



Circular 3978

Released 23 September 2026



2026 NSW INTERBRANCH CHAMPIONSHIPS ENTRY CIRCULAR

Attention: Branch Presidents, Branch Directors of Surf Sport, Branch Team Managers

Actioned by: Persons responsible for Branch entries.

Date: 23 September 2026

Contact: Tim Dale - Event Staging Coordinator
Phone: (02) 9471 8000
Email: surfsports@surflifesaving.com.au

Summary	Outlines the requirements and procedures to enter the 2026 NSW Interbranch Championships to be held at Caves Beach SLSC from Saturday 28 th – Sunday 29 th November 2026.
Action	Complete the Microsoft Excel Spreadsheet and submit entries to SLSNSW at surfsports@surflifesaving.com.au by Sunday 15 November 2026 .

INTRODUCTION

This document contains information in reference to entries for the 2026 NSW Interbranch Championships to be held at Caves Beach SLSC, hosted by the Hunter Branch and supported by Surf Life Saving New South Wales (SLSNSW) on 28th and 29th November 2026.

BRANCH ENTRIES AND ENTRY FEES

Branches are responsible for entering their competitors by **Sunday 15 November 2026**. SLSNSW will invoice each Branch after the close of entries.

The entry fee for each competitor is **\$40.00** (incl. GST) per competitor.

Entry fees are not refundable if members do not take part in these Championships or if the event is cancelled or suspended.

For 2026, SLSNSW will manage the entry process for these Championships.

Branches are to download and complete the [Microsoft Excel Spreadsheet](#) with full competitor/event list and submit via email to SLSNSW at surfsports@surflifesaving.com.au. Please ensure entry form is completed and submitted by closing date of **Sunday 15 November 2026**.

REFUND POLICY

No refunds will be available for competition withdrawals or for competitors who did not compete in this event.

Disclaimer:

This policy is intended to be a guide for competitors, teams, officials, and spectators when making accommodation and travel plans and/or taking time off work. It is the responsibility of competitors, teams, officials, and spectators to investigate their own personal situation and potential financial consequences and make their own decisions as to whether they wish to attend the Championship.

ELIGIBILITY TO COMPETE:

All entrants must meet the SLSNSW award, and proficiency requirements as set out below:

- U12 – U14 Competitors must hold their Junior Activities Competition Skills Evaluation relevant to their Age Group for the 2026/27 season.
- U15 Competitors must hold their Surf Rescue Certificate (SRC).
- U17 & U19 Competitors must hold their Bronze Medallion (BM).

PATROL HOURS

U17 & U19 are required to meet the SLSNSW patrol requirements based on the 2025 calendar year.

U15 competitors are required to complete a minimum of 8 patrol hours in the 2026 calendar year.

Any exemption requests, per Policy 5.04, will need to be submitted by **Monday 9 November 2026** for review. Decisions will be advised by SLSNSW by **Friday 13 November 2026**.

It is a requirement of each Branch to ensure that all competitors are compliant. SLSNSW will conduct competitor audits to ensure compliancy.

All competitors are required to wear their full Branch supplied uniform during competition, unless an exemption is sought from the Carnival Committee.

BRANCH TEAMS

The Branch Team (48) will consist of the following:

- U12, U13, U14, U15, U17 and U19 Age Groups: Maximum of four (4) females and four (4) males per age group

Please note, drafting will be allowed for the 2026 NSW Interbranch Championships. Branches wishing to draft competitors, must send request through to surfsports@surflifesaving.com.au. This is only allowed in circumstances where there are insufficient athletes nominating in an age group within a Branch. Branches should first consider all options for fulfilling the team with their own athletes e.g. an U17 selected to compete as an U19.

RULES

For the 2026 NSW Interbranch Championships, the following rules will apply for ALL competitors:

- *A competitor is only allowed to compete in one age group for the duration of the carnival.*
- Any competitor is permitted to compete up one (1) age group up from their own age category. If a competitor competes up an age group, that competitor must remain competing in that age group for the duration of the carnival.
- An U15 can compete in the U17 age division, providing they have attained their Bronze Medallion as per Section 2.3.7 of the [SLSA Surf Sports Manual, 38th Edition](#)
- An U15 competitor competing in the U17 age group is not permitted to compete in the ski event or ski leg of the U17 Taplin Relay.
- Competitors competing **one** (1) age group up, **MUST** have competed for a club in that Branch the season prior (25/26).
- ALL competitors **MUST** have their age division clearly marked on their left or right shoulder for the Marshalls to scrutinise and be wearing their live heats wristband on their left or right wrist.
- Event compositions will be as follows;
 - Surf Race - Two (2) competitors per age group per branch. Single gender.
 - Board Race - Two (2) competitors per age group per branch. Single gender.
 - Iron Person – Two (2) competitors per age group per branch. Single gender.
 - Ski – Two (2) competitor per age group per branch. Single gender.
 - Mixed 6 Person Taplin – Two (2) Swim, two (2) Board, two (2) Ski, male & female in each leg.
 - Cameron Relay – Three (3) person relay, inclusive of one (1) runner. One (1) team per age per branch. Single gender.
 - Mixed Board Relay- Two (2) person relay, one (1) male & one (1) female. One (1) team per age group per branch.
 - Mixed Ski Relay – Two (2) person relay, one (1) male & one (1) female. One (1) team per branch.

- Board Rescue – Two (2) competitors per team, one (1) team per branch. Single gender.
- All Age Board Relay – One (1) competitor per age group per branch. Single gender.
- Sprint – One (1) competitor per age group per branch. Single gender.
- Flags – One (1) competitor per age group per branch. Single gender.
- Mixed Beach Sprint Relay – Four (4) person relay, two (2) male & two (2) female. One (1) team per age group per branch.
- Mixed Distance Beach Relay – Two (2) x 500m (U12) & two (2) x 1km (U13-U19), two (2) person relay, one (1) male & one (1) female. One (1) team per age group per branch.
- All Age Beach Relay – One (1) competitor per age group per branch. Single gender.

INJURY/ILLNESS SUBSTITUTION

A Branch may replace an athlete in their Branch team up until the commencement of the first event of the championship. After the commencement of the first event, a Branch cannot make a replacement from outside of the Branch team.

A Branch may substitute an athlete of a younger nominated age category from within their team for individual and team events but only on the following basis:

- Application must be made through the Referee to the Competition Committee who will make a decision. The Championship Committee's decision shall not be subject to protest or appeal.
- Application for substitution of an athlete can only be for injury or illness. Proof of injury or illness may be sought by the Competition Committee.
- Once substituted the injured/ill athlete is not permitted to take any further part in the event.

Any changes required to individual events for Branch teams after the closing date of entries must be communicated to SLSNSW via email to surfsports@surflifesaving.com.au.

NO changes will be made to Individual events after 11pm Tuesday 24 November 2026.

OFFICIALS

A quota system for Branches to provide Accredited Officials has been put in place for the 2026 NSW Interbranch Championships. Each Branch is required to supply a minimum of 2 Accredited Officials per day.

WATER SAFETY

All branches are required to nominate two (2) water safety personnel via [Microsoft Forms](#) by **Sunday 22 November 2026**. SLSNSW will release the water safety roster prior to the Championships.

Water safety personnel will need to supply their own orange rash vest, cap, fins, rescue tube. All water safety personnel must have a minimum current proficient SRC. Rescue boards for water safety will be used at the discretion and direction of the Sectional Referee in the water area. In this instance boards will be made available by Caves Beach SLSC.

PROGRAM

Saturday 28 November 2026			
	Water Events		Beach Events
7:30am	Warm Up - Swim		
7:45am	Warm Up - Craft		
8:10am	Welcome		
8:30am	U19 M/F Surf Race (F)		U12 M/F Beach Sprint (SF)
	U17 M/F Surf Race (F)		U13 M/F Beach Sprint (SF)
	U15 M/F Surf Race (F)		U14 M/F Beach Sprint (SF)
	U14 M/F Surf Race (F)		U15 M/F Beach Sprint (SF)
	U13 M/F Surf Race (F)		U17 M/F Beach Sprint (SF)
	U12 M/F Surf Race (F)		U19 M/F Beach Sprint (SF)
	U19 M/F Ski (F)		U12 M/F Beach Sprint (F)
	U17 M/F Ski (F)		U13 M/F Beach Sprint (F)
			U14 M/F Beach Sprint (F)
	U15 M/F Board (F)		U15 M/F Beach Sprint (F)
	U14 M/F Board (F)		U17 M/F Beach Sprint (F)
	U19 M/F Board (F)		U19 M/F Beach Sprint (F)
	U17 M/F Board (F)		
	U13 M/F Board (F)		U12 Mixed Beach Relay (F)
	U12 M/F Board (F)		U13 Mixed Beach Relay (F)
			U14 Mixed Beach Relay (F)
	U19 M/F Ironperson (F)		U15 Mixed Beach Relay (F)
	U17 M/F Ironperson (F)		U17 Mixed Beach Relay (F)
	U15 M/F Ironperson (F)		U19 Mixed Beach Relay (F)
	U14 M/F Ironperson (F)		
	U13 M/F Ironperson (F)		Male All Age Beach Relay (F)
	U12 M/F Ironperson (F)		Female All Age Beach Relay (F)
	U19 M/F Board Rescue (F)		
	U17 M/F Board Rescue (F)		
	U15 M/F Board Rescue (F)		
	U14 M/F Board Rescue (F)		
	U13 M/F Board Rescue (F)		
	U12 M/F Board Rescue (F)		
Program is subject to change			

Sunday 29 November 2026			
	Water Events		Beach Events
		7:30am	U19 Mixed 2x1km Beach Run Relay (F)
			U17 Mixed 2x1km Beach Run Relay (F)
			U15 Mixed 2x1km Beach Run Relay (F)
			U14 Mixed 2x1km Beach Run Relay (F)
			U13 Mixed 2x1km Beach Run Relay (F)
			U12 Mixed 2x500m Beach Run Relay (F)
8:40am	Warm Up - Swim		
8:55am	Warm Up - Craft		
9:25am	U19 Mixed Taplin Relay (6P) (F)	9:30am	U12 M/F Beach Flags (F)
	U17 Mixed Taplin Relay (6P) (F)		U13 M/F Beach Flags (F)
	U15 M/F Cameron Relay (F)		U14 M/F Beach Flags (F)
	U14 M/F Cameron Relay (F)		U15 M/F Beach Flags (F)
	U13 M/F Cameron Relay (F)		U17 M/F Beach Flags (F)
	U12 M/F Cameron Relay (F)		U19 M/F Beach Flags (F)
	U17 Mixed Ski Relay (F)		
	U19 Mixed Ski Relay (F)		
	U12 Mixed Board Relay (F)		
	U13 Mixed Board Relay (F)		
	U14 Mixed Board Relay (F)		
	U15 Mixed Board Relay (F)		
	U17 Mixed Board Relay (F)		
	U19 Mixed Board Relay (F)		
	Male All Age Board Relay (F)		
	Female All Age Board Relay (F)		
Program is subject to change			