



Surf Life Saving Australia – The Aussies 2027 & 2028 - Call for Referee and Deputy Referees

Title:	Surf Sport: 2027 & 2028 – Call for Referee and Deputy Referee
Document ID:	Circular 73 26-27
Department:	Sport
Audience:	State/Territory Centres, Branches
Summary:	SLSA is calling for the 2027 & 2028 Australian Surf Life Saving Championships Referee and Deputy Referee

SLSA is calling for applications for the roles of Referee and Deputy Referee for the 2027 & 2028 Australian Surf Life Saving Championships (2-year appointments)

Event Dates:

- 2027: 10 April – 19 April 2027, Sunshine Coast, QLD
- 2028: TBC

Applications:

Applicants must be Club members with the appropriate current official qualification (Senior Official) and experience.

All appointments will be made jointly decided by:

- SLSA Chair, Sport
- SLSA Sport Manager
- National Officiating Advisor

A position description for Referee and Deputy Referee can be found on the following pages within this Circular and in the latest edition of the Surf Sport Manual (38th Edition) which can be found on the SLS Members Portal.

You will be able to apply for the following positions:

- YOUTH Australian Championships – Referee
- YOUTH Australian Championships – Deputy Referee (2 positions)
- MASTERS Australian Championships – Referee
- MASTERS Australian Championships – Deputy Referee (2 positions)
- OPEN Australian Championships – Referee
- OPEN Australian Championships – Deputy Referee (2 positions)

NOMINATIONS CLOSE: Friday, 19 June 2026.

An interview may occur with the shortlisted applicants after nominations close and the successful candidate will be finalised as soon as possible after selection.

Application process:

Please follow this link to submit your application.

[Aussies 2027 & 2028 - Referee & Deputy Referee Nomination](#)

You will be asked to submit a cover letter at the end of the form. Please make sure your name is on the cover letter.

The cover letter should address the relevant selection criteria in the Position Description and describe why you are the correct candidate for the role.

It should also describe your relevant experience at:



- o Club/Branch/State level officiating
- o National level officiating
- o International level (if relevant)



Position Description – Championship Referee	
Reports to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair Championship Competition Committee • SLSA Event Manager
Consults with	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Championship Competition Committee • Championship Safety & Emergency Committee • Championship Organising Committee • SLSA Staff – various positions as appropriate • SLSA Volunteers
Purpose	The purpose of the Championship Referee is to ensure the successful delivery of the Championship event.
Responsibilities	<p>Overall (extract from current edition of Surf Sports Manual)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In conjunction with the Competition Committee be responsible for all matters relating to the actual conduct of the competition and matters, of which the final settlement is not covered by SLSA rules. The Championship Referee will also implement the rules and regulations governing the competition or event being conducted. • Be aware at all times of the safety and welfare of competitors, officials and other personnel involved in the competition and have the authority to immediately suspend, wholly or in part, the competition and refer that decision to the Competition Committee. • The Championship Referee also has the authority to implement any search and rescue actions if necessary and notify the Competition Committee and the Safety and Emergency Management Coordinator. • Conduct pre and post briefings for senior Officials and/or Team Managers and/or coaches and/or competitors on the conduct and program for the competition including entry conditions, timetables, area layouts special events and safety and emergency arrangements. • Make any alteration to the program that they consider necessary and communicate these changes without delay to all interested parties. Any alterations should take into consideration the safety and welfare of both competitors and officials. • Consider and adjudicate upon reports, protests, breaches of rules and all matters relating to the conduct of officials, competitors, coaches, managers and events. Any decision made may be the subject of appeal as provided for in Section 14 – Protests, Appeals, Discipline. • Consider and adjudicate on any unbecoming conduct during the competition or event. If considered necessary, refer any offence or offenders to SLSA for consideration of further penalty. • If required, exercise the power to disqualify or penalise a competitor. The Championship Referee is not required to give notification of any disqualification or penalty until the conclusion of the relevant event. • Conduct any other briefings when considered necessary with Officials, Team Managers, coaches and competitors. • Report to the relevant SLSA authority on the conduct of the competition together with any appropriate recommendations. <p>Prior to Event</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend site visits at applicable Championship locations



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and provide input into planning and communications of the Championship event • Input into the development of the Championship program and timetable • Provide input into beach layout of competition areas and positioning of key infrastructure • Liaise with specific competitive/officials representative groups where necessary and report to the Event Organising Committee • Ensure Official's accreditation and working with children checks are current. <p>During Event</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a member of the Championship Competition Committee and Safety & Emergency Committee. • Liaise with Area and Sectional Referees on all issues in relation to the conduct of events and implement any revised programming/timetabling • Review the conditions at alternate venues and provide advice to the Chair of the Championships Competitions Committee, Event Manager, Safety & Emergency Management Coordinator and/or applicable Committees • Liaise with Medical Coordinator, Emergency Services and IRB Personnel where necessary • Ensure recording of all competitor results is being conducted correctly in each area <p>Post Event</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide input and feedback as appropriate for continual event improvement.
SELECTION CRITERIA	Please address all four areas of the selection criteria below: qualifications, knowledge and experience and skills and attributes
1. Qualifications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Surf Life Saving experience 2. Accredited Senior Official 3. Minimum 5 years experience in overseeing major state conducted events including planning and timetabling. 4. Minimum 5 years senior level officiating experience at Australian Championships
2. Knowledge and experience	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Experience working with fundraising/community associations/not-for-profit/membership organisations 2. Sports competition management and administration 3. Demonstrated understanding of WH&S including risk management procedures/requirements
3. Skills and attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Relationship focused leadership 2. Strong communication skills 3. Ability to meet deadlines 4. Ability to work with volunteers, employees, contractors, external partners and agencies 5. High level report writing, presentation and liaison skills 6. Communication and analytical skills 7. Mentoring skills 8. Physically fit



4.Culture	Actively demonstrate the organisational values: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brave – We take calculated risks while striving for excellence • Connected – We seek opportunities to highlight the strengths of others • Buoyant – We are conscious of the energy we share • Compassionate – We walk a mile in their shoes
Position Description – Championship Deputy Referee	
Reports to	Championship Referee
Consults with	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Championship Competition Committee • Championship Safety & Emergency Committee • Championship Organising Committee • SLSA Staff – various positions as appropriate • SLSA Volunteers
Purpose	The purpose of the position is to assist the Championship Referee in preparation and delivery of the Championship event.
Responsibilities	<p>Overall (extract from current edition of Surf Sports Manual)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist in the conduct and organisation of the competition and in the absence of the Championship Referee assume their authority and responsibilities. • Take control of a particular area of the competition with the Championship Referee’s authority or be assigned to a specific role or be designated a specific authority. • Be aware at all times of the safety and welfare of competitors, officials and other personnel involved in the competition and have the authority to immediately suspend wholly or in part the competition and refer that decision to the Championship Referee. In conjunction with the Area Risk and Response Officer, the Deputy Referee also have the authority to implement any search and rescue actions if necessary and notify the Championship Referee and the Safety and Emergency Management Coordinator. <p>Prior to Event</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and provide input into the program, timetable and event circulars • Provide input into beach layout of competition areas and positioning of key infrastructure • Liaise with specific competitive/officials representative groups where necessary and report to the Championship Referee or Event Organising Committee <p>During Event</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a member of the Championship Competition Committee and Safety & Emergency Committee. • Liaise with area and sectional referees on all issues in relation to the conduct of events and report to the Championship Referee • Review the conditions at alternate venues and provide advice to the Referee and/or applicable Committees • Work with the Area and Sectional referees to communicate and implement and revised programming/timetabling • Liaise with Medical Coordinator, Emergency Services and IRB Personnel where necessary • Ensure recording of all competitor results is being conducted correctly in each area



	<p>Post Event</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide input and feedback as appropriate for continual event improvement.
SELECTION CRITERIA	Please address all four areas of the selection criteria below: qualifications, knowledge and experience and skills and attributes
1. Qualifications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Surf Life Saving experience 2. Accredited Senior Official 3. Minimum 5 years experience in overseeing major state conducted events including planning and timetabling. 4. Minimum 5 years senior level officiating experience at Australian Championships
2. Knowledge and experience	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Experience working with fundraising/community associations/not-for-profit/membership organisations 2. Sports competition management and administration 3. Demonstrated understanding of WH&S including risk management procedures/requirements
3. Skills and attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Relationship focused leadership 2. Strong communication skills 3. Ability to meet deadlines 4. Ability to work with volunteers, employees, contractors, external partners and agencies 5. High level report writing, presentation and liaison skills 6. Communication and analytical skills 7. Mentoring skills 8. Physically fit
4. Culture	<p>Actively demonstrate the organisational values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brave – We take calculated risks while striving for excellence • Connected – We seek opportunities to highlight the strengths of others • Buoyant – We are conscious of the energy we share • Compassionate – We walk a mile in their shoes



Position Description – IRB Chief Scrutineer

Reports to	Championship Referee
Consults with	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IRB Championship Referee • IRB Champions Deputy Referee • SLSA Staff – various positions as appropriate • SLSA Team Managers, Coaches and Competitors • Host Club, Organising Committee
Purpose	The purpose of the Chief Scrutineer’s role is to work with the Championship Referee, Deputy Referee and Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) to control and organise the measurement of gear and equipment to ensure that all motors, hulls, propellers, fuel and equipment is operating, and otherwise, in accordance with the current specifications approved by SLSA.
Responsibilities	<p>Overall</p> <p>Act under the supervision of the IRB Championship Referee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange for the correct setting up of the scrutineering area and measuring devices. • Ensure the scrutineering standards used are in line with the current gear and equipment specifications as advised by the relevant SLSA authority. • Arrange for a program and timetable for the processing of teams and their equipment, gear and required paperwork including maintaining of records. • Supervise and roster Head Scrutineers (Motors, Hulls & Propellers) and scrutineers to allocated positions, times and particular responsibilities. • Observe competition events and if they consider that the performance of a particular craft, motor or item of equipment, including fuel appears to exceed the manufacturers’ performance specification, they shall make these observations known to the Referee. • If considered necessary, or if requested, arrange for inspections during and/or after an event or competition. • Liaise with the Referee on infringements and any concerns raised by competitors, team managers or coaches. • Provide reports and recommendations to the Referee or Authority on the conduct of the scrutineering program. • Be aware at all times of the safety and welfare of competitors, officials and other personnel involved in the competition and immediately report any concerns to the Referee or their delegate and/or the Safety and Emergency Management Coordinator. If the matter is a catastrophic event the official may order an immediate suspension of competition in their area and immediately escalate the matter to the Referee and/or their Area Referee and/or the SEMC. <p>Prior to Event</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with specific staff, competitive/officials representative groups where necessary and report to the Area Referee, Championship



	<p>Referee or Competition Organising Committee as and when requested</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and provide input into the scrutineering roster and given circulars <p>During Event</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate all event scrutineering requirements Liaise with the Championship Referee, Officials, Team Managers, Coaches and Competitors on any issues related to scrutineering <p>Post Event</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If required, provide input and feedback as appropriate for continual event improvement
<p>SELECTION CRITERIA</p>	<p>Please address all four areas of the selection criteria below: qualifications, knowledge and experience and skills and attributes</p>
<p>1. Qualifications (Essential & or Desirable)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Surf Life Saving experience, particularly in the area of Inshore Rescue Boats Accredited Senior Surf Official Officiating experience within a similar role at an Australian IRB Championships Motor or marine based qualifications and ability to use relevant measuring equipment.
<p>2. Knowledge and experience</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Experience working with fundraising/community associations/not-for-profit/membership organisations Understanding and knowledge in regard to SLSA standards and requirements for 2 stroke engine operation, hulls construction & repairs methods and propellers. Demonstrated understanding of OH&S including risk management procedures/requirements
<p>3. Skills and attributes</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Strong communication skills Ability to work with volunteers, employees and contractors High level report writing and liaison skills Communication and analytical skills including liaison with relevant manufacturers relevant to changes and updates to their equipment which may effect performance advantage Mentoring skills Physically fit
<p>4. Culture</p>	<p>Actively demonstrate the organisational values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brave – We take calculated risks while striving for excellence Connected – We seek opportunities to highlight the strengths of others Buoyant – We are conscious of the energy we share Compassionate – We walk a mile in their shoes