



Surf Life Saving Australia - Circular

Title:	2026/27 Super Surf Teams League Entry Circular
Document ID:	Circular 25/26-27
Audience:	State/Territory Surf Sport Managers, Directors, Club Secretaries, Branches, State/Territory CEO's, Sport Advisory Committee
From:	Sport
Date:	22 September 2026
Summary:	This Circular contains the relevant details for States selecting teams to compete in the Super Surf Teams League to be held at Newcastle on 9-10 January 2027.

This event circular contains information in reference to the conduct of the 2026/27 Super Surf Teams League (SSTL) to be over two rounds:

Round	Location	Date
Round 1	Newcastle SLSC	Saturday 9 January 7:30am
Round 2	Newcastle SLSC	Sunday 10 January 7:30am

EVENT INFORMATION

States will be responsible for the selection of their representative teams and make their own arrangements regarding equipment, transportation of teams and outfitting. SLSA will supply the competition lycras.

Insurance for all competition equipment including tents, trailers and surf craft is the responsibility of the States. SLSA will not accept the responsibility for loss, damage, or theft of equipment.

For event management purposes, SLSA will recognise a maximum of two (2) team management officials for each team.

The 2026/27 SSTL will be divided into 2 categories:

1. **Open SSTL** – open to all proficient competitors from the U17, U19 and Open age groups.
2. **U17 SSTL** – open only to competitors from the U17 age group. Each State will be permitted to enter 1 x U17 team only.

Separate point scores will be conducted over both categories.

Note: Each team must include 4 males and 4 females. Once a competitor represents one team, they are not able to transfer to another for the remainder of the series.

TEAM COMPOSITION

SSTL U17 TEAM COMPOSITION

A U17 SSTL Team (8) will consist of the following:

- Each State is permitted to enter 1 x U17 SSTL Team only
- 4 x male competitors
- 4 x female competitors
- All competitors must be proficient and eligible to compete in the U17 age category for the 2026/27 season.
- Competitors competing in the U15 age group for the 2026/27 Season are not permitted to compete.



- A team's composition may vary from round to round however the team can nominate no more than 10 athletes as part of their squad, with a maximum of 8 athletes competing in each round. These 10 athletes must be included in the team configurations provided to SLSA.

SSTL OPEN TEAM COMPOSITION

A SSTL Team (8) will consist of the following:

- 4 x male competitors
- 4 x female competitors
- All competitors must be proficient and eligible to compete in the Open category for the 2026/27 season (i.e., U17, U19 or Open).
- Competitors competing in the U15 age group for the 2026/27 Season are not permitted to compete.
- A team's composition may vary from round to round however the team can nominate no more than 10 athletes as part of their squad, with a maximum of 8 athletes competing in each round. These 10 athletes must be included in the team configurations provided to SLSA.

HANDLERS

Each Team is permitted one Handler to assist with craft. Handlers must wear a Team Competition cap and a high visibility vest (States to provide).

TEAM SHEETS

States are required to complete the team configuration spreadsheets and send to SLSA no later than 12pm **Wednesday 16th December 2026**.

Note 1: Changes after this date will only be permitted subject to injury or other unforeseen circumstances. No changes to any team entries shall be permitted once the first event has commenced although teams may substitute within the team as required. Evidence **MUST** be provided in the form of a medical certificate or relevant documentation.

Note 2: In the event of an athlete withdrawing from a team. Team Management must

- a) Gain approval from the Competition Committee to replace the withdrawn team member (contact SLSA who will send to Competition Committee Chair)
- b) Ensure the new team member complies with the rules set out above under Team Selection

COMPETITION BRIEFINGS

A briefing for Team Managers and key Officials will be conducted by the Event Referee prior to the commencement of each round. Teams should have a minimum of one and maximum of two personnel attend the briefing. The Officials to be in attendance include the Event Referee, Safety Coordinator, and key Officials/SLSA personnel.

EVENT COMMUNICATION

Communication about this event will be directly to State Sport Managers and nominated Team Managers via email and Whatsapp.

COMPETITION EQUIPMENT AND SPECIFICATIONS

Each team shall be responsible for the provision of their own surf craft. All equipment used in competition is to comply with SLSA specifications. Random scrutineering of equipment may occur during the Super Surf Teams League.

EVENT CONDITIONS

The general competitive conditions as detailed in the current edition of the Surf Sports Manual and any subsequent bulletins shall apply to the conduct of these events except where amended by these rules.



All events where possible and, conditions permitting, shall be conducted as finals – except Beach Sprint and Flags which will be conducted with heats and finals.

Each team will field only one (1) competitor or team per event.

The primary amendments are:

a) Water Courses:

Water events will be conducted as traditional course around the buoy courses set for the Shaw and Partners Iron Series.as follows

b) Water Event Starts:

Unless otherwise advised, all water events shall be started on the beach approximately 15 metres from the water's edge (run start). Craft will be placed in front of the start line and as close as practicable to the water's edge. Handlers are not required for the start of events except for the Ski events where at the Competition Committee's discretion, Handlers may be utilised to hold the craft in the water to avoid the dragging/carrying of skis into the water.

c) Water Event Finishes:

Unless otherwise advised, all water events shall finish as per the Ironperson races (run finish). Craft and paddles may be abandoned after rounding the last turning buoy of the swim course. Handlers are to be used to remove craft and paddles from the course.

d) Change Over Area and Tagging for Relay Style Events:

In all relay style events the Referee will designate a Changeover Area that will commence 5 metres before the finish arch (southern side) and finish at the arch. The incoming athlete will run from the water's edge around the southern turning flag towards the finish arch. In the Changeover Area a tag must take place between the incoming competitor and the outgoing competitor. The tag can take place on any part of the body. Any breach of the Changeover Rule may result in disqualification.

e) Mixed Ocean M 8 person Team Relay:

Fixed order of run, swim, board ski. To be run as per the rules outlined in the current edition of the Surf Sports Manual. The event will be conducted over an M Shape Course however if conditions dictate the event may revert to a traditional course. The Referee will confirm details at the Team Manager meeting.

f) Entry Condition:

If a Member has been injured & their claim processed through iCare (WorkCover Authority New South Wales) and wishes to compete in an SLSA competition or returning to SLSA Surf Patrol Duties, then they MUST complete & submit a Return to Surf Duties Form BEFORE returning to ensure full medical clearance.

Note 1: Refer to SLSA Policy 5.04 "Competition Eligibility". All selected competitors must be proficient to the relative SLSA Award for their age group and, as appropriate, have satisfied the patrol requirements as specified by their Clubs. Competitors and Team Management must also be current financial members of their respective surf club.

DRAWS

- SLSA will be utilising Live Heats wristbands for the marshalling and recording process. All competitors who have an existing Live Heats wristband are to bring these wristbands.
- All results and draws will be posted on liveheats.com/slsa/
- All draws will be random and drawn through Live Heats



EVENTS

Beach Events- Individual- 1 entry per Open SSTL team and 1 entry per U17 SSTL team	
Male Beach Sprint	
Female Beach Sprint	
Male Flags Final	
Female Flags Final	
Water Events- Individual- 1 entry per Open SSTL team and 1 entry per U17 SSTL team	
Male Surf Race Final	
Female Surf Race Final	
Male Board Final	
Female Board Final	
Male Ski Final	
Female Ski Final	
Team Events- 1 entry per Open SSTL team and 1 entry per U17 SSTL team	
Mixed Gender 2 Person Beach Relay (1 x Male & 1 x Female)	
Mixed Gender 2 Person Swim Relay (1 x Male & 1 x Female)	
Mixed Gender 2 Person Board Relay (1 x Male & 1 x Female)	
Mixed Gender 2 Person Ski Relay (1 x Male & 1 x Female)	
Mixed Gender 8 Person Ocean M Relay (4 x Male & 4 x Female)	

KEY TIMES

Rounds 1 and 2 – Saturday and Sunday (9 & 10 January 2026)	
Time	Description
6.45am	Officials Briefing
7.00am	Team Managers Meeting
7.15am	Marshalling Commences
7.30am	Start of competition
10.30am	Estimated finish time

Further details are outlined in Schedule 1 – Event Timetables

POINTSCORE

For the 26/27 SSTL two separate point scores will be conducted:

- Open SSTL point score and,
- U17 SSTL point score

Within each Round all races will be allocated maximum points with each subsequent place getter receiving 1 point less. A separate and cumulative point score will be kept for each Round.

The maximum number of points equates to the number of teams competing in each division (i.e. if there are 12 teams competing in the open division, first place will receive 12 points).

If a competitor or a team fails to start, fails to finish, or is disqualified in a race – they will receive NIL points for that race.

At the conclusion of each Round all Teams will then be ranked from highest to lowest based on the aggregate point score for that Round. The Team with the highest ranking will then be awarded maximum points with each subsequent Team being awarded 1 point less.

Overall Point Score

For both the Open SSTL and the U17 SSTL the Team with the highest point score at the conclusion of Round 2 shall be declared the winner. Further to this if there is a tied point score, the Team with the most 1st placings shall be declared the winner. Failing this, the Team with the most 2nd placings to the last placing points awarded respectively will be considered to determine a winner. If, after this procedure



there is no single winner, then the team with the higher placing in Round 2 will be declared the winner.

PRESENTATIONS

Teams will be competing for the Open Super Surf Teams League Trophy and the U17 Super Surf Teams Trophy. Medals will also be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd for both the Open point score and the U17 point score.

PROTESTS

In the event of a protest by a competitor or team there will be no right of appeal as the Referee's decision, in consultation with the Deputy Referee shall be final.

In dealing with the protest – the Referee has the discretion to **(but not obligated to)**:

- Speak to any further person he/she believes is appropriate and /or
- View any video or broadcast footage that may assist in his/her decision

All Placings are deemed final upon the Referee declaring the results as confirmed. No protest can be lodged after the confirmation of the results.

INJURY/ILLNESS/ TEAM SUBSTITUTION

A Team may replace an athlete in their team up until the commencement of the first race of each Round. After competition commences in each Round a Team cannot make a replacement from outside of their Team. This includes States that have multiple Teams – substitutions cannot be made between Teams. Once a competitor represents a team, they are ineligible to represent another for the remainder of the series.

SLSA CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

SLSA expects that all members involved in SSTL will co-operate to ensure a positive public image and to participate in a spirit of goodwill and sportsmanship.

The SLSA Code of Conduct, Competing Unfairly and Abuse/Inappropriate clauses etc. are contained in the current edition of the Surf Sports Manual and any subsequent bulletins.

Any incidents or behaviour likely to cause embarrassment or damage to the reputation and/or image of lifesaving competition will be managed as prescribed in the current edition of SLSA's Rules, Surf Sports Manual, and any subsequent bulletins.

MEDIA STATEMENTS

Teams shall be permitted to promote the event and or their State/Territory Team within their own state. However, no competitor, Team Manager, Official or spokesperson for a Team, shall make media statements that could bring the SSTL, 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 SSTL, 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.

THEFT

Any person/s found stealing signage or any equipment owned by Surf Life Saving Australia, the hosting authority, states, or another individual may be immediately reported to the police and that person/s be brought before a SLSA Disciplinary Committee.

Please note that automatic disqualification of the team from the SSTL may occur if any member is found guilty of theft.



COMPETITION MANIPULATION

The SLSA National Policy on Match Fixing and framework covers all SLS Events that are conducted by SLSA, State Centres, Branches and Clubs including 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.

SLSA ANTI-DOPING POLICY

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.

It is highly recommended all competitors and club members (including coaches, handlers, and support personnel) complete the SIA online e-learning program (Level 1) to ensure all personnel are aware of contemporary issues pertaining to anti-doping. The link to access this e-learning program is: <https://elearning.sportintegrity.gov.au/>. Further to this, it is highly recommended that each team, under the direction of the management, undergo at least one anti-doping education and awareness activity as a group.

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



EVENT TIMETABLE

Saturday 9 January + Sunday 10 January

Time	Events
BEACH EVENTS – Commence 7.30am (Marshall 7.15am)	
7.30am	Open Female Beach Sprint Heats x 2
	Open Male Beach Sprint Heats x 2
7.40am	U17 Female Beach Sprint Final
	U17 Male Beach Sprint Final
7.45am	Open Female Beach Sprint B Final
	Open Male Beach Sprint B Final
7.50am	Open Female Beach Sprint A Final
	Open Male Beach Sprint A Final
7.55am	U17 Mixed Beach Sprint Relay Final (2 person)
8.00am	Open Mixed Beach Sprint Relay Heats x 2 (2 person)
8.10am	Open Mixed Beach Sprint Relay B Final (Places 7 to 11)
8.15am	Open Mixed Beach Sprint Relay A Final (Places 1 to 6)
8.30am	Open and U17 Male & Female Flags (to be conducted concurrently with water events)
WATER EVENTS- Commence 8.30am (Marshall 8.15am)	
Open SSTL and U17 SSTL races will be conducted in the same race with separate places and points to be awarded.	
8.30am	Female Surf Race Final
	Male Surf Race Final
8.45am	Female Board Final
	Male Board Final
9.00am	Female Ski Final
	Male Ski Final
9.15am	Mixed Gender 2 person Swim Relay (1 x male, 1x female)
9.30am	Mixed Gender 2 person Board Relay (1 x male, 1x female)
9.45am	Mixed Gender 2 person Ski Relay (1 x male, 1x female)
10.00am	Mixed Ocean M Team Relay 8 person (4 males and 4 females) M Shape Course
10.30am	Finish - Wrap up, point score etc

PLEASE NOTE: The race order and allocated times are a guide only and are subject to change if weather and/or surf conditions and/or broadcast requirements dictate. In the event of any change SLSA will (in all best endeavors) consult with Team Managers in a timely and appropriate manner to provide as much advance notice as is reasonably possible.