



Surf Life Saving Australia – Entry Circular

Title:	SHARKSKIN Australian IRB Championships 2026 – Entry Circular
Document ID:	Circular 82/25-26
Audience:	State/Territory Surf Sport Managers, Directors, Club Secretaries, Branches, State/Territory CEO's, SLSA Chair of Sport and Advisers, Officials, Team Managers and Competitors
From:	SLSA Sport
Date:	20 May 2026
Summary:	Entry Circular for the Australian IRB Championships 2026 to be held at South West Rocks, NSW from Wednesday, 15 July – Sunday, 19 July 2026.

INFORMATION SUMMARY

- The SHARKSKIN Australian IRB Championships will be held at South West Rocks, NSW from 16-19 July 2026.
- The Interstate IRB Championships will be held on Wednesday, 15 July 2026. Further information on the Interstate Championships can be found in the Interstate Entry Circular
- Technical Scrutineering will be held on Wednesday 15 July 2026.
- All entries close 5pm Monday, 6 July 2026 and must be completed via Liveheats: <https://liveheats.com/slsa>
- All team entries must be completed in Liveheats by a club administrator/team manager. Teams must be full at time of entry.
- Team Managers must complete [IRB Championships Team Manager Form](#) by **Wednesday 8 July**.
- States and Clubs transporting **containers and trailers** to South West Rocks must complete the [Container & Trailer Information Form](#) by no later than Wednesday 1 July 2026
- The IRB Training Hour requirement is a Member Award in SurfGuard. This is required to be endorsed every season. Further details can be found in **Memo 3/23-24 - Introduction of IRB Training - Competition Eligibility Award in SurfGuard**



IMPORTANT DATES

Important Dates		
Wednesday 20 May	Entries Open	
Monday 25 May	Officials Nominations Close	
Wednesday 1 July	Container & Trailer Information Form Closes	
Monday 6 July	Australian IRB Championships – Entries Close	
Wednesday 8 July	Club Photographer Form Closes	
	Team Manager Form Closes	
Friday 10 July	Final Carnival Information Released	
Monday 13 July	9am-4pm – Club container delivers (trailer compound)	
	6:00pm Team Manager Briefing (Online)	
Tuesday 14 July	9am-4pm - Club trailer deliveries (Trailer Compound)	
Wednesday 15 July	6am	Officials Breakfast commences
	6:30am	Scrutineering Officials Briefing
	6:45am	Scrutineering Officials Set up in area
	7am	Scrutineering Commences
	11am	Interstate Championships Officials Briefing
	11:30am	Interstate Championships Team Managers Briefing
	12:15pm	2026 Australian and Interstate IRB Championship Opening Ceremony
	12:45pm	Interstate Championship Marshalling Commences
	1:00pm	Interstate Championship Competition Commences Scrutineering Concludes
	3:00pm	Interstate Championship Competition Concludes
	3:30pm	Interstate Championships Presentation Ceremony
	4pm	Officials Briefing – In Person (South West Rocks SLSC)
	4.45pm	Scrutineering & Interstate Officials Debrief Commences
	Thursday 16 July	6:00am
6:30am		Officials Briefing
7:00am		Team Managers Briefing
7:15am		U23 Championships Marshalling
7:30am		U23 Championships Competition Commences
Friday 17 July	6:00am	Officials Breakfast Commences
	6:30am	Officials Briefing
	7:00am	Team Managers Briefing
	7:15am	Masters Championships Marshalling
	7:30am	Masters Championships Competition Commences*
	1:00pm	U23 Championships Finals Commence
	2:00pm	Open Championships Competition Commences*
4:30pm	U23 Championships Presentations	
Saturday 18 July	6:00am	Officials Breakfast Commences
	6:30am	Officials Briefing
	7:00am	Team Managers Briefing



	7:15am	Open Championships Marshalling
	7:30am	Open Championships Competition Commences
	1:00pm	Masters Championships Finals Commence
	2:00pm	Open Championships Competition Re-commences
	4:30pm	Masters Championships Presentations
Sunday 19 July	6:00am	Officials Breakfast Commences
	6:30am	Officials Briefing
	7:00am	Team Managers Briefing
	7:15am	Open Championships Marshalling
	7:30am	Open Championships Competition Commences
	2:00pm	Open Championships Presentations
Monday 20 July	12:00pm	All containers, boats & trailers removed from Event Site – Trailer compound closed

*** Any times and proposed days for commencement of championships or events is approximate and subject to change. Clubs must be in attendance for all competition days, prepared to participate when called for an event. Open and Masters competitors should be ready to race before these advertised times. A detailed timetable will be published after entries close.**

SAFETY

All Clubs, States & Territories, Competitors and Officials are referred to the introduction of the 38th edition of the SLSA Surf Sports Manual. Paragraph (d) states:

"Surf lifesaving can be inherently dangerous. Serious accidents can and often do happen which may result in property damage, physical injury and even death. All members are assumed to have voluntarily read and understood this warning and accept and assume the inherent risks in surf lifesaving."

All Clubs, States & Territories, Competitors and Officials are also referred to the General Rules contained in the SLSA IRB Competition Rules Section 3.3 and in particular to the warning contained in SSM Section 3.3.2.1 that states:

"WARNING: *IRB competition can be inherently dangerous. IRB competition participants acknowledge that they are exposed to certain risks during IRB competition including but not limited to leg, spinal and neck injuries, physical exertion, contact with the IRB, temperature, weather and water conditions and even drowning. IRB competition participants acknowledge that accidents can and often do happen which may result in IRB competition participants being injured or even killed. All members through their participation in IRB events agree with, acknowledge and understand this warning and accept and assume the inherent risks in IRB competition."*

The Championship Referee and Safety Coordinator will give a Safety Briefing to Officials and Team Managers before commencement of competition and during the event as required.

Water safety as part of the competition, is ultimately the responsibility of the IRB Championships Competition Committee (IRBCCC). In accordance with Section 1 - Competition Safety, of the current edition of the SLSA [Surf Sports Manual](#), any subsequent amending bulletins, and this circular, the IRBCCC is responsible to determine whether to postpone or cancel any or all events or relocate the Championships to an alternate venue based on the advice of the Safety Coordinator, Championship Referee and Officials.

A debrief with Officials will be conducted by the Championship Referee at the end of each day. Competitor/Team Manager Briefings will be called when required by the Championship Referee. These briefings will be conducted by the Championship Referee and/or Deputy Referee.

Safety and Technical Infringements



Attention is drawn to SSM Section 3.3.2.3 and relevant paragraphs:

- a) A strong emphasis will be placed on safe driving, crewing and patient safety practices. All competitors must complete each event in a safe and controlled speed and manner or will face immediate disqualification from the event, and/or issue of a safety infringement and consideration for further penalties.
- b) A safety infringement shall be issued to any competitor deemed to have committed an unsafe practice. This will result in immediate disqualification of the competitor and their entire team (i.e., crew and patient/s) from the event in which the infringement occurred.
- c) If a competitor receives more than one safety infringement in any one competition they shall be disqualified from the entire competition.

SCRUTINEERING

Full technical scrutineering will be conducted for all clubs on **Wednesday 15th July ONLY**. All scrutineering is to be done in accordance with IRB Equipment Requirements, Scrutineering and Compliance. Clubs are made aware that there will be ongoing random scrutineering and equipment reviews throughout the competition days and may be called again for full technical scrutineering at the end of each day of competition.

Note: It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure gear and equipment meets the manufacturers and/or SLSA specifications as set out in the current edition SLSA Bulletin Surf Sport IRB Competition - Gear and Equipment Regulations (or as amended).

Any Club found to be using equipment that does not meet manufacturers or SLSA Bulletin Surf Sport IRB Competition - Gear and Equipment Regulations, shall be referred to the Championship Referee for adjudication. Any equipment that does not meet these regulations will be excluded from the Championships and may face further disciplinary action.

If the failed equipment item / part is subsequently found to be used in Competition, the Club will be immediately disqualified from the Championships, where Coaches, Team Managers and athletes may face further disciplinary action. No competition points will accrue.

All IRBs, motors, and accessories (including fuel) must be scrutineered prior to competition and must have passed the safety and compliance checks conducted by the Scrutineers or as determined by Surf Life Saving Australia.

Scrutineering will be conducted in accordance with IRB Equipment Requirements, Scrutineering and Compliance. Technical scrutineering (including fuel) may also take place randomly before competition, during competition or at the conclusion of the championships.

Any equipment (including fuel) that has not passed the scrutineering requirements shall be referred to the Championship Referee for adjudication.

Scrutineering for all clubs occur on Wednesday 15 July from 7:00am - 1:00pm. Priority will be given to club gear being used for the Interstate competition. **All** IRBs, motors and accessories must be scrutineered within these times and prior to competing. Scrutineering will occur in Brighton Park at South West Rocks.

The final scrutineering timetable will be released in the final carnival circular.



EVENT LIST

The following events will be contested at the SHARKSKIN Australian Open, Masters & U23 IRB Championships:

AUSTRALIAN U23 CHAMPIONSHIP	
Female Rescue Tube	1 Team of 3 (Driver, Crew and Patient)
Male Rescue Tube	1 Team of 3 (Driver, Crew and Patient)
Female Mass Rescue	1 Team of 4 (Driver, Crew and 2 Patients)
Male Mass Rescue	1 Team of 4 (Driver, Crew and 2 Patients)
Female Teams Rescue	1 Team of 6 (2 Drivers, 2 Crew and 2 Patients)
Male Teams Rescue	1 Team of 6 (2 Drivers, 2 Crew and 2 Patients)
Female Rescue Event	1 Team of 3 (Driver, Crew and Patient)
Male Rescue Event	1 Team of 3 (Driver, Crew and Patient)
AUSTRALIAN MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIP - Minimum Age 35 (age as of 30 September 2024) *	
Event Name	Team Composition
Female Rescue Tube	1 Team of 3 (Driver, Crew and Patient)
Male Rescue Tube	1 Team of 3 (Driver, Crew and Patient)
Female Mass Rescue	1 Team of 4 (Driver, Crew and 2 Patients)
Male Mass Rescue	1 Team of 4 (Driver, Crew and 2 Patients)
Female Teams Rescue	1 Team of 6 (2 Drivers, 2 Crew and 2 Patients)
Male Teams Rescue	1 Team of 6 (2 Drivers, 2 Crew and 2 Patients)
Female Rescue Event	1 Team of 3 (Driver, Crew and Patient)
Male Rescue Event	1 Team of 3 (Driver, Crew and Patient)
AUSTRALIAN OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP	
Event Name	Team Composition
Female Rescue Tube	1 Team of 3 (Driver, Crew and Patient)
Male Rescue Tube	1 Team of 3 (Driver, Crew and Patient)
Female Mass Rescue	1 Team of 4 (Driver, Crew and 2 Patients)
Male Mass Rescue	1 Team of 4 (Driver, Crew and 2 Patients)
Female Teams Rescue	1 Team of 6 (2 Drivers, 2 Crew and 2 Patients)
Male Teams Rescue	1 Team of 6 (2 Drivers, 2 Crew and 2 Patients)
Female Rescue Event	1 Team of 3 (Driver, Crew and Patient)
Male Rescue Event	1 Team of 3 (Driver, Crew and Patient)
IRB Relay (MIXED)	1 Team of 16 (5 Drivers, 5 Crew and 6 Patients)

*Patients do not need to be Masters or U23 aged competitors and can be of either gender in both Male and Female events.

Note: SLSA as the event organisers, reserves the right to add or delete any events on the day of competition if safety, weather conditions, programming or other conditions warrant.

ENTRIES

Club entries to the SHARKSKIN Australian IRB Championships must be submitted and paid via LiveHeats: <https://liveheats.com/slsa>

Guidelines and FAQs for completing entries as an individual or as a club administrator can be found at <https://sites.google.com/LiveHeats.com/LiveHeats-entries/home?authuser=0>



ELIGIBILITY TO COMPETE

To be eligible to compete at the IRB Championships, competitors must comply with Policy 5.04 – Competition Eligibility and the Guidelines for Competition Eligibility document (available on the SLSA Members Area).

ENTRY FEES

Entries Close	Price*
Monday 6 July 2026 – 5:00pm AEST	\$82.00 per competitor <i>Price includes GST and Liveheats processing fees</i>

Price is listed per competitor for entry across all eligible age divisions across U23, Open & Masters per Championship. For example, if a competitor is to enter both Masters & Open competitions that individual will be charged \$82 entry fee once for both Championships.

All team entries must be completed in Liveheats by a club administrator/team manager. Teams must be full at time of entry.

REFUNDS

Once entry fees have been paid they are non-refundable and non-transferable. Refunds may be considered on receipt of a medical certificate prior to entries closing. No refunds will be available after entries close.

PRIVACY

Personal details being collected by Surf Life Saving Australia are for the SHARKSKIN Australian & Interstate IRB Championships 2026. This personal information will not be disclosed to any other party. You have the right to access your personal information held by Surf Life Saving Australia.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

DECLARATION

It is an expressed condition of accepting entries that the Team Manager accepts the online form to indicate that all members listed on the Club's entries comply with all entry conditions and shall abide by the conditions of entry set out in this circular.

PROFICIENCY AND PATROL REQUIREMENTS

All competitors entered in the SHARKSKIN Australian & Interstate IRB Championships 2026 must meet the requirements of SLSA policies. Further details may be obtained from Surf Life Saving Australia's Policy 5.4 – SLSA Guidelines for Competition Eligibility.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, Surf Life Saving Australia reserves the right to conduct a random or detailed audit of entries and under such circumstances, the selected Clubs will be required to submit appropriate documentation to substantiate the eligibility of those members entered.

COMPETITOR PRE-REQUISITES

It is an expressed condition of entering the SHARKSKIN Australian & Interstate IRB Championships 2026 that a currently licensed accredited Surf Coach indicates that all members listed on the entries comply with the competitor pre-requisites as set out below.

Competitors entering the SHARKSKIN Australian & Interstate IRB Championships 2026 must comply with the competitor pre-requisites for drivers, crew and patients as outlined in the current edition of the SLSA [Surf Sports Manual](#) and any other subsequent circulars bulletins except where amended by this Circular.

3.3.2.4 Competitor Pre-Requisites

At the date of entry closure for the competition to be contested:



(a) Drivers are required to:

- (i) Be a minimum of seventeen years of age as at the date of competition.
- (ii) Hold their relevant state/territory maritime licence required to operate an IRB.
- (iii) Hold their IRB drivers award and be currently proficient as required by SLSA and have logged twenty (20) hours specific in-water IRB competition driving training under the supervision of a currently accredited SLSA Coach – IRB Events Elective.

Note: Once the initial 20 hours has been signed off there is no minimum hour requirement required for future years provided that the driver holds the IRB driver's award and is currently proficient as required by SLSA.

- (iv) Be endorsed by a currently accredited SLSA Coach – IRB Events Elective as being competent for IRB competition.

Note 1: Once the initial 20 hours has been signed off, an annual competition competency endorsement is required by a currently accredited SLSA Coach – IRB Events Elective.

Note 2: In all training and competition it is compulsory for drivers to wear high visibility (conspicuous colour) SLSA approved level 50 Australian Standard (AS4758) lifejackets or Type 2 (AS1499-1996) lifejackets. (Level 50S lifejackets unless listed on the SLSA Approved Gear and Equipment List are not approved.) It is not required for high visibility safety vests to be worn over the top of lifejackets. See also Section 2 of the [Surf Sports Manual](#).

Note 3: The wearing of approved helmets is optional for drivers in both training and in competition. See also Section 2 of the [Surf Sports Manual](#).

(b) Crewpersons are required to:

- (i) Be a minimum of sixteen years of age as at the date of competition.
- (ii) Hold their IRB crewpersons award and be currently proficient as required by SLSA and have logged twenty (20) hours specific in-water IRB competition driving or crewing training under the supervision of a currently accredited SLSA Coach – IRB Events Elective.

Note: Once the initial 20 hours has been signed off there is no minimum hour requirement required for future years provided that the crewperson holds the IRB crewperson's award and is currently proficient as required by SLSA.

- (iii) Be endorsed by a currently accredited SLSA Coach – IRB Events Elective as being competent for IRB competition.

Note 1: Once the initial 20 hours has been signed off, an annual competition competency endorsement is required by a currently accredited SLSA Coach – IRB Events Elective.

Note 2: In all training and competition it is compulsory for crewpersons to wear high visibility (conspicuous colour) SLSA approved level 50 Australian Standard (AS4758) lifejackets or Type 2 (AS1499-1996) lifejackets. (Level 50S lifejackets unless listed on the SLSA Approved Gear and Equipment List are not approved.) It is not required for high visibility safety vests to be worn over the top of lifejackets. See also Section 2 of the [Surf Sports Manual](#).

Note 3: The wearing of approved helmets is optional for crewpersons in both training and in competition. See also Section 2 of the [Surf Sports Manual](#).

(c) Patients are required to:

- (i) Be a minimum of fifteen years of age as at the date of competition and be a current proficient Bronze Medallion holder.
- (ii) Hold their IRB crewpersons award and be currently proficient as required by SLSA and have logged twenty (20) hours specific in-water IRB competition driving or crewing training under the supervision of a currently accredited SLSA Coach – IRB Events Elective.

Note: Once the initial 20 hours has been signed off there is no minimum hour requirement required for future years provided that the crewperson holds the IRB crewperson's award and is currently proficient as required by SLSA.



- (iii) Be endorsed by a currently accredited SLSA Coach – IRB Events Elective as being competent for IRB competition.

Note 1: Once the initial 20 hours has been signed off, an annual competition competency endorsement is required by a currently accredited SLSA Coach – IRB Events Elective.

Note 2: In all training and competition it is compulsory for patients to wear high visibility (conspicuous colour) SLSA approved level 50 Australian Standard (AS4758) lifejackets or Type 2 (AS1499-1996) lifejackets. (Level 50S lifejackets unless listed on the SLSA Approved Gear and Equipment List are not approved.) It is not required for high visibility safety vests to be worn over the top of lifejackets. See also Section 2 of the [Surf Sports Manual](#).

Note 3: The wearing of approved helmets is compulsory for patients both training and in competition (except the Rescue Tube Race where it is optional). See also Section 2 of the [Surf Sports Manual](#).

- (d) Handlers, at the date of competition, are required to:

(i) Be a minimum of fifteen years of age as at the date of competition and be a current Bronze Medallion holder.

(ii) Hold the IRB crewpersons certificate and be currently proficient as required by SLSA.

(iii) Be a member of the same club or team as the crews and be entered at the competition (exemption may be given by the Championship Referee for a member of another club or team to be a Handler provided that the handler is entered at the competition).

(iv) Wear a competition cap and shall be required to wear a distinctive high visibility pink, orange, yellow, green or red coloured vest as determined by SLSA (or relevant SLS Event Organiser) if entering the water beyond knee depth.

Alternatively, handlers may wear a high visibility (conspicuous colour) SLSA approved level 50 Australian Standard (AS4758) lifejacket or Type 2 (AS1499-1996) lifejackets. (Level 50S lifejackets unless listed on the SLSA Approved Gear and Equipment List are not approved.) It is not required for high visibility safety vests to be worn over the top of lifejackets.

(v) Comply with all instructions of the officials.

(vi) Make every effort to ensure that they, or the equipment that they are handling, does not impede another crew, otherwise both their competitor and the handler may be subject to disqualification.

- (e) Competitors should be conversant with all current specifications, competition rules and event conditions etc. pertaining to IRB competition and comply accordingly. Attention is also drawn to other relevant sections of the Surf Sports Manual including *Section 2 – General Competitive Conditions* and any other relevant circulars or bulletins that must also be complied with.

TRAINING LOGS

The IRB Training Hour requirements for competition is now a Member award, “IRB Training – Competition Eligibility”. This is required to be updated yearly and is a prerequisite for entry into IRB competition. The pre-requisite for this award will be a proficient Silver Medallion IRB Driver OR Proficient IRB Crew. Clubs will be required to ensure competitors are proficient in this award (including completion & proof of the required 20hrs training) on SurfGuard before entering competitors into LiveHeats as this will be an award requirement for entry.

The award “IRB Training – Competition Eligibility” has a fixed 12 month expiry and will need to be renewed each year for the annual competition competency endorsement.

Per the current edition of the Surf Sports Manual (SSM 3.3.2.4) the following competition roles are required to now possess the “IRB Training – Competition Eligibility” award on SurfGuard prior to being entered into IRB Competition via LiveHeats:

- IRB Drivers
- IRB Crewpersons
- Patients



Drivers must have logged their initial 20 hours and once the award is attained, there is no further training requirement required provided the competitor is currently proficient as required by SLSA. However, once the award 'IRB Training – Competition Eligibility' is attained, an annual competition competency is still required by currently accredited SLSA Coach – IRB Events Elective.

Crewpersons must have logged their initial 20 hours and once the award is attained, there is no further training required for future years provided that the crewperson holds the relevant award and is currently proficient as required by SLSA. As per IRB Drivers, an annual competition competency is still required prior to competing.

Patients must have their logged their initial 20 hours and once the award is attained, there is no further training required for future years provided that the crewperson holds the relevant award and is currently proficient as required by SLSA. Once Patients have completed the award 'IRB Training – Competition Eligibility' an annual competency is still required per conditions noted above for Drivers & Crewpersons.

Copies of Members' IRB Training Logs must be uploaded by their competing Club to the Member's SurfGuard account of the documents' functionality.

ENTRY LIMITATIONS

All Australian IRB Championships events shall be contested by teams representing Clubs. Clubs can enter as many eligible crews as they wish into the Open IRB Championships, Masters IRB Championships and U23 IRB Championships for 2026 providing each competitor complies with the entry limitations as detailed in the current edition of SLSA Surf Sports Manual (detailed under) and any other subsequent circulars or bulletins.

3.3.2.5 Entry Limitations

- (a) IRB competition may be conducted in different categories of age, grade and gender.
Note: The age divisions conducted at the SHARKSKIN Australian IRB Championships are Open, U23 and Masters.
- (b) A competitor may compete or nominate to compete in a maximum of twelve events plus the IRB Relay(s) at any one competition. However, in the event of adverse weather, surf conditions, water temperature, wind chill, and/or hyperthermia risk etc, the Competition Committee, at its absolute discretion, may reduce the maximum number of events in which each competitor may participate at the competition.
Note: Competitors are only allowed to compete across twelve events plus IRB Relay(s) across three Championships being U23's, Masters & Opens contested at the Australian IRB Championships. It is clarified that the Australian IRB Championships is one competition with events currently conducted in Open, U23 and O35 age divisions. This means that a competitor may compete or nominate to compete in a maximum of twelve events plus the IRB Relay(s) at Australian IRB Championships.
- (c) A driver and/or crew may compete in a particular event once e.g., a driver cannot compete in an event in one team as a driver and compete again in the same event as a driver or crewperson in a separate team.
Note: This does not preclude an eligible driver, crew or patient from the same team swapping roles in different rounds of the same event.
- (d) If eligible to compete in multiple grades or age categories, drivers and crewpersons may do so, but may only compete in a particular event once e.g., Open Male Rescue is a different event to the Under 23 Male Rescue (refer to Competition Definitions in Section 2 for further detail).
- (e) IRB patients are to be considered as gender neutral with respect to their participation in male and female IRB events.
- (f) Patients may compete in any grade, age or gender category events but may only compete in a particular event once.



- (g) Attention is also drawn to other relevant sections of the Surf Sports Manual including *Section 2 – General Competitive Conditions* and any other relevant circulars or bulletins which must also be complied with.

COMPETITION PRIORITIES AND TIERING OF EVENTS

Competition will commence on Wednesday 15 July, 2026. The SHARKSKIN Australian & Interstate IRB Championships 2026 will be conducted within strict and challenging timeframes.

In order to meet these timeframes, in their sole discretion, the IRBCCC and the Championships Referees may need to adjust the order, draws and priority of events and priority of the Championships completion. The competition time schedule is any time (in required daylight) from 7:30am on Thursday 16 July – 4:30pm on Sunday 19 July. All teams need to be available to compete at these times. This also includes;

- Cuts in rounds in excess of the numbers as outlined in the Surf Sports Manual for either or both Masters and U23 Championship events.
- Cuts in rounds in excess of the numbers as outlined in the Surf Sports Manual for the Open Championships.
- The priority/tiering of Championships (from highest to least) is seen as:
 - Open
 - Interstate
 - U23
 - Masters
- The priority/tiering of events (from highest to least) is seen as:
 - Surf Rescue
 - Mass Rescue
 - Teams Rescue
 - Tube Rescue
 - IRB Relay
- The priority for completion remains for the Australian Open IRB Championships and schedule and conduct of events may change and commence any time from 7:30am Thursday 16 July, i.e., Opens may commence on Thursday 16 July.
- In the event of adverse weather and/or other conditions or event time constraints impacting on the timely completion of the Championships, preference will be given to the Australian Open IRB Championships.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITORS/TEAMS

Conditions of entry for international competitors:

1. SLSA reserves the right to invite and/or accept entries from international competitors and club teams to compete in any event at the SHARKSKIN Australian IRB Championships.
2. International club teams must be a genuine club team (not composite) and must compete in club colours to be eligible to compete.
3. All international competitors and club teams must gain international clearance from their governing body and must be submitted to SLSA prior to close of entries to compete at the SHARKSKIN Australian IRB Championships 2026.

International Competitors are required to email events@slsa.asn.au with the following information:

- Clearance from their national body that competitor is a financial member of their club, is in good standing with the national body and holds appropriate awards/proficiencies in that country
- Full name of competitor
- Date of Birth of competitor
- A list of all team events they will be competing in
- Contact email of competitor

RESERVES

Reserve competitors may be entered into the carnival to avoid late entry fees when making substitutions at the event. All reserve competitors must meet the respective requirements for the position in which they have been nominated as a reserve.



SUBSTITUTIONS

Substitutions will be allowed as per the current edition of the Surf Sports Manual (if the competitor is entered into the Championships) and no charge will be taken to make these changes.

Any competitor substituted into an event must meet the correct requirements as set out by SLSA for the position for which they are substituted into.

In the case of a genuine injury the IRBCCC may consider an application for a substitution of an eligible driver or crew (but not both) who has already competed in a different age category of the same event into an older or younger age category of the event.

PENALTIES: BREACH OF ENTRY REGULATIONS

It is mandatory that all competitors be listed in LiveHeats for each Club. Entry of competitors who are ineligible due to non-qualification or proficiency, default of personal patrol hour obligations, or other breach of association or club entry regulations will be referred to SLSA for action.

COMPETITION EQUIPMENT

Each Club/State shall be responsible for provision of their team's equipment. SLSA will provide pooled Rescue Tubes for competition use only.

Insurance generally shall be the responsibility of the individual competitors, their Clubs or State/Territory. Surf Life Saving Australia will not accept responsibility for loss, damage, or theft of equipment.

CONTAINERS AND TRAILERS

Containers

States and Clubs transporting containers to South West Rocks must complete the form below by no later than Wednesday 1 July 2026 and provide the following information:

- Club
- Club Organiser's Name
- Club Organiser's Phone No
- Club Organisers Email
- Transporting company (e.g. Toll)
- Container ID #

If your Club or State is shipping a container to South West Rocks, please ensure it is a maximum of a 20ft container. **No 40FT containers will be accepted.** There will not be machinery onsite so please ensure the delivery truck can offload the container.

Container deliveries to site can be received from 9:00am- 4pm Monday 13 July 2026. **No other times will be accepted.**

Container Pickups will be accepted on site 9:00am- 2pm Monday 20 July 2026. **No Other times will be accepted.**

The exact location for deliveries will be confirmed upon receipt of your container information details.

[Container & Trailer Information Form](#)

Trailers

- Club
- How many trailers
- Trailer(s) length including draw bar
- Door Orientation (Rear, Drivers Side)
- Door Length (M)
- Club Organiser's Name



- Club Organiser's Phone No
- Club Organiser's Email

Trailer deliveries to site can be received from Tuesday 14 July 9am-4upm 2026. The exact location of trailer parking will be confirmed in the Final Event Circular.

Trailers can be collected until 12pm, Monday 20 July.

Container & Trailer Information Form

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Competing clubs and competitors are reminded that:

- The list of SLSA lifejackets approved **for both** lifesaving operations and IRB competition is detailed in the SLSA IRB Gear and Equipment Regulations.
- All certified level 50 Australian Standard (AS4758) and Type 2 (AS1499-1996) life jackets are approved for IRB competitions provided that they are in high visibility (conspicuous) colour.
- SLSA does not permit the use of lifejackets or PFDs designed for use in surf skis, ocean kayaking, or other paddle sports, i.e., the design must be consistent with the lifejackets approved for SLSA lifesaving operations as detailed below.
- Other than the SLSA branded Rip Curl lifejackets approved for Victorian Competitors (refer to SLSA IRB Gear and Equipment Regulations), **Level 50S lifejackets are not approved for SLSA lifesaving operations or for IRB competition.**
- All Lifejackets are to be presented for scrutineering prior to use in competition.

COMPETITION BRIEFINGS

Team Manager Briefing

A mandatory briefing for Club Team Managers will be conducted online on Monday 13 July at 6pm AEST for **ALL** Championships. Clubs should have a maximum of two (2) personnel to attend the Team Managers Briefing. A link to the team managers meeting will be sent to all Team Managers listed in the Team Manager Nomination form on Friday 10 July.

Team Managers must complete the Team Manager nomination form by Wednesday, 8 July in order to receive up to date event information including the Team Manager Briefing Link.

Team Manager Nomination Form: [IRB Championships Team Manager Form](#)

Daily Team Managers meetings will also occur on the beach in the area each morning, and as requested by Referees.

Officials Briefing

A mandatory Officials Briefing will be held in person at 4:00pm on Wednesday 15 July 2026 at South West Rocks SLSC. A daily briefing will also occur the beginning of each competition day in the officials area.

COMPETITION RULES

The general competitive conditions as detailed in the current edition of SLSA Surf Sports Manual, and in particular, Section 3.3 Inflatable Rescue Boat (IRB) Competition, and any other subsequent circulars bulletins shall apply to the conduct of these events except where amended by this circular.

Attention will be paid to competitor's compliance to eligibility and pre-requisites for IRB competition, coaching history and patrol obligations as described in the above manuals, rules, and documents.

MIXED IRB RELAY RACE

The Mixed IRB Relay Race shall be conducted as per SSM Section 3.3.4.5, except that two legs of the race must be completed by a male crew and two must be completed by a female crew (driver + crew person). It is up to each team to decide which leg is completed by what crew.



No one driver, crew or patient is permitted to complete more than one leg of the event.

OPENING CEREMONY

On Wednesday, 15 July 2026 at 12.15pm an Opening Ceremony will be conducted. Flag bearers from each State and Club teams are required to march into the arena as directed and assemble for the Opening Ceremony.

PROTESTS & APPEALS

A protest against a competitor or a team or against a decision of an Official must be lodged verbally with the Competition Liaison Officer within **5 minutes** of the completion of the event or the announcement of the result of an event.

A written protest must then be lodged with the Competition Liaison Officer within 15 minutes of the verbal protest being lodged. Protest forms can be obtained from the Competition Liaison Officer. The result of an event, if not already announced, will be withheld until the protest and any subsequent appeal is decided. The Competition Appeals Committee will deal with all protests referred to it by the Referee in terms of Section 14 of the current edition of the Surf Sports Manual.

Team Managers are reminded that both the Championship Referee and the Appeals Committee will not entertain frivolous appeals, the decision for a disqualification will go through the Officials, Judge in boat and the Chief Judges before being posted so unless explicit evidence to that contrary will be classed as frivolous and dismissed by the Championship Referee. In this regard, please note that SSM (Clause 14.3.3b) states:

*“Where the Referee or the Area Referee or the Sectional Referee considers (in their absolute discretion) that a **protest is frivolous**, or not of a serious nature, they may choose not to accept the protest.”*

Please also note that the Team Manager retains the right (under SSM Clause 14.3.3b) to appeal the matter but the Appeals Committee will also consider whether the matter is frivolous in assessing the grounds for appeal.

An appeals fee of \$150.00 cash (incl. GST) must accompany all protest appeals when submitted to the Appeals Committee for adjudication. If an appeal is upheld the fee shall be returned forthwith. The decision of the Competition Appeals Committee is final and there is no right of appeal against that decision.

More information pertaining to protests and appeals can be found in Section 14 'Protests, Appeals and Discipline' of the current edition of the [Surf Sports Manual](#).

CLUB POINTSCORE

All events conducted shall be of equal points and the club with the highest aggregate of points at the conclusion of each Championships shall be declared the winner in each of the respective U23, Masters & Open Championships. The Club with the highest aggregate of points at the conclusion of each Championship shall be declared the winner.

Point score points shall be allocated on a 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, basis for the positions 1st – 6th for each event contested. Nil points will be earned in the case of disqualification.

Where a dead heat occurs in the final of an event the Clubs involved will share the placing and placing points relative to the finish placing. The next Club to finish will receive the relative placing and placing points based on the number of teams finishing ahead of them. For example: if two teams finish equal 1st both individuals/teams shall receive 6 points each. The next placing individual/team shall be awarded 3rd place and 4 points.

If, when the Championships have concluded there is a tied point score, the Club with the most 1st placings will be declared the winner. Failing this, the Club with the most 2nd places to 6th places



respectively will be considered to determine a winner. If, after this procedure there is no single winner, then the point score will be declared a tie and dual trophies will be presented.

Note: International clubs (and/or non SLSA affiliated clubs) are not eligible to earn points towards Australian Champion Club. Hence, any placing's achieved by non SLSA clubs will not be counted towards the overall point score and the points will be allocated in finals to the first 6 Australian Club place getters.

SLSA CODE OF BEHAVIOUR/MISCONDUCT

Misconduct before, during and after the Championships will not be tolerated. Offending members risk disciplinary action against themselves and their Clubs. Please refer to the current Edition [Surf Sports Manual](#) and, in particular but not limited to, section 2.27 SLSA Code of Behaviour, section 2.28 Abuse/Inappropriate Behaviour and section 2.29 Competing Unfairly and also to SLSA Policy 6.05 – Member Protection Policy (available online at [Member's Area](#) > Document Library > Governance/Policies > Policy 6.05).

If you wish to report a matter that you believe breaches SLSA Policies, please do so by lodging it at <https://complaints.sls.com.au>

COMPETITION MANIPULATION

The SLSA National Policy on Competition Manipulation and framework covers all SLS Events that are conducted by SLSA, State Centres, Branches and Clubs includes special events, conducted by third parties sanctioned by an SLS entity and any event, competition or series connected with Surf Lifesaving. Please refer to Policy Document 5.11 for further details.

ANTI-DOPING

Surf Life Saving Australia supports the Australian Government, the Australian Sports Commission, the Australian Olympic Committee, and Sports Integrity Australia (SIA) in their efforts to eradicate the use of drugs in sport. SLSA has published an anti-doping policy, which will be adhered to for this event.

Please be aware that random drug testing could take place during the event

It is strongly recommended that all Athletes, Coaches, Team Managers and Support Personnel complete the online Sports Integrity Australia “Anti-Doping Fundamentals” module and conduct at least one (1) anti-doping education activity with all competitors from the Club prior to competition. [Sport Integrity Australia eLearning: Log in to the site](#)

It is recommended all competitors and club members (including coaches, handlers, and support personnel) utilise the SIA Check Your Substances reference site, or phone 1300 027 232.

MEDIA STATEMENTS

States/Territories & Clubs shall be permitted to promote the event and or their Club team within their own State (subject to SLSA approval). However, no Competitor, Team Manager, Official or spokesperson for a State shall make media statements that could bring the Australian & Interstate IRB Championships 2026, its sponsor, or Officials into controversy. Such statements shall be deemed to be a breach of SLSA discipline and may be dealt with accordingly.

Complaints regarding the organisation of the Championship, or any other matters, should be directed through the appropriate SLSA channels, and will be dealt with by the responsible section, or officers. Such official complaints will be acknowledged.

SPONSORSHIP

As detailed in the SLSA Sponsorship Policy teams may be asked to wear sponsors apparel during the presentation of medals and trophies. Apart from any SLSA sponsorship, no items giving commercial identification may be worn during the official Presentation Ceremony.

In the event of clubs/individuals having conflicting sponsorship with an event sponsor, the association



sponsorship policy must be adhered to.

Teams when entering the marshalling arena and competing must be 'clean' in competition gear with no sponsor's identification unless the Club also has the event naming rights sponsor as its sponsor. Should the event naming rights sponsor competition apparel for the event teams will be required to wear the event naming rights sponsor's competition apparel or in the event of conflict with a Club team sponsor, compete in SLSA branded apparel. If no such apparel is provided teams are to compete in SLSA branded apparel.

At the conclusion of events, place getters may be offered items of apparel identified with the event sponsor. It may be possible that TV interviews will be undertaken with prominent competitors, and in such cases, they may be asked to wear one of the official sponsor T-shirts and/or caps. Further, competitors may be required to carry the event sponsor's logos on craft, boats and equipment.

Where physically possible, no existing signage will be covered. Those craft with rival sponsors to the event sponsor will not be required to display the event sponsors signage and/or to cover the rival sponsor's signage.

For further details please refer to the SLSA Competition Sponsorship Policy (Policy 5.08), which can be found on the Members Portal.

TEAM APP

2026 SHARKSKIN Australian IRB Championships will be using the 'Team App' smart phone application to send out updates and notifications to competitors. Download 'Team App' from your App Store or Google Play. Once you have downloaded the app and created a user login, search for '**The Aussie IRB Champs**' in the search bar at the top of the screen and click on the event to join. From here you will be able to access event documentation, timetables and where to find all the latest and up to date information on the event. It may also be helpful to visit the website for further clarification at <https://www.teamapp.com/faqs>.

CLUB PHOTOGRAPHERS

Clubs seeking accreditation for a photographer to attend and capture photos at the 2026 SHARKSKIN Australian IRB Championships must complete [this form](#) before 5pm (AEST), Wednesday 8 July. Please be aware that submission of the form does not guarantee accreditation, as this is provided due to availability and resources. Accreditation will only be provided to one photographer per club.

Submissions will be reviewed and approved by the SLSA Media Team before the competition commences. Photographers will also have the opportunity to sell their photos on SLSA's GeoSnapShot account, where they will receive 70% of all sales of their photos. This is a great way to fundraise for your club, [click here](#) to find out more.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Should further information be required please contact the events team at events@slsa.asn.au