



Circular

Title:	Youth Official
Document ID:	Circular 42/25-26
Date:	09/12/2025
Department:	Learning and Development & Sport
Summary:	This circular advises the introduction to the youth officials award

Detail

Surf Lifesaving Australia is excited to announce that the **Youth Officials Award** is now active. This initiative allows young members, 13 years and older, to become accredited surf sport officials, and can officiate at either youth carnivals (Core Officials) or at all age carnivals (Technical Officials).

By lowering the minimum age, more young people can now step into officiating roles, increasing the opportunities for members who are looking for a non-competitive pathway in surf sports.

Pathways

Through this award, young members will be given the option to become a Core Official or a Technical Official, depending on the age of the competitors that they wish to support.

Please note that some clubs, branches or states/territory may elect not to offer both options, requiring youth officials to undertake the Technical Official course only.

eLearning Access

All officials aged 13-21 years will be issued eLearning at no cost to the participant, ensuring accessible training and development for young members.

See over for youth official guidelines

Further Information

Should further information be required please contact the Tracey Bloxsom at:
tracey.bloxsom@sls.com.au



Youth Official Guidelines

Process for clubs, branches and state/territory:

1. Use the attached poster and other communications to encourage young people to become an official at surf sports events. Describe the benefits, such as officiating with their friends who are competing and getting the best possible view of the racing.
2. Describe the process of becoming accredited, which will include:
 - a. online learning, located: SLS Hub > Applications > eLearning > Training Library (delivery may be blended online/in person, all online or in-person)
 - b. face to face learning (determined by club/ranch/state/territory)
 - c. appointed at surf sports events for practical learning
 - d. assessment
3. Discuss with the young person the difference between the Core and Technical Official qualifications and support them to decide which they will undertake. They can officiate at either youth carnivals (Core Officials) or at all age carnivals (Technical Officials).
4. Club/branch/state/territory email Tracey Bloxsom via tracey.bloxsom@sls.com.au the following information to organise access to the online course that they select:
 - a. Full name
 - b. Date of birth
 - c. Club name

This is an interim measure to allow the young person (age 13-21) to be given access to the course without payment.
5. When given access to the appropriate course, the young person will follow the steps outlined above in point 2.
6. For assessment procedures please refer to the [Core / Youth Official Assessment Portfolio](#) OR the [Technical / Youth Official Assessment Portfolio](#).
7. Appoint the youth official to the surf sports events that they are interested in to officiate and discuss an assessment timeline. The assessment pathway should meet the needs of both the young official and the club/branch/state.
8. When the youth official has successfully completed their assessments, processing of paperwork should follow the same process for other officials.

Mentoring:

It is imperative that clubs, branches and states/territory that are running surf sports events where young officials will be appointed, ensure that young officials have a mentor appointed for each day they are at a surf sports event. The allocated mentor is required to assist the young official with any questions that they have and ensure that they are always in a safe environment. The mentor might be an ongoing mentor, or the club/branch/state might choose to use different mentors for different events.

The role of the mentor is to support the youth official on how to officiate at events, how to access information about events (websites/circulars) and how to record their attendance at events. When young people are appointed at Surf Sports events it is advisable that the Referee on the day ensures that all age managers, team managers, athletes, coaches and parents understand their responsibility in relation to the safety of the officials who are working at that event. They should be explicitly reminded about the code of conduct and how it will be applied.

BECOME A YOUTH OFFICIAL!



CONGRATULATIONS!
YOU ARE NOW A
 **YOUTH OFFICIAL!**

