Surf Life Saving Australia – Circular (44/26-27)

Title:	Surf Life Saving Australia Youth Scholarship – Australian Surf Life Saving Championships 2027
Document ID:	Circular 44/26-27
Audience:	Members under 18 with a passion for officiating, medical, powercraft, or event safety, who are keen to develop their skills, knowledge, and leadership capabilities.
From:	Amy Walker, Sport Development
Date:	30/10/2026
Summary:	Expressions of interest are open for the Youth Scholarship 2027 for the Aussies Championships Applications close Sunday, 22 November 2026

Youth Scholarship Background

Young people are critical within Surf Life Saving, bringing ideas, energy, and leadership that help drive our movement forward. The SLSA Youth Scholarship Program is designed to support members under 18 who are passionate about contributing to Surf Sports events through officiating, powercraft, and event safety roles, while investing in their own personal growth and development.

Aligned with the SLSA Participant Development Pathway, the program provides a unique opportunity for emerging young leaders to build practical experience and develop the skills needed to make a lasting impact within Surf Life Saving. Through exposure to a range of Surf Sport event delivery areas, recipients will gain valuable insights into the critical roles that ensure the Australian Surf Life Saving Championships are safe, fair, and successful.

The recipient can choose to deepen their experience in their current area of interest, whether that be officiating, powercraft, or event safety, while also being encouraged to gain exposure across the other event disciplines. The program offers flexibility for the participant to shape development opportunities that align with their interests and aspirations, creating a personalised pathway for growth.

The Program itself:

Through the Youth Scholarship, recipients will have the opportunity to attend 5 days of the 2027 and the 2028 Australian Surf Life Saving Championships as a scholarship holder, where they will gain hands-on experience, contribute to the successful delivery of the event and further enhance their leadership and technical capabilities. Applicants will also apply for a role at the event/s they select. The five scholarship days can be taken over:

- the Youth and Masters Championships
- Masters and Open,
- Youth and some days of Open, or
- solely the Open Championships.

However if you are applying for the scholarship, and are a Core Official, we would encourage you to select the Youth Championships as one of your events as this will give you more scope in roles you can apply for.

Event Dates

Event	Dates	Location
The Aussies 2027	April 10th – April 18th 2027	Sunshine Coast
The Aussies 2028	March 25th – April 2nd 2028	Perth

Eligibility

Applicants must:

Surf Life Saving Australia
Level 1, 1 Notts Avenue
Bondi Beach, NSW 2026
PO Box 7773
Bond Beach, NSW 2026
t. +61 2 9215 8000
f. +61 2 9215 8180
www. sls.com.au
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- Be a current financial member of a Surf Life Saving Club.
- Be **between 15-18 years of age at the time of the 2027 Australian Surf Life Saving Championships**.
- Demonstrate a genuine interest in event delivery through officiating, power craft, medical and/or event safety.
- Be available to participate in scholarship activities, including attendance at the 2027 Australian Surf Life Saving Championships.
- **Ongoing Participation:** The Officials Scholarship Program runs for a two-year duration. Applicants must be committed to the two-year program.

The Roles

Recipients will gain practical experience across a range of event delivery roles, aligned with their qualifications and accreditation levels, including:

Essential

- Official (Core or Technical Youth Official Accreditation) OR Medical Team (First Aid Certificate)

Optional

- Water Safety Personnel (minimum IRB Crewperson Award)

What the Recipient will Gain

The successful recipient will have access to a range of development opportunities, including:

- One-on-one mentoring from experienced event leaders.
- Exposure to event planning, operations and carnival management.
- Opportunities to develop leadership, communication and decision-making skills.
- Increased understanding of the roles of officiating, power craft and event safety in event delivery.
- Networking opportunities with senior officials and Surf Sport leaders from across Australia.
- A personalised development experience aligned to their interests and aspirations.
- Experience that can be applied within their club, branch, state/territory and wider youth development opportunities.
- The opportunity to contribute to the future capability and leadership of Surf Life Saving Youth Sport.

Financial Support

SLSA will cover reasonable expenses for the successful scholarship recipient as outlined below:

Year One

- Participant accommodation costs for the 5 chosen days covered up to $800.
- Participants flights/travel expenses to and from championships covered.

Year Two

- Participants flights/travel expenses to and from championships covered or accommodation costs.

Any additional costs associated with participation in the program will be the responsibility of the scholarship recipient.

Expectations of Scholarship Recipients

Recipients must:

- Be available to participate in assigned scholarship activities and event duties throughout the Australian Surf Life Saving Championships.
  - **Nominate for an event role via the Aussies 2027 Officials Nomination process and/or the Aussies 2027 Medical Team Nomination Process (Please apply for roles for at least four of your five days)**
  - Perform to the best of their ability in their allocated role and prepare appropriately to undertake assigned responsibilities.
  - Actively engage with their mentor and participate in development opportunities provided through the program.
  - Demonstrate a willingness to learn, ask questions and reflect on their experiences.
  - Share their learnings and experiences within their club, branch, state and wider youth development opportunities.

Supervision/ Safeguarding

- Comply with all applicable youth safeguarding requirements, with participation supported by a parent or guardian where required, parent needs to be contactable and **onsite at the Championships** for the duration of the five days (This could be within an active role as an official or volunteer at the Championships).
- Preference for a club member/guardian to also be contactable for the duration of the championships.

For more information regarding the event, please visit the The Aussies - SLSA Event Page.

How to Apply

Applications can be submitted via the Australian Surf Life Saving Championships – Youth Scholarship Program Application.

Applications close Sunday, 22 November 2026.

Selection Process

Applications will be assessed by a Scholarship Selection Panel comprising SLSA representatives and experienced event personnel.

The panel will undertake an objective assessment of all eligible applications and may request additional information or an interview if required.

To be considered for selection, applicants must have completed:

- The Scholarship Application Form that can be found here: Youth Scholarship Application Form
- Letter of Endorsement that can be found here: Endorsement Form

Successful applicants will be notified as soon as practicable following the close of applications.

Further info contact

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