

Circular 3943

28 January 2026

2026 NSW METROPOLITAN & REGIONAL SURF BOAT CHAMPIONSHIPS ENTRY CIRCULAR

Attention: Club Presidents, Club Secretaries, Club Competition Officers, Team Managers, Coaches and Competitors.

Actioned by: Persons responsible for entries.

Date: 28 January 2026

Contact: Belinda Cooper, Competitions & Event Staging Coordinator

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Summary	Outlines the requirements and procedures to enter and compete in the 2026 NSW Metropolitan & Regional Surf Boat Championships to be held on Saturday 14 th March 2026 at Ocean Beach SLSC.
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Complete and submit entries via LIVE HEATS by midnight Wednesday 4 March 2026.○ <i>NOTE: No late entries will be accepted after this date including at the Championships (excludes changes to team events) *</i>

INTRODUCTION

The Metropolitan & Regional Championships will compete across the same events, in separate arenas (pending entry numbers), on Saturday 14 March 2026, showcasing the depth of surfboat competition in NSW from U19 through Masters categories. The events will be conducted under Championship conditions.

ENTRIES AND ENTRY FEES

Entries are to be completed via LIVE HEATS.

Please ensure that Regional Crews/Clubs enter the 2026 NSW Regional Surf Boat Championships.

Please ensure that Metropolitan Crews/Clubs enter the 2026 NSW Metropolitan Surf Boat Championships.

The entry fee per competitor is **\$61.15** including sweeps.

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Entry fees are not refundable if members do not take part in these Championships, or if events or the entire Championships are cancelled.

Team Substitutions/Reserves:

All substitute competitors are to be entered into the “Substitute Athletes” division regardless of competing division. Competitors can then be added to correct teams.

It is suggested that Clubs enter all reserve members if there is a chance that they may be required to substitute into a team.

2026 NSW SURF BOAT METROPOLITAN & REGIONAL COMPETITION COMMITTEE

The 2026 NSW Surf Life Saving Surf Boat Competition Committee (CC) will direct all matters relating to the competition's actual conduct. 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 alter the venue of the competition.

2026 NSW SURF BOAT CHAMPIONSHIPS SAFETY EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

The 2026 NSW Surf Boat Safety Emergency Committee (SEC) will direct all matters relating to the competition's safety.

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 SEC may consult and seek advice from appropriate officials, athletes and other personnel on local weather, surf conditions and safety issues when required. The SEC will then advise the CC.

The SEC is responsible for enacting the contingency plan for this event. The Safety Operations Manual developed for this event is to be applied by the Referee when considering and making recommendations, in consultation with relevant emergency services and lifesaving authorities.

ELIGIBILITY TO COMPETE

Regional Championships	Metropolitan Championships
All clubs / crews from the following Branches: Far North Coast, North Coast, Mid North Coast, Lower North Coast, Hunter, Central Coast, Illawarra, South Coast & Far South Coast.	All clubs/crews from Sydney and Sydney Northern Beaches Branches

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 competitors 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 Patrol Hour Exemption Process](#)
- [SLSNSW Regulations 5. Competition Eligibility and Exemption](#)

The proficiency requalification must be completed by close of “normal” entry nominations to be eligible to participate in a SLS Championship or other event i.e., late entry nominations will not be accepted for members who have not completed their proficiency requalification by the normal close of entry nominations.

All exemptions requests are required to be endorsed by both Club and Branch (on letterhead) before being received by SLSNSW. This can be sent to surfsports@surflifesaving.com.au and will be forwarded to the State Director of Lifesaving for consideration. Any proficiency exemption requests must be received no later than **Sunday 1 March 2026**.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Reference is made to:

- The current [38th Edition Surf Sports Manual](#)
- The proficiency competition requirements for 2025/26 Season:
 - [Memo: SLSNSW Patrol Hour Exemption Process](#)
 - [SLSNSW Regulations 5. Competition Eligibility and Exemption](#)

SCHEDULED SURF BOAT 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.

Surf Boat Masters Events

160 Years min Male Surf Boat	160 Years min Female Surf Boat
180 Years min Male Surf Boat	180 Years min Female Surf Boat
200 Years min Male Surf Boat	200 Years min Female Surf Boat
220 Years min Male Surf Boat	220 Years min Female Surf Boat
240 Years min Male Surf Boat	240 Years min Female Surf Boat
260 Years min Male Surf Boat	260 Years min Female Surf Boat

Surf Boat Open Events

Open Male Surf Boat	Open Female Surf Boat
Reserve Grade Male Surf Boat	Reserve Grade Female Surf Boat
Under 23 Male Surf Boat	Under 23 Female Surf Boat
Under 19 Male Surf Boat	Under 19 Female Surf Boat
Open Surf Boat Relay	

Full program will be published after the close of entries.

Sweeps Briefing – 7:30am

Racing Commences – 8:00am

ENTRY CONDITIONS

Surf Boat Sweeps

To be an unrestricted (S3) sweep and to be eligible to compete in all SLSA competition, a sweep must hold a proficient SLSA Bronze Medallion, a minimum current Development Coach Award or equivalent, as well as having attended a sweep practical assessment or sat with a panel of sweeps in a formal process of learning and to have been deemed competent to sweep by this panel. A restricted (S2) sweep may participate in competition under the guidance of a sweep mentor in surf conditions rated up to and including 15 under the Surf Risk Rating (SRR) system if they have formally commenced the SLSA online Development Coaching Module and sat with a panel of sweeps as part of their skill development. A (S1) pre competition sweep is not permitted to participate in any competition.

Surf Boats and Double Dipping

"Double dipping" (i.e., competing in more than one division or age category of rowing) by crews will not be permitted at the 2026 NSW Surf Boat Metropolitan & Regional Championships. Exceptions to this condition are as follows:

Sweep/Oarsmen may continue to compete in multiple divisions and age categories but, as per existing SLSA rules, shall only compete in a particular division or category once irrespective of whether they are sweeping or rowing.

- a) Individual rowers from an age crew who are also competing with another crew (i.e., not the same four (4) rowers) in an older age category are permitted to row in a second category at the Championships provided that the other crew members are not also doubling up to form separate crews.
- b) Should a crew member become indisposed, they may be replaced subject to approval of the Carnival Referee, provided they comply with the event's requirements.
- c) If an U19 or U23 competitor is rowing in an older age category made up of mixed age groups, they can continue to row in that older age category even if their own individual age division is

suspended or cancelled. However, a crew made up entirely of rowers from suspended or cancelled age or gender group(s) shall not be permitted to compete.

Handlers

Surf boat handlers (when allowed due to surf conditions) must be competitors who are already entered in the carnival. They are to wear competition gear, including a pink lycra vest, a club competition cap and helmet (if mandated by the Competition Committee).

GENERAL INFORMATION

Championships Point Score

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

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).

RASH VESTS

All competitors will be required to **provide and wear their own Pink** lycra rash vest. Clubs must ensure that competitors wear rash vests in both warmup and competition. A small selection of rash vests will be available from the competition Administration Centre should competitors require one.

MEDIA AND PHOTOGRAPHY

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.

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.

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 authorized spokespeople.

HEALTH & WELLBEING

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

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 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.

Please refer to 38th Edition Surf Sports Manual sections 2.27 SLSA Code of Behaviour and 2.28 Abuse/Inappropriate Behaviour and the Policy 6.5 – Member Protection Policy (available online at Members Area > Library > Governance > Policy > SLSA > Policy 6.5).

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 protest is officially submitted to the Appeals Committee for adjudication.

STACK TEAM APP

Important Information and updates will be communicated by Stack Team App. Stack Team App 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.

It is highly recommended that everyone planning to attend any event download Stack Team App when entries are submitted. If you cannot download the App onto a phone or tablet, you may also access Stack Team App in a web browser on any computer.

To register for these event updates please follow the below instructions:

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 Surf Boat Weekend**”.
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.

COMPETITION EQUIPMENT AND SPECIFICATIONS

Each team shall be responsible for the provision of their Surf Boats. All equipment used in the competition is to comply with SLSA specifications and have been scrutinised and passed for use in SLSNSW competition.

DRONES

SLSNSW prohibits the use of drones or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) at this event by members and/or public unless approved by SLSNSW.

MISBEHAVIOUR/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 themselves and their Clubs. Parents or supporters 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. Please refer to 38th Surf Sports Manual sections 2.27 SLSA Code of Behaviour and 2.28 Abuse/Inappropriate Behaviour and Policy 6.5 – Member Protection Policy (available online at Members Area > Library > Governance > Policy > SLSA > Policy 6.5).

ANTI-DOPING

It is strongly recommended that all Team Managers complete both the ASADA Level 1 Anti-Doping and Match Fixing e-learning courses. 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 supports and implement SLSA's Anti-Doping and Match Fixing policies (SLSA Members Area > Library > Governance > SLSA > Policy 5.1 1 & 5.02).

For further information regarding the courses please contact Surf Sports (02) 9471 8000 or surfsports@surflifesaving.com.au

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For further additional information, please refer to the event guides to be published on the event webpage.