



| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Title: | 2026 QLD Board Riding Championships |
| Audience: | All SLSQ Clubs, Branches & QLD Sport Committee |
| Date: | 4 th December 2025 |
| Sports Bulletin Link | https://lifesaving.com.au/slsq-sports-bulletins |

2026 QLD Board Riding Championships – Entry Bulletin

INTRODUCTION

The QLD Board Riding Championships attracts competitors from all over Queensland to unite over two days showcasing one of Queensland's most iconic volunteer movements, Surf Life Saving.

This year's event will be held at Coolum Beach SLSC on Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th January 2026.

This document outlines some key information relating to the 2026 QLD Board Riding Championships. Please note that SLSQ may have subsequent bulletins which may supersede information provided in this bulletin. circular.

COMPETITION COMMITTEE

The Competition Committee (CC) will direct all matters relating to the actual conduct of the competition. The CC may, in accordance with the rules contained in the current edition of the Surf Sports Manual, any subsequent amending bulletins and this circular, postpone, cancel and or alter any or all events at the Championships, and/or alter the venue of the competition.

The CC may consult and seek advice from appropriate officials, athletes and other personnel on competition conditions and safety issues when required. The CC shall appoint the various sub committees and panels as required for the event e.g. Disciplinary Committee & Coach/Athlete Panel.

| POSITION | NAME |
|---|--------------|
| SLSQ Committee Chair | Sport Proxy |
| Event Referee | John Hamrey |
| Safety & Emergency Management Coordinator | TBA |
| Event Coordinator | Ryan Bennett |
| Venue Representative | TBA |

SAFETY & EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

A Safety & Emergency Committee (SEC) shall be appointed which must consider and advise the Referee and Competition Committee on all matters relating to competition and non-competition safety and emergency

management. The Chair of the Committee shall be the Safety & Emergency Management Coordinator who shall also be a member of the Competition Committee. The composition of the SEC will be determined by SLSQ.

| POSITION | NAME |
|---|---------------|
| Safety & Emergency Management Coordinator | TBA |
| Deputy Referee | Bev Walsh OAM |
| First Aid/Medical Coordinator | TBA |
| Event Coordinator | Ryan Bennett |
| IRB/Water Safety Coordinator | TBA |

DISTRIBUTION OF BULLETIN

It is most important that the information in this Bulletin is brought to the attention of all Carnival Officials, Team Managers, Coaches and Competitors.

Non-receipt of the Bulletin will not be taken as an excuse if a Club, Team or individual does not comply with the requirements outlined in this and other Bulletins and Circulars.

ELIGIBILITY TO COMPETE

All Competitors wishing to compete must have the relevant SLSA award for the Age Group/s they wish to compete in by close of entries. All entered athletes must have completed and signed the SLSA "Application for Membership Form" or their countries relevant document and paid any required membership fees as proof of their eligibility to race.

Competitor eligibility will be as per the current SLSA Sport Manual (Section 2.3.4) in regard to age groups and double dipping for athletes. Competitors from Under 11 through to Under 15 are only eligible for their own age group, under 17 & Under 19 Competitors are eligible for their own age group plus the Open category. Masters' competitors must compete in their respective age group but are also eligible to compete in Open events.

It is an offence to enter a person who does not meet any of the above requirements, and any irregularities will be considered and dealt with by the SLSQ State Surf Sports Committee accordingly.

ENTRY REGISTRATIONS

Club entries to the 2026 QLD Board Riding Championships is via [Liveheats](#).

Any issues – please contact Kaen Degnian, Sports Administrator - kdegnian@lifesaving.com.au

Entries close: Midnight 11th January 2026

Late Entries Close: Midnight 13th January 2026

ENTRY FEES

The entry fee per competitor at the 2026 QLD Board Riding Championships is \$47.50 (inc GST).

All entries received after the initial closing date will incur a late fee of \$50.00. Plus, the original entry of \$47.50.

EVENT LIST

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| U/11 Male Short Board | U15 Female Short Board | 40+ Male Short Board |
| U/11 Female Short Board | U/17 Male Short Board | 40+ Female Short Board |
| U/12 Male Short Board | U/17 Female Short Board | Open Male Long Board |
| U/12 Female Short Board | U/19 Male Short Board | Open Female Long Board |
| U/13 Male Short Board | U/19 Female Short Board | 30-39 Male Long Board |
| U/13 Female Short Board | Open Male Short Board | 30-39 Female Long Board |
| U/14 Male Short Board | Open Female Short Board | 40+ Male Long Board |
| U/14 Female Short Board | 30-39 Male Short Board | 40+ Female Long Board |
| U15 Male Short Board | 30-39 Female Short Board | |

BOARD SPECIFICATIONS
Short Boards

The restriction for the type of craft that can be used in the surfboard riding event is a surfboard that has a maximum length of less than 2.74m (9 feet) measured from the nose to tail on the deck of the surfboard. SLSA at this time does not impose further specifications on this type of surfboard other than the maximum length permissible to compete in this event. However, the Referee has the authority to declare a surfboard ineligible for a competition if the surfboard is considered dangerous to the competitor or other competitors in the competition.

Long Boards

The specifications for surfboards used in this event are:

- (i) A minimum length of 2.74m (9 feet) measured from the nose to tail on the deck of the surfboard.
- (ii) Minimum width dimensions to total 1194mm (47 inches) aggregate i.e., the total of the widest point, plus the width 305mm (12 inches) up from the tail and the width 305mm (12 inches) back from the nose.
- (iii) The shape of the long board is to be traditional and may include multiple fins and channels, but cannot include add on tail or nose blocks

VOLUNTEER (WATER SAFETY/FIRST AID/JUDGES) REQUIREMENTS
Water Safety:

An IRB plus driver and crew will be provided by SLSQ.

First Aid:

First aid will be provided by Coolum Beach SLSC.

Judges:

Surf Life Saving Queensland will approach Surfing Queensland to supply professional judges for the 2026 Board Riding Championships.

DRAFT TIMETABLE

The below timetable is only a draft and is subject to change. The Program of Events will go out with the Final Bulletin.

Saturday 17th January 2026

6.00am Breakfast for Officials and Judges
6.00am IRB Water Safety meet
6.15am Officials and judges briefing
6.30am Team Managers briefing
6.45am Athletes meet for marshalling
7.00am Conditions permitting first event to commence

Sunday 18th January 2025

6.00am Breakfast for Officials and Judges
6.00am IRB Water Safety meet
6.15am Officials and judges briefing
6.30am Team Managers briefing
6.45am Athletes meet for marshalling
7.00am Conditions permitting first event to commence

DRESS OF COMPETITORS

Competition caps will not be required for this event. Competitors will be allocated coloured rash vests for each event.

SLSQ staff, the Event Referee, Area Referee and/or Sectional Referee reserve the right to order the removal or covering of signage, ID, or logos in conflict with any event sponsors and/or the SLSA Competition Sponsorship Policy.

EVENT MEDALS, TROPHIES & POINTSCORE

SLSQ Championship medals will be awarded to individuals and team members gaining 1st (Gold), 2nd (Silver) or 3rd (Bronze) in all Championship events contested.

Overall Pointscore (1st, 2nd & 3rd) for the top 3 clubs in each will be awarded at the conclusion of the event.

The point score awarded to each Champion Club, within each event's age category, will be 6 points for 1st place, down to 1 point for 6th place. If, when the event has concluded, there is a tied pointscore, the club with the most first places will be declared the winner. Failing this, the club with the most 2nd placings to 6th placings respectively will be taken into account to determine a tie and dual trophies will be presented.

Note: International clubs (and/or non SLSA affiliated clubs) are not eligible to earn points towards the overall and handicap pointscores.

DEAD HEATS – Where a dead heat (as defined in the current edition of the Surf Sports Manual) occurs in the final of an event, the clubs of individuals/teams will share the placing points and medal relative to the finish placing. The club of the next individuals/teams to finish will receive the relative placing points based on the number of individuals/teams finishing ahead of them. For example: if two individuals finish equal 1st, both individuals/teams shall receive 6 points each and the gold medal. The next placing individual/team shall be awarded the 4 points and the bronze medal for coming 3rd.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITOR MEDALS – If an international competitor place (1st, 2nd or 3rd) in a Championship they will be awarded the medal equal to the placing gained. However, the Australian

competitor/s (or club team/s) to who place will be awarded the QLD Championship Title/Placing and the equivalent medal.

OFFICIALS

All appointed officials will be required to be current accredited SLSA officials and be the holder of a current BlueCard. If an official would like to nominate for the event, please follow the below link:

2026 QLD Board Riding Championship - [Officials Nomination Form](#)

Nominations must be received by Thursday 8th January 2026

It is imperative that the appearance of competition officials/judges is of a high standard, therefore appointed officials are asked to give a high degree of attention to their quality of uniform.

It is preferred that all officials wear the generic white and blue official's shirt.

PLEASE NOTE:

In nominating for this event, all Officials warrant that they are, and must remain, mentally and physically capable of carrying out all the functions of their appointed role(s) over the course of the entire event. All Officials should undertake a medical check prior to departure for the event if they have any concerns about their health. SLSQ may request Officials or provide medical clearance if the Official has had a medical incident at a previous SLS event or if SLSQ reasonably considers such request is reasonable and/or necessary. If requested the Official must provide the medical clearance.

All officials, unless they have a diagnosed disability, must be able to make their own way onto and off the beach, in line with our event safety plans. If you have a diagnosed disability that impacts mobility, please email rbennett@lifesaving.com.au so that this can be factored into safety plans.

SLSQ reserves the right in its absolute discretion to:

- a.) Not appoint an Official to any position whether an Official has nominated or not;
- b.) Remove an Official from any position at any time (whether before or during an SLSQ event)

SLSQ is not obligated to give reason where it acts under this clause. Note also that Officials must be able to complete all roles they are appointed to without transport assistance from event coordinators.

TEAM MANAGERS

Each club must have a Team Manager complete the online [TEAM MANAGER DECLARATION LINK](#) before their club is eligible to compete at this event.

Team Managers must ensure they complete the above online Team Managers Declaration for this event by Friday 9th January 2026.

It is the Team Managers responsibility to ensure the changes to the Club's competing teams have been registered with the appropriate officials, and that all their competitors are correctly entered in the event.

It is compulsory for all Team Managers (in their official roles) to wear clearly identifiable apparel that highlights their club name and the wording 'Team Manager'. Anyone not displaying this ID will be asked to leave the competition area.

VEHICLE PARKING

All club, competitors and officials are to read and obey the parking signs set up by the Sunshine Coast Council and the Carnival Committee and any vehicles that are illegally parked that results in an infringement notice will be the responsibility of the vehicles.

SCRUTINEERING

Scrutineering at this event will be conducted randomly throughout this event by appointed scrutineering officials.

MEDIA & PHOTOGRAPHY

Drones:

For the safety of competitors, officials and spectators SLSQ prohibits the use of drones or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) at this event by members and/or public unless approved by SLSQ, 7 days prior to the event. The operator must supply an operation manual (including risk management plan), provide a copy of public liability insurance and comply with all Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) requirements. SLSQ may utilise the use of our own drones to conduct aerial surveillance and monitor hazards.

Photography:

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

Photographers within the carnival area must have a visible photographer's pass as well as their BlueCard. Only event staff will be permitted with cameras inside the competition area for these two events.

HEALTH & WELLBEING

The welfare of all competitors and officials 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.

Any competitor or official who suffers illness or injury prior to or at the event must seek a medical clearance before resuming their normal activities which includes training and competition.

In addition, SLSQ 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 SLSQ are not placed at risk.

SLSQ will be supplying adequate shade tents at all marshalling areas for officials and competitors throughout the event. It is highly recommended that all athletes ensure they carry with them adequate apparel to assist with reduction of sunburn, along with recommended use of sunscreen throughout the day.

Water barrels will be available under the marshalling tents for officials, team managers and competitor use. These barrels are in place for all persons to use and fill up their own water bottles. Please note, no drinking cups will be supplied.

ANTI-DOPING & MATCH FIXING

SLSQ affiliated with SLSA supports the Australian Government, the Australian Sports Commission, the Australian Olympic Committee, and the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA) in their efforts to eradicate the use of drugs in sport.

It is strongly recommended that all Coaches and Team Managers complete the ASADA Level 1 Course as well as the Australian Governments Matching Fixing Course. Both of these courses are free of charge and provide an opportunity to develop a knowledge and understanding of anti-doping and match fixing in sport. Links to the online platforms are below.

ASADA Level 1 Course

<https://elearning.asada.gov.au/>

Match Fixing Course

<https://elearning.sport.gov.au/>

BEHAVIOUR/MISCONDUCT

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

PROTESTS

All protests shall be lodged with the appropriate Liaison Officer in each Area in accordance with procedures set down in the current edition of the 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 \$110 must accompany all documentation when the process is officially submitted to the Appeals Committee for adjudication.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Should further information be required please contact the Sport Team at:

rbennett@lifesaving.com.au

Surf Life Saving Queensland

PO Box 239

Mermaid Beach QLD 4218

Phone: (07) 5566 1006