Circular (47/26-27) SLSA Coach Development Program

Mentor Application

Title:	Surf Life Saving Australia Coach Development Program Mentor Application
Document ID:	Circular 47/26-27
Audience:	Coaches seeking development opportunities through mentoring, learning and professional development.
From:	Amy Walker, Sport Development
Date:	04/11/2026
Summary:	Applications are invited from members to participate in the SLSA Coach Development Program as Mentors. Applications close 22nd November.

SLSA Coach Development Program Background

(please see attached documents for detailed description of program and mentor application)

The **SLSA Coach Development Program** is a new national initiative designed to support the development of coaches through mentoring, learning and connection opportunities. Bringing together experienced coaches, developing coaches and industry experts, the program aims to strengthen coaching capability across Surf Life Saving Australia through a structured 12-month development journey.

As this is a new program, detailed information regarding the program structure, participant opportunities, eligibility requirements and the mentor application process is provided below. Applications are now open for mentors.

Program Outcomes:

The program is designed to ensure participants can immediately apply their learning within their own coaching environments.

By combining practical experience, peer learning, mentoring and expert guidance, participants will build coaching capability, strengthen networks and contribute to the ongoing development of coaching within Surf Life Saving Australia.

Mentor Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Be a current financial member of a Surf Life Saving Club.
- Hold current Development or Performance Coach Accreditation
- Be actively coaching frequently within a Surf Life Saving Club.
- Be available to participate and commit in the one year program of development.
- Be passionate about their own development as a coach and mentor and have a desire to support and develop other coaches.

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Applications

Mentor Applications

For all program information please see below:

- Program Overview
- Mentor Development Opportunities

Applications close 22/11/2026. Apply here: Coach Mentor Application Form Link

Further info contact

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PLEASE SCROLL DOWN TO SEE ALL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SLSA COACH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

SLSA Coach Development Program

Program Overview

The SLSA Coach Development Program is a nationally supported coach development initiative designed to provide growth opportunities for both experienced coaches and developing coaches through structured relationships.

Surf Life Saving Australia would like to thank the Australian Government, delivered through the Australian Sports Commission, for their support both in funding and administration support of this program.

The program brings together three key groups:

Mentor

Mentors are experienced coaches who are committed to their own development while supporting the growth of emerging coaches. Through the program, mentors will undertake a structured mentor development journey, gain exposure to new ideas and coaching approaches, and develop skills in leadership, communication, reflection and coach development.

Mentors will also have access to professional development opportunities, including expert-led learning sessions and attendance and development workshops at the SLSA National Coaching Conference. As part of a national coaching initiative, mentors will have opportunities to contribute to broader coaching discussions, connect with coaches from across Australia, and receive program resources and mentor merchandise to support their journey. The program is designed to enhance mentors' ability to lead, influence and strengthen coaching environments within their own clubs, branches and states.

(Applications open now)

Mentee

Mentees are coaches looking to further develop their coaching capability, confidence and effectiveness. Through regular mentoring conversations, personalised development opportunities and expert-led learning, mentees will be supported to reflect on their coaching practice and work towards their individual coaching goals.

Participants will gain access to practical tools, resources and coaching frameworks informed by Australian Sports Commission research and recognised coaching practices, while building connections with coaches from across Australia and developing skills they can take back to their own coaching environments.

(Application will open soon, you will be notified)

Experts and Facilitators

Throughout the program, mentors and mentees will have access to experienced facilitators and subject matter experts from Surf Life Saving and the broader sporting sector. These experts will provide targeted development opportunities based on the identified needs of participants, ensuring learning remains relevant, practical and applicable to real coaching environments.

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Coach Development Program

Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission

How the Program Works

The program combines mentor development, mentor-mentee engagement and expert-led learning opportunities over a 12-month period.

Mentors will participate in a structured development program focused on building their mentoring capability while engaging in regular conversations with their allocated mentee(s). At the same time, mentees will be supported to progress their coaching through goal setting, reflection and practical application within their own coaching environments.

Development opportunities throughout the program will include:

- A supported mentor-mentee relationship focused on individual growth, learning and ongoing development.
- Personalised development opportunities aligned to individual coaching goals and areas of interest.
- Exposure to experienced coaches, facilitators and subject matter experts from Surf Life Saving and the broader sporting sector.
- Practical tools, resources and mentoring frameworks informed by Australian Sports Commission research and recognised coach development practices.
- Development of leadership, communication, reflection and relationship-building skills that can be applied within participants' own coaching environments.
- Opportunities to share ideas, challenges and best practice with coaches from across Australia.
- Access to structured learning sessions focused on contemporary coaching and mentoring approaches.
- Opportunities to take learnings, resources and experiences back to clubs, branches and states to support local coach development.

The program is designed to ensure that learning is immediately applicable, allowing both mentors and mentees to take new ideas, tools and approaches back to their own clubs, programs and coaching environments. By combining practical experience, peer learning and expert guidance, participants will build capability that extends well beyond the duration of the program.

PLEASE SCROLL DOWN TO SEE ALL INFORMATION ABOUT APPLYING TO BE A COACH MENTOR IN THE COACH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

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SLSA Coach Development Program

Mentor Application

The mentors within this program are experienced coaches committed to developing both their own coaching practice and the capability of other coaches. Through structured mentor development, practical mentoring experience and exposure to subject matter experts the broader sporting sector, mentors will strengthen their coaching, leadership, communication and mentoring skills while supporting the growth of emerging coaches.

The program provides access to evidence-based development, national networking opportunities and practical tools that can be applied within participants' own coaching environments. Mentors will also have opportunities to contribute to broader coaching conversations and national coach development projects, ensuring they remain connected to emerging ideas and initiatives shaping coaching across Surf Life Saving.

Why Become a Coach Mentor?

It is an opportunity to further develop your own coaching, leadership and mentoring capability while expanding your network and learning from experienced coaches and experts from across the country. At the same time, mentors play an important role in supporting the growth of emerging coaches, sharing their experiences and contributing to the ongoing development of coaching within Surf Life Saving.

Mentor Development Opportunities:

Mentors selected for the program will receive access to a range of development opportunities designed to strengthen their own coaching, leadership and mentoring capability, including:

- Structured Mentor Development through a program informed by Australian Sports Commission research, recognised mentoring frameworks and best practice coach development approaches.
- Exclusive Professional Development Opportunities, including attendance at the SLSA National Coaching Conference, subsidised registration and participation in a dedicated Coach Mentor development session facilitated by a recognised expert.
- Access to Experts and Coach Developers from Surf Life Saving and other sporting environments, providing exposure to new ideas, perspectives and coaching approaches.
- Leadership and Coach Development Experience, developing skills in communication, reflection, observation, questioning and supporting the growth of other coaches.
- Connection to a National Coaching Network, creating opportunities to collaborate, share ideas and learn from coaches and mentors from across Australia.
- Opportunities to Contribute to National Coaching Projects and Discussions, helping inform and influence future coaching and coach development initiatives within Surf Life Saving.
- Mentor Resources and Recognition, including access to practical tools, learning resources and a Coach Mentor welcome pack to support their development journey.

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This development experience is designed to challenge mentors to reflect on and enhance their own coaching practice, while providing practical skills, resources and connections that can be directly applied within their club, branch or state coaching environment

Who Are We Looking For?

We are seeking coaches who:

- Have established coaching experience within Surf Life Saving and are committed to continually developing their own coaching practice.
- Demonstrate the ability to build positive relationships and create environments that support coach growth and development.
- Are willing to invest in the development of others through mentoring, support, challenge and constructive feedback.
- Are reflective practitioners who are open to new ideas, different perspectives and evidence-based approaches to coach development.
- Have a genuine interest in leadership, mentoring and helping other coaches achieve their goals.
- Are enthusiastic about sharing experiences, best practice and lessons learned from their own coaching journey.
- Want to connect with and learn from coaches, mentors and experts from across Australia and the broader sporting sector.
- Are interested in contributing to national coaching conversations, projects and initiatives that support coach development within Surf Life Saving.
- Are motivated to take their learning back into their own club, branch or state environment and strengthen coaching capability within their local community.

The program is suited to coaches who see mentoring as an opportunity for their own development as much as the development of others. We are looking for coaches willing to be challenged, expand their thinking, and actively engage in a national learning network focused on building better coaches and coaching environments.

How to Apply

Please see circular above.

As part of the application process, coaches will be asked to outline their coaching experience, current coaching environment, areas of interest and motivation for participating in the program. Applicants will also have the opportunity to identify the skills and experiences they would like to develop throughout their mentor journey.

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