

Partner Club Program

September 2026

SURF LIFE SAVING
NEW SOUTH WALES



What is the Partner Club Program

The Partner Club Program connects patrol teams with clubs that have smaller membership bases and where a limited number of members may be carrying a significant share of the patrol roster.

By providing patrol relief on an agreed date, your team can give heavily rostered members a well-earned break while helping another club maintain safe and sustainable patrol coverage. It is also an opportunity to:

- patrol in a different environment;
- strengthen teamwork and create a shared experience for your patrol;
- build relationships and exchange practical knowledge with members from another club; and
- contribute to a stronger and more connected lifesaving network across NSW.

Who this guide is for

This guide is for members and patrol teams from clubs invited by SLSNSW to consider providing patrol relief through the Partner Club Program.

Your patrol team may comprise members from an existing patrol team, or other suitably qualified members from your club who are interested in forming a team for this opportunity. Participation should be discussed with and supported by the relevant club officers before an Expression of Interest is submitted.

Opportunities for your patrol team

Depending on your team's interest and availability, you may nominate to provide support for:

- one rostered patrol day;
- a full weekend, covering Saturday and Sunday patrols; or
- selected patrols during a holiday or other high-pressure period.

Your team can nominate for as many dates as you like, however please nominate only for the dates and locations your team can realistically support. This will help SLSNSW identify suitable matches and avoid approaching teams about opportunities that may not be practical.

SLSNSW will work with both clubs to confirm the patrol requirements and practical arrangements before any commitment is finalised.

Please do not make travel bookings, incur expenses or treat an arrangement as confirmed until SLSNSW has provided written confirmation and both clubs have agreed to the operational and reimbursement arrangements.

What your patrol team needs

Your patrol team must be able to meet the minimum requirements for a **full patrol**. It may include more members if there is additional interest.



At a minimum, the team must include **three financial and proficient members who hold the Bronze Medallion (Certificate II in Public Safety Aquatic Rescue)**. Collectively, the team must also hold the following awards:

- 1 x Silver Medallion Patrol Captain or Silver Medallion Beach Management*
- 1 x Silver Medallion IRB Driver
- 1 x IRB Crew (separate to the holder of the IRB Driver award)
- 1 x Advanced Resuscitation Techniques
- Side by Side Vehicle Operation

*A Silver Medallion Beach Management Award holder must also hold:

- Supplementary Learning for Patrol Captains; and
- Surf Risk Rating.

Reimbursement

Your patrol team may claim reimbursement for eligible expenses incurred while providing confirmed patrol support.

The total reimbursement available to your club is capped at **\$500.00 +GST for each patrol day covered**. For example, a team covering both Saturday and Sunday patrols may claim eligible expenses up to a total of \$1,000.00 +GST.

Eligible expenses

Eligible expenses may include:

- **Travel:** Vehicle travel to and from the club being supported, reimbursed at a rate of \$1.00 per kilometre.
- **Accommodation:** Reasonable accommodation costs where an overnight stay is required and accommodation is not being provided by the club.
- **Meals and non-alcoholic beverages:** Up to \$90 per participating member for a full day (i.e. breakfast, lunch and dinner).

The following meal amounts provide a guide for if only one or two meals are being claimed:

- breakfast – up to \$20 per person;
- lunch – up to \$25 per person; and
- dinner – up to \$45 per person.

Alcohol cannot be reimbursed.

Copies of receipts must be provided for all accommodation and meal expenses. Vehicle travel claims must include the start and end locations and total number of kilometres travelled.

All expenses remain subject to the overall reimbursement cap of \$500 for each patrol day covered.



How to register your interest

1. Discuss the opportunity with your patrol team and other suitably qualified members in your club who may be interested in forming a team.
2. Complete the [Partner Club Expression of Interest](#) by 9am Monday 28 September 2026.

The Expression of Interest Form will ask you to:

- Confirm the make-up of your patrol team
- Nominate the dates and locations your team could support.
- Nominate a liaison who can respond promptly during the matching process.

What happens after you submit?

Stage	Purpose
1. Support promoted	SLSNSW will share available opportunities with clubs requesting patrol relief and provisionally match clubs with patrol teams.
2. Support confirmed	SLSNSW will contact patrol team's nominated liaison to confirm team availability and composition
3. Arrangements agreed	Both clubs will receive written confirmation of dates, contacts, responsibilities and reimbursement conditions before the patrol proceeds.

We aim to agree arrangements by **Monday 5 October**.

If your patrol team is matched

Your patrol team will be expected to:

- participate in a local induction and pre-patrol briefing with the supported club to become familiar with the club's local hazards, equipment, procedures and escalation arrangements; and
- work with the supported club to ensure patrol and member records are completed in the required systems.

Questions

Questions can be directed to Aaron Crofts, SLSNSW Club Capability Coordinator.

Email: acrofts@surflifesaving.com.au

Phone: 0466 850 495