



Surf Life Saving Australia - Circular

Title:	2026 SHARKSKIN Australian IRB Championships - Call for Officials Nominations
Document ID:	Circular 69 / 2025-26
Department:	Sport
Date:	16 April 2026
Audience:	State Sport Managers, Officials, Competition, State and Clubs Presidents, Secretaries and State and Club Directors of Surf Sports
Summary:	Call for Officials Nominations for the Australian Interstate IRB Championships to be held on Wednesday, 15 July and the Australian IRB Championships to be held from Thursday, 16 July – Sunday, 19 July 2026 at South West Rocks, NSW.

Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA) is now calling for nominations from all currently **accredited** SLSA Surf Sport Officials wishing to officiate at the Australian 2026 SHARKSKIN IRB Championships to be held at South West Rocks, NSW. The Interstate Championships will be held on Wednesday, 15 July and the Australian Championships will be held over four days from Thursday, 16th July – Sunday, 19th July 2026. In addition, Scrutineering will be held on Wednesday, 15th July 2026.

The appointment of Officials will be made jointly by the Championship Referee, the Deputy Referees and Surf Life Saving Australia's National Officials Advisor. Officials' appointments will be finalised as soon as possible after the close of nominations and all appointments will be posted on the SLSA Members Area and the 'event info' section of the Australian IRB Championships web page. Late nominating Officials will be added to the 'Officials Pool' and duties and appointments made, subject to availability of roles.

PLEASE NOTE:

In nominating for these Championships, all Officials warrant that they are, and must remain, mentally and physically capable of carrying out all the functions of their appointed role(s) over the course of the entire Championships. All Officials should undertake a medical check prior to departure for the Championships. SLSA may request Officials to provide medical clearance if the Official has had a medical incident at a previous SLS event or if SLSA reasonably considers such request is reasonable and/or necessary. If requested the Official must provide the medical clearance.

SLSA reserves the right in its absolute discretion to:

- Not appoint an Official to any position whether an Official has nominated or not.
- Remove an Official from any position at any time (whether before or during an SLSA event)

SLSA is not obligated to give reasons where it acts under this clause.

Please also note: *You must be able to get on and off the beach without transport.*

NOTE:

Scrutineering will be held on Wednesday, 15th July, prior to the competition commencing.

NOTE:

All appointed Officials will be required to attend the Officials Briefing, prior to competition. All times and locations will be outlined in the Officials Appointment Memo distributed at a later date. Non-attendance could lead to your being stood down from your appointed role.

NOTE: SLSA will be appointing only the required number of Officials.

The following senior officials have already been appointed to the 2026 Australian IRB Championships:

- Championship Referee – Michael Cook
- Deputy Referee – Nigel Penn
- Deputy Referee – Stacey Gay



- Chief Scrutineer – Ben Griffin

NOMINATION PROCEDURE

Please see a list below of all roles that you can nominate for. You will find the numbers of officials that will be appointed for each role in brackets. You will be required to place your top five roles in priority order in the nomination form.

Technical Roles:

Chief Judge
Assistant Chief Judge
Senior Course Supervisor
Course Supervisor
Course Statistician
Senior Course Judge Lane 1-3
Senior Course Judge Lane 4-6
Senior Course Judge Lane 7-9
Course (Lane) Judge
Chief Finish Judge
Finish Judge
Video Judge Coordinator
Video Judge
Record
Chief Starter
Starter
LiveHeats Check Marshall
Marshall/Patient Coordinator
Appeals Convenor
Appeals Committee
Competition Liaison Coordinator
Competition Liaison Officer
Announcers
Gear Coordinator
Gear Steward

Powercraft:

Powercraft Coordinator
Powercraft Duty Drivers/Crew/Judges in Boat
Officials Pool (no appointments at this stage as no available positions)

Safety & Medical Team:

Safety Coordinator
Safety Officer
Medical Personnel Coordinator
Medical Personnel

Scrutineering (Wednesday Only):

Deputy Chief Scrutineer
Scrutineering Marshalls/Registrar
Scrutineering Recorder
Head Scrutineer - Motors
Scrutineering - Motors
Head Scrutineer - Propellers
Scrutineering - Propellers
Head Scrutineer - Hulls
Scrutineering - Hulls
Scrutineering Fuel
Scrutineering Liaison
Scrutineering Appeals
Scrutineering during competition



Please click the following link to nominate for the Australian IRB Championships 2026:
[Australian IRB Championships 2026 - Officials Nomination](#)

Officials Scholarship Program

Officials play a vital role in Surf Life Saving Sport. The Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA) Officials Scholarship Program aligns with the SLSA Participant Development Pathway, ensuring officials are trained and supported to continue their officiating progression. The Scholarship Program will increase opportunities and create a progressive pathway for our aspiring officials.

This will be achieved by providing the recipients with the opportunity to gain officiating experience at The Sharkskin Australian IRB Surf Life Saving Championships.

If you wish to apply for the Officials Scholarship Program, please refer to the respective Circular (Circular 70/ Officials Scholarship Circular Australian IRB Championships 2026) by following this link: [Circular 70/ Officials Scholarship Circular Australian IRB Championships 2026](#)

NOMINATIONS CLOSE: Friday 22 May 2026

Further Information

Should further information be required please contact: officials@sls.com.au.