Circular (46/26-27)

SLSA Officials Development Program

Mentor Application

Title:	Surf Life Saving Australia Officials Development Program - Mentor Application
Document ID:	Circular 48/26-27
Audience:	Officials interested in developing their officiating capability through mentoring and professional development opportunities.
From:	Amy Walker, Sport Development
Date:	04/11/2026
Summary:	Applications are invited from members to participate in the SLSA Officials Development Program as Mentors for Starter, Marshall and Chief Judge Officials. Applications close Sunday, 22 November 2026.

SLSA Officials Development Program Background

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

The SLSA Officials Development Program is a new nationally supported mentoring and development initiative designed to strengthen officiating capability across the movement. This is a pilot program, which will focus on those officials involved in the **Starter, Marshall and Chief Judge** roles within Ocean and Beach disciplines, creating development opportunities for both experienced and developing officials.

Through structured mentoring relationships, participants will have opportunities to develop their officiating knowledge, leadership capability and confidence while building connections across the national officiating network.

As this is a new program, detailed information regarding the program structure, participant opportunities, eligibility requirements and mentor application process is available below.

Program Outcomes:

Participants will enhance their officiating capability, develop leadership and mentoring skills, build national connections, and apply new knowledge and experience within their local officiating environments.

Mentor Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Be a current financial members of a Surf Life Saving Club
- Have established officiating experience within Surf Life Saving, at a National or State level.
- Hold an active Senior Official Accreditation or Technical Official Accreditation and have established experience within the Starter, Marshall or Chief Judge pathways.
- Demonstrate the ability to build positive relationships and support the development of others.
- Are interested in leadership, mentoring and sharing their experience.

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- Want to contribute to the growth of officiating within their club, branch, state and Surf Life Saving Australia

How to Apply

Applications can be submitted HERE: Officials Development program Application Link

Applications close Sunday, 22 November 2026.

Further info contact

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PLEASE SCROLL DOWN TO SEE ALL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SLSA OFFICIAL'S DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

SLSA Officials Development Program

Connect. Learn. Grow

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

Program Overview

The SLSA Officials Development Program is a nationally supported mentoring and development initiative designed to strengthen officiating capability across Surf Life Saving Australia through structured mentoring relationships. The program provides growth opportunities for both experienced officials and developing officials, supporting personal development, knowledge sharing, leadership growth and the transfer of practical experience across the officiating network.

The pilot program will focus on officials involved in the roles of **Starter, Marshall and Chief Judge** in Ocean/Beach disciplines, providing targeted mentoring and development opportunities within these areas. Future iterations of the program may expand to support additional officiating roles and disciplines as the Officials Development Program grows.

The program aims to create clear development pathways for officials aspiring to progress within these roles at branch, state and national levels. Through structured mentoring relationships, participants will receive personalised support, practical guidance and development opportunities aligned to their officiating goals and areas of interest. The program is designed to build both technical officiating capability and the leadership skills required to positively influence officiating environments across Surf Life Saving Australia.

The program brings together two key groups:

Mentor

Mentors are experienced officials who are committed to supporting the growth and development of emerging officials while continuing their own learning journey. Through the program, mentors will undertake structured mentor development, strengthen their leadership and communication skills, and develop their ability to guide and support others within officiating environments.

Mentors will have access to professional development opportunities, mentor workshops and resources designed to enhance mentoring capability and provide practical tools that can be applied within clubs, branches and states. As part of a national officiating initiative, mentors will also contribute to broader discussions on official development and help shape future pathways within the national officiating network.

Mentee

Mentees are officials looking to further develop their knowledge, confidence and effectiveness within Starter, Marshal and Chief Judge roles across Ocean/Beach disciplines. Through regular mentoring conversations, personalised development opportunities and practical experiences, mentees will be supported to work towards individual development goals and gain greater confidence in applying their skills in Surf Sports environments.

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Officials Development Program

Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission

Participants will gain access to practical tools, resources and guidance from experienced officials while building connections with program participants from across Australia. The program aims to provide clear development opportunities that support progression at club, branch, state and national levels.

How the Program Works

The program combines mentor development and mentor-mentee engagement over a two to six-month pilot period. Participants may engage in long-term mentoring partnerships, event-specific mentoring relationships or role-specific development opportunities, depending on their goals and areas of interest. Success will be measured through progress towards agreed development objectives rather than a prescribed mentoring format.

Mentors will participate in structured development workshops while engaging in regular conversations with their allocated mentee(s). At the same time, mentees will work towards agreed development outcomes through goal setting, reflection, practical officiating experiences and ongoing feedback.

Development opportunities within the program will look like:

- A supported mentor-mentee relationship focused on individual growth, learning and ongoing development.
- Personalised development opportunities aligned to individual officiating goals and areas of interest.
- Exposure to experienced officials and officiating leaders from across Surf Life Saving Australia.
- Practical tools, resources and mentoring frameworks to support learning and development.
- Development of leadership, communication, reflection and relationship-building skills that can be applied within officiating and club environments.
- Opportunities to share ideas, experiences and best practice with officials from across Australia.
- Access to structured mentor and mentee learning sessions throughout the pilot.
- Opportunities to develop capability within Starter, Marshal and Chief Judge pathways.
- Opportunities to take learnings, resources and experiences back to clubs, branches and states to support local official 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 officiating environments. By combining practical experience, mentorship and peer learning, participants will build capability that extends beyond the program and contributes to the ongoing development of officiating across Surf Life Saving Australia.

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

Becoming an SLSA Official Mentor

Connect. Learn. Grow

The mentors within this program are experienced officials committed to developing both their own officials' own official practice and the capability of other officials. Through structured development, practical mentoring experience and engagement with officials from across Australia, mentors will strengthen their leadership, communication and mentoring skills while supporting the growth of emerging officials.

The program provides access to practical development opportunities, national networking and mentoring resources that can be applied within participants' own officiating environments. Mentors will also have opportunities to contribute to broader official development conversations and help strengthen mentoring capability across Surf Life Saving Australia. As a pilot program, it will initially focus on supporting the development of officials wanting to improve their skills in the Starter, Marshal and Chief Judge roles, helping establish a model that can be expanded across additional officiating pathways in the future.

Why Become an Official Mentor?

It is an opportunity to further develop your own officiating, leadership and mentoring capabilities while building connections and learning with experienced officials from across the country.

At the same time, mentors play an important role in supporting the next generation of officials, sharing their knowledge and experience and helping build a strong, confident and connected officiating community within Surf Life Saving Australia.

Development Opportunities

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

- Structured Mentor Development through workshops and resources informed by Australian Sports Commission (ASC) research, recognised mentoring frameworks and best-practice participant development principles.
- Practical Mentoring experience through supporting and guiding emerging officials throughout the program.
- Leadership and official development experience, developing skills in communication, observation, reflection, questioning and providing constructive feedback.
- Exposure to different Officiating perspectives through engagement with officials from a range of backgrounds, experiences and disciplines.
- Connection to a national Officiating network, creating opportunities to collaborate, share experiences and learn from fellow officials and mentors.
- Opportunities to contribute to Official development initiatives, helping strengthen mentoring and development pathways within Surf Life Saving Australia.

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This development experience supports mentors to grow both as officials and leaders, encouraging reflection on their own practice while developing the skills, resources and connections to positively influence officiating within their club, branch or state.

Who Are We Looking For?

We are seeking officials who:

- Have established officiating experience within Surf Life Saving and are committed to developing their own capability**.**
- Demonstrate the ability to build positive relationships and create environments that support learning 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 continuous improvement.
- Have a genuine interest in leadership, mentoring and helping other officials achieve their goals.
- Are enthusiastic about sharing experiences, knowledge and lessons learned from their own officiating journey.
- Want to connect with and learn from officials and mentors from across Australia.
- Are interested in contributing to the development of officiating pathways and mentoring capability within Surf Life Saving.
- Are motivated to take their learning back into their own club, branch or state environment and strengthen officiating capability within their local community.

The program is designed for officials who see mentoring as an opportunity for their own development while supporting the development of others. We are looking for officials who are open to new ideas, willing to challenge their thinking and committed to sharing their knowledge and experience. Through the program mentors will contribute to a national network focused on strengthening officiating capability, supporting emerging officials and creating development focused officiating environments across Surf Life Saving Australia.

How to Apply

Applications can be submitted above in the circular.

As part of the application process, applicants will be asked to outline their officiating experience, current areas of involvement, expertise in the nominated officiating roles, areas of interest and motivation for participating in the program. Applicants will also be able to identify the skills and experiences they would like to develop throughout their mentor journey.