Under 17 Male Surf Teams		Under 17 Female Surf Teams	
Under 15 Male Surf Teams		Under 15 Female Surf Teams	
Multi-Discipline Events			
*** Please note Rescue Tube Rescue will be held from 2pm on Thursday 26 th February 2026 ***			
Open Ironman		Open Ironwoman	
Under 19 Ironman		Under 19 Ironwoman	

Under 17 Ironman		Under 17 Ironwoman
Under 15 Ironman		Under 15 Ironwoman
Open Male Board Rescue		Open Female Board Rescue
Under 19 Male Board Rescue		Under 19 Female Board Rescue
Under 17 Male Board Rescue		Under 17 Female Board Rescue
Under 15 Male Board Rescue		Under 15 Female Board Rescue
Open Male Rescue Tube Rescue (4 person)		Open Female Rescue Tube Rescue (4 person)
Under 19 Male Rescue Tube Rescue (4 person)		Under 19 Female Rescue Tube Rescue (4 person)
Open Male Taplin Relay (6 person)		Open Female Taplin Relay (3 person)
Open Mixed Taplin Relay (6 person)		
Under 19 Male Taplin (3 person)		Under 19 Female Taplin (3 person)
Under 17 Male Taplin (3 person)		Under 17 Female Taplin (3 person)
Under 15 Male Cameron Relay (3 person)		Under 15 Female Cameron Relay (3 person)
Ski Events		
Open Male Single Ski		Open Female Single Ski
Under 19 Male Single Ski		Under 19 Female Single Ski
Under 17 Male Single Ski		Under 17 Female Single Ski
Open Male Single Ski Relay		Open Female Single Ski Relay
Under 19 Male Single Ski Relay		Under 19 Female Single Ski Relay
Under 17 Male Single Ski Relay		Under 17 Female Single Ski Relay
Open Male Double Ski		Open Female Double Ski
Open Mixed Double Ski		U19 Mixed Double Ski
Under 19 Male Double Ski		Under 19 Female Double Ski
Board Events		
Open Male Board		Open Female Board
Under 19 Male Board		Under 19 Female Board
Under 17 Male Board		Under 17 Female Board
Under 15 Male Board		Under 15 Female Board
Open Male Board Relay		Open Female Board Relay
Under 19 Male Board Relay		Under 19 Female Board Relay
Under 17 Male Board Relay		Under 17 Female Board Relay
Under 15 Male Board Relay		Under 15 Female Board Relay
Beach Events		

Open Male Beach Sprint
Under 19 Male Beach Sprint
Under 17 Male Beach Sprint
Under 15 Male Beach Sprint
Open Male Beach Relay
Open Mixed Beach Relay
Under 19 Male Beach Relay
Under 19 Mixed Beach Relay
Under 17 Male Beach Relay
Under 17 Mixed Beach Relay
Under 15 Male Beach Relay
Under 15 Mixed Beach Relay
Open Male Beach Flags
Under 19 Male Beach Flags
Under 17 Male Beach Flags
Under 15 Male Beach Flags
Open Male 2km Beach Run
Under 19 Male 2km Beach Run
Under 17 Male 2km Beach Run
Under 15 Male 2km Beach Run
Open Male 2 x 1km Beach Run Relay
U19 Male 2 x 1km Beach Run Relay
U17 2x 1km Beach Run Relay
U15 Male 2 x 1km Male Beach Run Relay
Open Mixed 2 x 1km Beach Run Relay
U17 Mixed 2 x 1km Beach Run Relay

Open Female Beach Sprint
Under 19 Female Beach Sprint
Under 17 Female Beach Sprint
Under 15 Female Beach Sprint
Open Female Beach Relay
Under 19 Female Beach Relay
Under 17 Female Beach Relay
Under 15 Female Beach Relay
Open Female Beach Flags
Under 19 Female Beach Flags
Under 17 Female Beach Flags
Under 15 Female Beach Flags
Open Female 2km Beach Run
Under 19 Female 2km Beach Run
Under 17 Female 2km Beach Run
Under 15 Female 2km Beach Run
Open Female 2 x 1km Beach Run Relay
U19 Female 2 x 1km Beach Run Relay
U17 Female 2 x 1km Female Beach Run Relay
U15 Female 2 x 1km Beach Run Relay
U19 Mixed 2 x 1km Mixed Beach Run Relay
U15 Mixed 2 x 1km Beach Run Relay

10.7 Restriction Of Events

- For the Open Championships, Clubs may enter a maximum of five (5) teams per team event.
- The Lifesaver Relay is restricted to two (2) teams per metropolitan branch, and one (1) team per country branch. Qualification is via nominated Branch events. As per [Section 8.4.1](#) of the Surf Sports Manual 38th Edition (Oct 25), excluding the Surf Boat sweep within each team there must be four (4) female and four (4) male competitors. Also included in the team from this gender mix must be at least one (1) U17 competitor and one (1) U19 competitor (as determined by their age for participation in individual events). Entry to this event will not be available on the online entry system. **Note: this is not included in the LIVE HEATS entry system. Entry information will be sent to branches directly.**

- Teams entered in 'mixed' events must contain two (2) male and two (2) female competitors.
- Open Mixed Taplin (6 person) must contain three (3) male and three (3) female competitors. Each leg must be completed one (1) male and one (1) female competitor.

10.8 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.

10.9 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

10.10 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 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.

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

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.

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 SLISA/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:

Thursday 26 th February	12.00pm – 4.30pm
Friday 27 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, which may be 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 Pros may only be used within the competition area on approved fittings and fixtures as set out in relevant SLISA 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

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 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).

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.

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.

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. OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS ENTRY PROCESS

