# Circular 3986

**Released 17 Novemeber 2026**

# 2027 NSW COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS
# ENTRY CIRCULAR

**Attention:** Club Presidents, Club Secretaries, Club Competition Officers, Team Managers, Coaches and Competitors.

**Actioned by:** Persons responsible for club entries.

**Date:** 17 November 2026

**Contact:** Tim Dale – SLSNSW Event Staging Coordinator
Phone: (02) 9471 8000
Email: countrychampionships@surflifesaving.com.au

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| **Summary:** | Outlines the requirements and procedures to enter the 2027 NSW Country Championships to be held at South West Rocks SLSC from Friday 22nd – Sunday 24th January 2027. |
| **Action:** | ○ Entries open **Wednesday 18th November 2026.**<br>○ Complete and submit entries via Live Heats by **11.00pm Sunday 3rd January 2027.**<br>○ Online late entries close **11.00pm Sunday 10th January 2027** *(late fees apply).*<br>○ ***NOTE: No late entries will be accepted after this date including at the Championships (excluding changes to team events)****<br>○ Complete the Team Manager Declaration Form and Rash Vest Order Form by **11.00pm Sunday 4th January 2027.** |

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The 2027 NSW Country Championships attracts Country Branch competitors from the U8's to Masters, providing an opportunity to unite over a three (3) day period showcasing one of Australia's most iconic volunteer movements, Surf Life Saving.

This year's event will be held at South West Rocks SLSC, located in the Kempsey Shire Council area, from Friday 22nd to Sunday 24th January 2027.

This document outlines key information relating to the 2027 NSW Country Championships. Please note that SLSNSW may issue subsequent bulletins, memos or circulars which may supersede information provided in this Circular.

## 2. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Reference is made to:

- The current 38th Edition Surf Sports Manual
- The proficiency competition requirements for 2026/27 Season:
    - Memo - SLSNSW 5.04 Patrol Hour Exemption Process
    - SLSNSW Regulations 5. Competition Eligibility and Exemption

## 3. GENERAL CONTENT

Entries are to be completed via Live Heats. Each club is responsible for advising their members on who is responsible for managing a member's entries and payments. (club or member)

- Entries close **11.00pm Sunday 3rd January 2027.**
- Online late entries close **11.00pm Sunday 10th January 2027** (late fees apply).
- **No late entries will be accepted after this date including at the Championships (excludes changes to team events*).**
- Clubs are reminded to complete the Team Manager Declaration Form and Rash Vest Order Form by **Sunday 3rd January 2027.** This Team Manager Declaration Form includes Clubs logging their team manager contact details.
- **Note: Clubs are reminded to check all entries prior to the close of late entries on Sunday 10th January 2027 for any omissions and errors.**

## 4. 2027 NSW COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS COMPETITION COMMITTEE

The 2027 NSW Country Championships Competition Committee (CC) will direct all matters relating to the actual conduct of the competition. The CC may (subject to the rules in the Surf Sports Manual 38th Edition and event rules, any subsequent amending bulletins, and this Circular) postpone, cancel and/or alter any or all Championship events, and alter the venue of the competition.

| | |
|---|---|
| SLSNSW Chair of Surf Sports | Louis Tassone |
| Carnival Referee | Peter Allsopp |
| Local Organising Committee Representative, SWRSLSC | Rod McDonagh |
| Safety & Emergency Management Coordinator (SEMC) | Patrick Mullan |
| SLSNSW Sport Manager | Greg Pierce |
| SLSNSW Event Staging Coordinator | Tim Dale |

## 5. 2027 NSW COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS SAFETY & EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

The 2027 NSW Country Championships Safety Emergency Committee (SEC) will direct all matters relating to the safety of the competition.

A review of the following will be conducted at each CCSEC meeting:

a) Risk Assessment of the current conditions of the beach, environmental risks and back of beach area.
b) Injury management statistics.
c) Current weather predictions.
d) Competition statistics.

The SEC may consult and seek advice from appropriate officials, athletes and other personnel on local weather, surf conditions and safety issues when required. The SEC will then advise the CC.

The SEC is responsible for enacting the contingency plan for this event. The Safety Operations Manual developed for this event is to be applied by the Referee when considering and making recommendations, in consultation with relevant emergency services and lifesaving authorities.

| | |
|---|---|
| Safety & Emergency Management Coordinator (Chair) | Patrick Mullan |
| Deputy Carnival Referee | Nigel Penn |
| Powercraft Coordinator | Ben Forrester |
| First Aid Coordinator | AESS |
| Water Safety Coordinator | Mick Crowle |
| SLSNSW Event Staging Coordinator | Tim Dale |

## 6. VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS

### 6.1 Officials

Please be aware that there is an Officials Quota System applied to all Clubs for NSW Championship events on the number of Officials required to be supplied.

To fulfil your club's quota, you are required to officiate for two (2) or more days to help run a successful event. If you can only officiate for one (1) day, your club must provide another Official for one (1) day to fulfil your quota. Please note that Officials are required to fulfil full days of officiating. Officiating duties cannot be split between two Officials on the same day to meet quota requirements.

**Officials Quota**

| Competitors Entered | Officials Required |
|---|---|
| 0 to 4 | Nil |
| 5 to 8 | 1 Official |
| 9 to 15 | 2 Officials |
| 16 to 25 | 3 Officials |
| 26 to 35 | 4 Officials |
| 36 to 50 | 5 Officials |
| 51 to 65 | 6 Officials |
| 66 to 80 | 7 Officials |
| 80+ | 8 Officials |

**Please be aware the quota system is based on the number of competitors entered into the event, not the number of competitors starting**. Clubs are reminded before entering their competitors into the entry system that they **MUST** meet the official's quota.

**If clubs do not provide sufficient officials according to the provided quotas, SLSNSW will stand down all athletes from that club from competition until such time as the required officials are present.**

**It is essential that Clubs work with their officials to ensure that they (the officials) understand the effect on the Championships if they do not communicate with SLSNSW regarding non-attendance or changes to the Official's Appointments. Clubs should check that officials appointed are attending on the days that they are appointed for, as this could have a significant impact on whether athletes can compete or not.**

### 6.2 Water Safety

All clubs with nipper competitors are required to provide a minimum of two (2) water safety personnel per day on a roster system. SLSNSW will release the water safety roster prior to the Country Championships (after late entries close).

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 Water Safety Supervisor in the respective competition area. In this instance boards will be made available by South West Rocks SLSC.

### 6.3 Powercraft

To ensure the safety of all competitors competing in the 2027 NSW Country Championships, a Powercraft roster will be implemented. Clubs will be identified based on the total number of entries for the 2027 Championships.

Powercraft Drivers/Operators and crewpersons **must** fulfil the following requirements.

- **IRB Driver:** Be a current financial SLS member and be a proficient Silver Medallion IRB Driver.
- **IRB Crewperson:** Be a current financial SLS member, be a proficient IRB Crew Certificate.
- **RWC Operator:** Be a financial SLS member and hold a proficient RWC Operator Certificate.
- **Both IRB and RWC**: Be experienced in ALL levels of surf conditions and competent to deal in all surf conditions.

As the Powercraft requirements will be based on figures calculated after entries close for the 2027 event, **the Powercraft Roster will not be available until after normal entries close on Sunday 3rd January 2027**.

All IRB Drivers and Crew personnel must bring a personal compliant PFD, helmet (if applicable), and appropriate clothing.

Some Clubs may also be required to bring IRB equipment to the Championships. All IRBs supplied must be registered with SLSNSW, have passed the 2026/27 Gear and Equipment Inspection process, and be entered on SurfGuard.

Rostered crews will be required to report to the Powercraft Base Coordinator 30 minutes prior to their allocated shift.

**If clubs do not report with a full crew at the allocated time, SLSNSW will stand down all athletes from that club from competition until such time as the required crew reports and is on the water.**

### 6.4 First Aid

All first aid will be provided by SLSNSW's Australian Event Safety Services (AESS) removing the requirement for clubs to supply volunteers for these roles.

## 7. ELIGIBILITY TO COMPETE

For clubs to be eligible for Championship Competition, clubs must have their Life Saving Agreement (LSA) in place for competitors to represent that club.

All competitors must meet SLSNSW award, patrol, and proficiency requirements as per the 2026/27 proficiency competition requirements and any other subsequent bulletins issued.

Reference is made to the following documents which apply to this event:

- SLSA Policy 1.02 – Use of SLSA Equipment
- Memo – SLSNSW 5.04 Patrol Hour Exemption Process
- SLSNSW Regulations 5. Competition Eligibility and Exemption

The proficiency requalification must be completed by close of "normal" entries to be eligible to participate in a SLS Championship or other event i.e., late entries will not be accepted for members who have not completed their proficiency requalification by the normal close of entries.

All exemption requests are required to be endorsed by both Club and Branch (on letter head) before being received by SLSNSW. These must be sent to gpierce@surflifesaving.com.au and will be forwarded to the relevant SLSNSW Board Members for consideration. All exemption requests must be received no later than **Sunday 3rd January 2026.**

**Notwithstanding any approved flexibility/extension, all members must be proficient to participate in the Championships.**

### 7.1 Age

For the 2027 NSW Country Championships, competitors will be required to be proficient in the relevant Junior Competition Evaluation Skills. U14 members are required to hold their SRC award.

### 7.2 Opens & Masters

Reference is made to the following documents which apply to this event:

- The current 38th Edition Surf Sports Manual – Section 2.2 Competition Eligibility
- Memo: SLSNSW Patrol Hour Exemption Process
- SLSNSW Regulations 5. Competition Eligibility and Exemption

## 8. ENTRY FEES

The entry fee per competitor at the 2027 NSW Country Championships is **$64.27** (incl. GST).

The entry fee per March Past team is **$118.15** (incl. GST).

**Entry fees are not refundable if members do not take part in these Championships, or if events or the entire Championships are cancelled.**

**Late Entries:**
All online late entries received after the initial closing date will incur an increased late entry fee of **$118.15** (incl. GST).

No individual late entries will be taken at the Administration Centre – South West Rocks SLSC. Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of SLSNSW e.g., a competitor must be a team member replacing another team member in a team already entered. It is suggested that Clubs still enter members if there is a chance that they will be competing.

**Additional Events:**

When additional events are entered for competitors (individual and/or team) a fee of **$24.32** per event / per competitor will be charged. Note: **The competitor must be already entered into the Carnival.**

Additional individual event entries must be received at the Event Administration Centre at South West Rocks SLSC prior to marshalling. Officials will **NOT** add athletes to events on the beach.

## 9. ENTRIES – LIVE HEATS

All entries to the 2026 NSW Country Championships must be completed online directly via **LIVE HEATS.**

Online entries will close **11.00pm Sunday 3rd January 2027.**

Online late entries close **11.00pm Sunday 10th January 2027** *(late fees apply).*

Please refer to the LIVEHEATS Entry System page for assistance, before and during the entry process.

If further assistance is required please contact the Surf Sports team at countrychampionships@surflifesaving.com.au

**Note: Entries are restricted to Clubs from the Country Branches of NSW only. No interstate or metropolitan Branch competitors may enter this Carnival.**

## 10. LIVEHEATS

All competitors are required to have a Live Heats Race Tag with them which will be used throughout the event. All competitors will be signed into the event using Live Heats, and all event racing will be marshalled and recorded using Live Heats.

Team Managers will be responsible for team changes via Live Heats throughout the competition.

Athletes must bring their allocated Live Heats wristband. Replacement wristbands can be purchased from the Event Administration Centre at South West Rocks SLSC for $7.00 per band.

## 11. EVENTS

The following events shall be conducted in their respective age group areas in accordance with the requirements of the 38th Edition Surf Sports Manual and amending Bulletins and Circulars.

### 11.1 Age Events

| Under 14 Events | Under 13 Events | Under 12 Events |
|---|---|---|
| Male Surf Race | Male Surf Race | Male Surf Race |
| Female Surf Race | Female Surf Race | Female Surf Race |
| Mixed Surf Teams | Mixed Surf Teams | Mixed Surf Teams |
| Male Board Race | Male Board Race | Male Board Race |
| Female Board Race | Female Board Race | Female Board Race |
| Male Board Rescue | Male Board Rescue | Mixed Board Relay |
| Female Board Rescue | Female Board Rescue | Mixed Cameron Relay |
| Mixed Board Relay | Mixed Board Relay | Ironman |
| Mixed Cameron Relay | Mixed Cameron Relay | Ironwoman |
| Ironman | Ironman | Male Beach Sprint |
| Ironwoman | Ironwoman | Female Beach Sprint |
| Male Beach Sprint | Male Beach Sprint | Mixed Beach Relay |
| Female Beach Sprint | Female Beach Sprint | Male Beach Flags |
| Mixed Beach Relay | Mixed Beach Relay | Female Beach Flags |
| Male Beach Flags | Male Beach Flags | Male 1km Beach Run |
| Female Beach Flags | Female Beach Flags | Female 1km Beach Run |
| Male 2km Beach Run | Male 2km Beach Run | |
| Female 2km Beach Run | Female 2km Beach Run | |
| **Under 11 Events** | **Under 10 Events** | **Under 9 Events** |
| Male Surf Race | Male Surf Race | Male Surf Race |
| Female Surf Race | Female Surf Race | Female Surf Race |
| Mixed Surf Teams | Mixed Surf Teams | Mixed Surf Teams |
| Male Board Race | Male Board Race | Male Board Race |
| Female Board Race | Female Board Race | Female Board Race |
| Mixed Board Relay | Mixed Board Relay | Mixed Board Relay |
| Mixed Cameron Relay | Male Beach Sprint | Male Beach Sprint |
| Ironman | Female Beach Sprint | Female Beach Sprint |
| Ironwoman | Mixed Beach Relay | Mixed Beach Relay |
| Male Beach Sprint | Male Beach Flags | Male Beach Flags |
| Female Beach Sprint | Female Beach Flags | Female Beach Flags |
| Mixed Beach Relay | | |
| Male Beach Flags | | |
| Female Beach Flags | | |
| Male 1km Beach Run | | |
| Female 1km Beach Run | | |
| **Under 8 Events** | | |
| Male Wade Race | Male Beach Sprint | Male Beach Flags |
| Female Wade Race | Female Beach Sprint | Female Beach Flags |
| Mixed Wade Relay | Mixed Beach Relay | |

| Special Events | |
|---|---|
| Junior Male Board Rescue (U11/U12) | Junior Female Board Rescue (U11/U12) |
| All Age Beach Relay (U8-U14) | All Age Board Relay (U9-U14) |
| Buchanan Relay (U8-U10) | Junior & Open March Past |

### 11.2 Open Events

| Swimming Events | |
|---|---|
| Under 15 Male Surf Race | Under 15 Female Surf Race |
| Under 17 Male Surf Race | Under 17 Female Surf Race |
| Under 19 Male Surf Race | Under 19 Female Surf Race |
| Open Male Surf Race | Open Female Surf Race |
| Under 15 Mixed Surf Teams | Under 17 Mixed Surf Teams |
| Under 19 Mixed Surf Teams | Open Mixed Surf Teams |
| Under 15 Male Rescue Tube | Under 15 Female Rescue Tube |

| Ski Events | |
|---|---|
| Under 17 Male Single Ski | Under 17 Female Single Ski |
| Under 19 Male Single Ski | Under 19 Female Single Ski |
| Open Male Single Ski | Open Female Single Ski |
| Under 17 Male Single Ski Relay | Under 17 Female Single Ski Relay |
| Under 19 Male Single Ski Relay | Under 19 Female Single Ski Relay |
| Open Male Single Ski Relay | Open Female Single Ski Relay |
| Under 19 Male Double Ski | Under 19 Female Double Ski |
| Open Male Double Ski | Open Female Double Ski |
| Open Mixed Double Ski | |

| Board Events | |
|---|---|
| Under 15 Male Board Race | Under 15 Female Board Race |
| Under 17 Male Board Race | Under 17 Female Board Race |
| Under 19 Male Board Race | Under 19 Female Board Race |
| Open Male Board Race | Open Female Board Race |
| Under 15 Mixed Board Relay | |
| Under 17 Male Board Relay | Under 17 Female Board Relay |
| Under 19 Male Board Relay | Under 19 Female Board Relay |
| Open Male Board Relay | Open Female Board Relay |

| Beach Events | |
|---|---|
| Under 15 Male Beach Sprint | Under 15 Female Beach Sprint |
| Under 17 Male Beach Sprint | Under 17 Female Beach Sprint |
| Under 19 Male Beach Sprint | Under 19 Female Beach Sprint |
| Open Male Beach Sprint | Open Female Beach Sprint |
| Under 15 Male Beach Relay | Under 15 Female Beach Relay |
| Under 17 Male Beach Relay | Under 17 Female Beach Relay |
| Under 19 Male Beach Relay | Under 19 Female Beach Relay |
| Open Male Beach Relay | Open Female Beach Relay |
| U15 Mixed Beach Relay | U17 Mixed Beach Relay |
| U19 Mixed Beach Relay | Open Mixed Beach Relay |
| Under 15 Male Beach Flags | Under 15 Female Beach Flags |
| Under 17 Male Beach Flags | Under 17 Female Beach Flags |
| Under 19 Male Beach Flags | Under 19 Female Beach Flags |
| Open Male Beach Flags | Open Female Beach Flags |
| Under 15 Male 2km Beach Run | Under 15 Female 2km Beach Run |
| Under 17 Male 2km Beach Run | Under 17 Female 2km Beach Run |
| Under 19 Male 2km Beach Run | Under 19 Female 2km Beach Run |
| Open Male 2km Beach Run | Open Female 2km Beach Run |

| Multi-Discipline Events | |
|---|---|
| Under 15 Ironman | Under 15 Ironwoman |
| Under 17 Ironman | Under 17 Ironwoman |
| Under 19 Ironman | Under 19 Ironwoman |
| Open Ironman | Open Ironwoman |
| Under 15 Male Board Rescue | Under 15 Female Board Rescue |
| Under 17 Male Board Rescue | Under 17 Female Board Rescue |
| Under 19 Male Board Rescue | Under 19 Female Board Rescue |
| Open Male Board Rescue | Open Female Board Rescue |
| Under 17 Male Taplin Relay | Under 17 Female Taplin Relay |
| Under 19 Male Taplin Relay | Under 19 Female Taplin Relay |
| Open Male Taplin Relay | Open Female Taplin Relay |
| Open Mixed Taplin Relay | Under 15 Mixed Cameron Relay |

*11.3* **Masters Events** *(must be minimum of 30yrs of age as of 30th September 2026)*

| Swimming Events | |
|---|---|
| 30-39 Male Surf Race | 30-39 Female Surf Race |
| 40-49 Male Surf Race | 40-49 Female Surf Race |
| 50-59 Male Surf Race | 50-59 Female Surf Race |
| 60+ Male Surf Race | 60+ Female Surf Race |
| 110-149 Mixed Surf Teams | 150+ Mixed Surf Teams |
| 30-39 Male Rescue Tube | 30-39 Female Rescue Tube |
| 40-49 Male Rescue Tube | 40-49 Female Rescue Tube |
| 50-59 Male Rescue Tube | 50-59 Female Rescue Tube |
| 60+ Male Rescue Tube | 60+ Female Rescue Tube |

| Ski Events | |
|---|---|
| 30-39 Male Single Ski | 30-39 Female Single Ski |
| 40-49 Male Single Ski | 40-49 Female Single Ski |
| 50-59 Male Single Ski | 50-59 Female Single Ski |
| 60+ Male Single Ski | 60+ Female Single Ski |
| 110-149 Mixed Ski Relay | 150+ Mixed Ski Relay |
| 30+ Mixed Double Ski | |

| Board Events | |
|---|---|
| 30-39 Male Board Race | 30-39 Female Board Race |
| 40-49 Male Board Race | 40-49 Female Board Race |
| 50-59 Male Board Race | 50-59 Female Board Race |
| 60+ Male Board Race | 60+ Female Board Race |
| 110-149 Mixed Board Relay | 150+ Mixed Board Relay |

| Beach Events | |
|---|---|
| 30-39 Male Beach Sprint | 30-39 Female Beach Sprint |
| 40-49 Male Beach Sprint | 40-49 Female Beach Sprint |
| 50-59 Male Beach Sprint | 50-59 Female Beach Sprint |
| 60+ Male Beach Sprint | 60+ Female Beach Sprint |
| 140-199 Male Beach Relay | 140-199 Female Beach Relay |
| 200+ Male Beach Relay | 200+ Female Beach Relay |
| 140-199 Mixed Beach Relay | 200+ Mixed Beach Relay |
| 30-39 Male Beach Flags | 30-39 Female Beach Flags |
| 40-49 Male Beach Flags | 40-49 Female Beach Flags |
| 50-59 Male Beach Flags | 50-59 Female Beach Flags |
| 60+ Male Beach Flags | 60+ Female Beach Flags |

| | |
|---|---|
| 30-39 Male 2km Beach Run | 30-39 Female 2km Beach Run |
| 40-49 Male 2km Beach Run | 40-49 Female 2km Beach Run |
| 50-59 Male 2km Beach Run | 50-59 Female 2km Beach Run |
| 60+ Male 1km Beach Run | 60+ Female 1km Beach Run |

| Multi-Discipline Events | |
|---|---|
| 30-39 Ironman | 30-39 Ironwoman |
| 40-49 Ironman | 40-49 Ironwoman |
| 50-59 Ironman | 50-59 Ironwoman |
| 60+ Ironman | 60+ Ironwoman |
| 30-39 Male Board Rescue | 30-39 Female Board Rescue |
| 40-49 Male Board Rescue | 40-49 Female Board Rescue |
| 50-59 Male Board Rescue | 50-59 Female Board Rescue |
| 60+ Male Board Rescue | 60+ Female Board Rescue |
| 110-149 Mixed Taplin Relay | 150+ Mixed Taplin Relay |

### 11.3 Restriction of Events

Please note that there is a restriction to the number of teams that can compete for certain events. Please see the list below:

Buchanan Relay (U8-U10) – Two (2) teams per club

U13 & U14 M/F Board Rescue – Two (2) teams per age/gender per club

Junior M/F Board Rescue (U11/12) – Two (2) teams per gender per club

Mixed Cameron Relay (U11, U12, U13, U14) - Two (2) teams per club

All Age Beach Relay (U8-U14) – One (1) team per club

All Age Board Relay (U9-U14) – One (1) team per club

Beach Relays – Two (2) teams per club

### 11.4 Supplementary Information

**U8-U14 Relays:**

- All U8-U14 Relays are mixed and must have a minimum of one (1) male and one (1) female in each team.

**Buchanan Relay:**

- Buchanan Relays consists of six (6) athletes:
    - Four (4) U8 Competitors: One (1) x Wade & three (3) x Runners.
    - One (1) U9 Competitor and One (1) U10 Competitor who will either be the swimmer or board paddler.

**U11-U14 Mixed Cameron Relay:**

- The U11 – U14 Cameron Relays will be run with three (3) person teams.
- As a minimum, a female must take the position of either board paddler or swimmer.

**All Age Relays**

- All Age Beach Relay: U8-U14.
- All Age Board Relay: U9-U14.
- The All Age Relays can comprise of any combination of athletes. There is no minimum gender requirement.

**Open Mixed Events:**

- Mixed events across U15s, U17s, U19s and Opens age groups must have a minimum of one (1) male and one (1) female in each team.

**U15-Open Beach Relays**

- U15 – Open Mixed Beach Relays must have a minimum of one (1) male and one (1) female in each team.
- **Athletes in the U15 – Open Beach Relay events are only permitted to compete in one (1) team, either single gender or mixed, not both.**
    - **If an athlete competes in the single gender relay, they are not permitted to compete in a mixed team.**

**Masters Teams:**

- Masters Mixed Teams for Board Relay, Surf Teams, Ski Relay and Taplin Relay will consist of 3 people with a minimum of one (1) male and one (1) female in each team.
- Masters Mixed Beach Relay will consist of 4 people with a minimum of one (1) male and one (1) female in each team.
- **Athletes in the 140-199 and 200+ Beach Relay events are only permitted to compete in one (1) team, either single gender or mixed, not both.**
    - **If an athlete competes in the single gender relay, they are not permitted to compete in a mixed team.**

### 11.5 Restriction of Masters Events

Masters competitors may only compete in their own age group in Masters individual events and in only one (1) age category in each different Masters team event entered. The minimum age for a Masters competitor is 30 as of 30 September 2026.

**Note**: This section does not preclude a qualified Master competitor from participating in their Masters individual Age Group and also in Open age events. A minimum of one (1) starter is required to constitute a race, provided that the competitor/team correctly completes the course. Where Championship events are contested all place getters shall be awarded placing medals (1st, 2nd & 3rd). Where event numbers are low, multiple age groups may be run together, with placings being allocated as per individual age divisions.

## 12. GENERAL INFORMATION

### 12.1 Championship Point Score

A point score will be kept for the highest overall point score for the championships (1st through to 6th).

### 12.2 Results

In the case of a dead heat for positions 1st, 2nd, or 3rd each competitor will receive a respective medal and the following medal allocations will apply:

- Dead heat for 1st place: Two (2) gold and one (1) bronze will be awarded (no silver will be awarded).
- One competitor in 1st place, dead heat for 2nd place: One (1) gold and two (2) silver will be awarded (no bronze will be awarded).
- One competitor in 1st place, one competitor in 2nd place, dead heat for 3rd place: One (1) gold, one (1) silver and two (2) bronze will be awarded.
- Dead heat for 1st place and dead heat for 2nd place: Two (2) gold and two (2) bronze will be awarded (no silver will be awarded).

### 12.3 Handlers

Handlers must be current financial members of a SLSNSW club. Those who handle for a competitor who are not financial members of a SLSNSW club will not be covered under the SLSNSW Insurance Policy. Handlers are required to wear a high visibility vest (or at the discretion of the referee; may wear a high visibility bib/jacket type garment).

### 12.4 Team Managers Meeting

A compulsory Team Managers Meeting will be held onsite at South West Rocks SLSC at 4.30pm on Thursday 21st January 2027. It is expected that Team Managers and/or dedicated Club personnel are in attendance to receive vital event specific information.

## 13. SCRUTINEERING

Whilst it is encouraged that all Members and clubs have their craft and equipment inspected regularly by an accredited scrutineer/s, all surf craft carrying manufacturers compliance decals and/or a SLSA endorsed sticker should guarantee the craft meets SLSA standards and therefore, does not require a NSW Scrutineering Sticker.

Random scrutineering of craft and equipment may take place throughout the duration of the carnival. Finalists may be required to have their craft scrutineered prior to racing in event finals. No craft or equipment is exempt from random scrutineering as deemed appropriate by scrutineers.

## 14. SPONSOR RASH VESTS

All competitors entered into the 2027 NSW Country Championships will be issued an official high visibility pink competition lycra vest. It is a requirement for all competitors to wear the supplied lycra vest in competition at the 2026 NSW Country Championships. See SSM 2.5.1.

Clubs must ensure that competitors wear the approved lycra vest in competition, no other branded vests may be worn. Competitors may be requested to wear the approved lycra vest as part of medal presentations.

The Rash Vest Order Form must be completed by **11.00pm Sunday 3rd January 2027.**

Lycra Vests will be available for collection by Team Managers at the 2027 NSW Country Championships from the bottom level of South West Rocks SLSC.

## 15. STACK TEAM APP

Important Information and updates will be communicated via Stack Team App.

Stack Team App will be used in the lead up to and throughout the NSW Country Championships as a platform to communicate information, documentation and updates including timetable changes to Team Managers and Competitors.

It is highly recommended that everyone planning to attend any NSW Championship event download Stack Team App when entries are submitted. If you cannot download the App onto a phone or tablet, you may also access Stack Team App in a web browser on any computer.

1. To register for these event updates please follow the below instructions:
2. Download the “Stack Team App” application from the App Store or Google Play.
3. Log in / Sign up to receive live event notifications.
4. Once logged in search “2027 NSW Country Championships”.
5. Click the “Become a member of this Stack Team App” icon at the top of the screen then select the appropriate group you wish to receive notifications from.

By joining the event and turning on your mobile app notifications, you will receive notifications and email updates as they are posted, ensuring you never miss any important information.

**PLEASE NOTE:** It is an individual's/Club's obligation (SSM 2.17) to ensure they listen for announcements and marshalling. Not receiving a Stack Team App update is not an excuse for missing events.

## 16. MEDIA AND PHOTOGRAPHY

### 16.1 Drones

For the safety of competitors, officials, and spectators SLSNSW prohibits the use of drones or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) at these Championships by members and/or public. SLSNSW and its telecast production contractors will be operating UAV's for both surveillance and capturing of event footage.

### 16.2 Photography

As a condition of entry, all competitors agree to have photos and video taken during the Championships used for promotional material by SLSNSW.

SLSNSW will not be issuing media/photography accreditation to team members or Clubs. Professional photographers will be attending, and material will be available via social media and to Clubs on request. Clubs are welcome to take photographs from outside the competition area.

Go Pro's may only be used within the competition area on approved fittings and fixtures as set out in relevant SLSA bulletins.

### 16.3 Media Statements

No competitor, team manager, official or spokesperson for a club shall make media statements which could bring the State Championships, its sponsors, or officials into controversy or disrepute. Such statements will be a breach of policy and could potentially result in sanctions against members involved. Please note that statements to the media regarding the State Championships will be made by authorised spokespeople.

## 17. HEALTH & WELLBEING

The welfare of all competitors is of paramount importance and athletes or their parent / guardian in the case of underage competitors should seek advice prior to the competition from a qualified professional for any health concerns if required.

It is the responsibility of competitors, parents, coaches, team managers and clubs to manage competitor workloads and fatigue.

Any competitor or official who suffers illness or injury prior to or at the 2027 NSW Country Championships **MUST** seek medical clearance before resuming their normal activities which includes training and competition.

In addition, SLSNSW may, at its sole discretion, require a competitor and/or official to be assessed for physical and/or psychological fitness to participate in the competition. This ensures the safety and wellbeing of the athlete concerned and fellow competitors while also ensuring all parties and Surf Life Saving NSW are not placed at risk.

Event attendees are asked to be mindful of the following safety considerations and risks:

- Be aware of swimmers and surfers in proximity to the competition area
- Responsible manual handling of gear and equipment
- Limited sand behind competition area, no tents to craft to block access routes

- Weather – Please ensure you plan according to prevailing weather conditions and bring appropriate hydration, shelter and clothing
- No-one is to be climbing on the boulders in the water at the western end of the competition area

To confirm, it remains the responsibility of competitor, parents, team managers and clubs to ensure their own and team safety and fatigue management.

## 18. ANTI-DOPING & MATCH FIXING

It is strongly recommended that all Team Managers complete both the Sport Integrity Australia Level 1 Anti-Doping and Match Fixing e-learning courses. Both courses are free of charge and provide an opportunity to develop a knowledge and understanding of anti-doping and match fixing in sport. Moving forward, SLSNSW strongly believe this is a great addition to the structure of any touring team and/or squad and is vital for elite competition and athlete development.

SLSNSW fully supports the new SLSA Anti-Doping and Match Fixing policies (SLSA Members Area > Library > Governance > SLSA > Policy 5.1 1 & 5.02). Following the completion of each course, a completion certificate/email must be forwarded to Surf Sports surfsports@surflifesaving.com.au. SLSNSW have organised with SLSA to have these courses uploaded on to SurfGuard as an award. Once completed, the courses do not have to be completed again, unless there is an update in information from the organisations. If anyone has previously completed either course, proof must be sent through to Surf Sports in order to be recognised.

For further information regarding the courses please contact Surf Sports, on (02) 9471 8000 or surfsports@surflifesaving.com.au

## 19. BEHAVIOUR/MISCONDUCT

Any misconduct while at the Championships will not be tolerated. This includes the days leading into competition and any official social activities following the conclusion of the Championship. Offending members risk disciplinary action against both themselves and their Clubs.

Parents or supporters, particularly those appointed as Officials, are not allowed to assist competitors during the competition. Any breach of this policy may result in the disqualification of an athlete from the remainder of the competition and is at the discretion of the Referee.

Parents or supporters must also understand that they are role models for young athletes. Clubs should make sure that parents and supporters understand that abuse of officials, other competitors or clubs will not be tolerated. Team Managers and Club Presidents should ensure that their parents and supporters understand their role at this competition and that expected standards of behaviour are clearly explained.

Please refer to 37th Edition Surf Sports Manual sections 2.27 SLSA Code of Behaviour and 2.28 Abuse/Inappropriate Behaviour and the Policy 6.05 – Member Protection Policy (available online at Members Area > Library > Governance > Policy > SLSA > Policy 6.05).

## 20. PROTESTS

All protests shall be lodged with the appropriate Liaison Officer in each Area in accordance with the procedures set down in the current edition of the SLSA Surf Sports Manual and any subsequent bulletins and shall identify the specific sections/clauses in the Competition Manual and or event rules upon which the protest is based.

Protest Forms are available from the Liaison Officer. An “Appeals Fee” of **$150.00,** payable via EFTPOS, must accompany all documentation when the process is officially submitted to the Appeals Committee for adjudication.

## 21. COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS ENTRY AND PAYMENT PROCESS

