



## Surf Life Saving Australia - Circular

Title:	2026 Australian Surf Life Saving Championships – Entry Circular
Document ID:	Circular 47/25-26
Audience:	State Sport Managers, Officials, Competition, State and Clubs Presidents, Secretaries and State and Club Directors of Surf Sports and Team Managers
From:	Sport
Date:	Updated 6 January 2026
Summary:	This circular contains the entry information into the Australian Surf Life Saving Championships 2026

### 1. IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please note the following relating to team entries and late entries. These are outlined in detail in section 4.8 and 4.9, however in summary:

- All teams must have be complete at time of entry to be entered into that event. Team configurations may be changed later.
- There will be no late entries permitted at the 2026 Australian Championships. This includes additional entries for existing competitors. All entries will be visible to the public on Liveheats throughout the entire entry period. All team managers, competitors and parents are asked to check these entries and are to complete any additional entries prior to entries closing.

### 2. EVENT DATES

Discipline	Championships	Date	Location
Ocean & Beach	Youth	21 – 22 March 2026	North Kirra
	Masters	23 March – 24 March 2026	
	Open	25 March – 29 March 2026	
Surf Boats	Masters	24 March – 25 March 2026	Tugun
	Open	25 March – 29 March 2026	
Lifesaving	Youth, Masters & Open	21 March – 24 March 2026	Bilinga
Board Riding	Youth	24 – 25 March 2026	Miami
	Masters	25 – 27 March 2026	
	Open	22 March – 24 March 2026	
Ocean Swim	Youth, Masters & Open	22 March 2026	North Kirra
Adaptive Events	Youth, Masters & Open	28 March 2026	North Kirra



### 3. IMPORTANT DATES

Please see below a summary of important dates related to the Youth, Masters and Opens Australian Surf Life Saving Championships 2026.

<b>December 2025</b>	
Friday 19 December	Officials Appointments First Round Appointments Published Officials Nominations – Second Round Close
<b>January 2026</b>	
Friday January 16	Officials Appointments Second Round Appointments Published
<b>February 2026</b>	
Friday 6 February 12:00pm	Early Bird Entries Close Normal Entries Open
<b>March 2026</b>	
Monday 2 March	Limited Entries Entered (provided by States)
Monday 9 March	Limited Entry Events Published
Friday 13 March 11:59pm	Normal Entries Close
Monday 16 March	First day for club container deliveries - Kirra Youth Team Manager Briefing (Online) – Time TBC
Tuesday 17 March	Last day for club container deliveries – Kirra Masters Team Manager Briefing (Online) – Time TBC
Wednesday 18 March	Open Team Manager Briefing (Online) – Time TBC First day for club trailer parking - Kirra
Thursday 19 March	Athlete Check In (12-5pm)
Friday 20 March	Athlete Check In (8am-5pm)
Saturday 21 March	<b>Competition Day 1</b> Opening Ceremony
Sunday 22 March	<b>Competition Day 2</b> The Aussies Ocean Swim
Monday 23 March	<b>Competition Day 3</b> Golf Day
Tuesday 24 March	<b>Competition Day 4</b> Masters Legends Hall of Fame Presentation Women in Lifesaving Event
Wednesday 25 March	<b>Competition Day 5</b> Officials Function
Thursday 26 March	<b>Competition Day 6</b> Life Members Function Alumni Event
Friday 27 March	<b>Competition Day 7</b> Partnerships Stakeholder Function
Saturday 28 March	<b>Competition Day 8</b> Adaptive Events VIP Function
Sunday 29 March	<b>Competition Day 9</b> Ecumenical Service March Past VIP Function
Monday 30 March 9am-5pm AEST	First day for container pickup
Tuesday 31 March 9am-5pm AEST	Final day for container and trailer pickup

**\*\*All above dates and times are subject to change**

*\*Team Managers who are managing teams in more than one Championships (Youth, Opens and Masters) must attend briefings for all Championships in which they are a Manager.*



#### 4. ENTRY INFORMATION

##### 4.1 ENTRY PROCESS

Club entries to the Australian Surf Life Saving Championships must be submitted and paid via Liveheats. <https://liveheats.com/slsa>

Guidelines and FAQs for completing entries as an individual or as a club administrator can be found at <https://sites.google.com/liveheats.com/liveheats-entries/home?authuser=0>

##### 4.2 ELIGIBILITY TO COMPETE

To be eligible to compete at the Australian Surf Life Saving Championships, competitors must comply with Policy 5.04 – Competition Eligibility and the Guidelines for Competition Eligibility document (available on the SLSA Members Hub).

##### 4.3 ENTRY FEES

The Australian Surf Life Saving Championships 2025/26 entry fees are as follows:

Price Level	Dates (AEST)	Competitor Category	Price (incl. GST)*
Early Bird Entry Fee	10:00am Wednesday, 3 December 2025 — 12:00pm Friday, 6 February 2026	Youth Championships	\$155.00
		Open Championships	\$155.00
		Masters Championships	\$155.00
		Ocean Swim^	\$77.50
		Adaptive Surf Sports	\$66.00
		Reel Team Only (Surf Belt Race)	\$25.00
		March Past Only	
Normal Entry Fee	12:01pm Friday, 6 February – 5:00pm Friday, 13 March 2026	Youth Championships	\$220.00
		Open Championships	\$220.00
		Masters Championships	\$220.00
		Ocean Swim^	\$87.50
		Adaptive Surf Sports	\$77.50
		Reel Team Only (Surf Belt Race)	\$35.00
		March Past Only	
Ocean Swim Late Entry Fee	Saturday, 14 March – 4pm Friday, 20 March 2026	Ocean Swim	\$100.00

**Note 1:** Prices are per competitor, irrespective of the number of events entered, unless otherwise stated above.

**^Note 2:** SLSA Members entering the Ocean Swim will be done via [Liveheats](https://liveheats.com). **A separate entry fee is required to enter the Ocean Swim.** All public members entering the Ocean Swim will complete entries via [Race Roster](#). Please refer to the Ocean Swim Entry Circular for more information.

##### 4.4 PAYMENT

All payments must be made via Liveheats at time of entry. Payment can be made by credit card or bank transfer.

##### 4.5 REFUND OF FEES / CANCELLATION FEES

Once entry fees have been paid they are non-refundable and non-transferable.

##### 4.6 COMPETITIVE TRANSFERS

Competitors, Team Managers, and club administrators should familiarise themselves with Section 2.2.4 – Competitive Transfers rules of the current edition of the Surf Sports Manual.

##### 4.7 INDIVIDUAL ENTRIES

Individual entries may be completed by individuals or clubs into Liveheats. Please confirm with your club the process they will be using for Aussies entries prior to entering.

##### 4.8 TEAM ENTRIES

All team entries must be completed in Liveheats by a club administrator/team manager. Teams must be full at



time of entry.

For Surf Boat teams with additional rowers, they will be required to be entered into the reserve rower(s) into 'Surf Boat - Individual Reserve Rower'.

### **Masters Team Entries**

All Masters Team Managers please note, ALL substitutions to any Masters teams may result in a change of age group eligibility. If this is the case, a Masters team may forfeit their entry into their current age category, to compete in the new category however, a team would not be eligible to compete in both age groups.

i.e. A surf club has Team A entered in the 130 yrs Male Single Ski Relay and would like to substitute one of their competitors, this then makes them eligible for the 150 yrs Male Single Ski Relay. The revised team may transfer their entry into the new category (150yrs), however the team entry in the 130 yrs would be cancelled.

Substitutions can only be made with competitors already entered into the Championships. There are NO late entries.

### **4.9 LATE ENTRIES**

**There will be no late entries permitted at the 2026 Australian Championships. This includes additional entries for existing competitors.**

All entries will be visible to the public on Liveheats throughout the entire entry period. All team managers, competitors and parents are asked to **check these entries carefully** and are to complete any additional entries prior to entries closing.

## **5. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY**

All competitors entered in the Australian Youth, Masters and Open Surf Life Saving Championships 2025/26 must be financial members of an affiliated club or ILS affiliate.

### **5.1 MEMBERSHIP, AWARD PROFICIENCIES AND PATROL REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL COMPETITORS**

Each competitor must hold the award relevant to their entry and have completed a proficiency test for the award. The details of these requirements are detailed in SLSA's Policy 5.04 – Competition Eligibility and the SLSA Guidelines for Competition Eligibility document via the SLSA Member's Area.

## **6. RESTRICTIONS ON EVENTS AND PROVISOS**

The following restrictions shall apply regarding nominations and competition in the various events:

### **6.1 AGE/GENDER CATEGORIES - SAFETY RESTRICTIONS**

Where a particular age/gender category area and/or section (including specific events) is postponed, cancelled, or relocated due to safety and/or weather/sea conditions, competitors from that particular age/gender grouping are not permitted to compete in any older age category event/s.

### **6.2 YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS – ENTRY RESTRICTIONS**

- a) Double Dipping – in accordance with SLSA rules for the event:
  - No Under 14 competitor is eligible to contest U15 individual events.
  - No Under 13 competitor is eligible to contest U14 or U15 individual events.
  - No Under 12 competitor is eligible to enter the Youth Championships.
  - Team competitors can only compete in one age category in each team event.
- b) Entry Restrictions – Each Club is permitted to enter a maximum of:
  - Uncapped for all individual events (except for Ironman/Ironwoman).
  - In Ironman/Ironwoman, four competitors per age group and gender. However, should a club have more than 4 members qualify for a state Ironman/Ironwoman final in the Under 13, 14 or 15 age categories, those competitors will be eligible to enter their respective event at the Australian Youth Championship, increasing the club's quota for that event. **To clarify: the athletes that qualify for their state final will fill their club's quota first before any additional athletes. If a club has more than 4 members qualify at state level those competitors can compete, but no additional entries will be accepted. These results will be provided by State centres and will be managed by SLSA.**
  - 2 teams per team event, per gender.



- The Mixed Beach Relay Race is restricted to 2 teams from each club. The Relay team must include 2 x male and 2 x female competitors.
- **Note 1:** The U13 - U15 R&R may be contested by any combination of male and female U13, U14 and U15 aged competitors. An U13 aged competitor only requires their age award to participate in the event.
- **Note 2:** An U13 aged competitor may contest the U15 First Aid Competition provided that they hold a proficient Surf Rescue Certificate.

**Note 1:** U13/14 age competitors do not need to fulfil patrol hour/service obligations to be eligible to compete in the Youth Championships in U14 individual events and U15 Team events but must meet all other requirements of Policy 5.04.

**Note 2:** All Youth team events will be run as per the rules for the age group for that event (course lengths and equipment)

### 6.3 MASTERS EVENTS - ENTRY RESTRICTIONS

Individual competitors can only compete in their own age group and team competitors can only compete in one combined age category in each team event. Further, teams are only permitted to compete in their eligible age group. This includes where individual/team events are cancelled/postponed/relocated.

- Board Rescue & Double Ski – Team age category is determined by youngest competitor in the team.
- All other Team Events – The aggregate ages of the team members will determine the age category.
- Surf Boats – The aggregate ages of the four rowers will determine the age category. The sweep does not need to be a Master age competitor and is not included in the team's aggregate age.
- 190 yrs min 'Open' Category can be any combination of male and/or female
- Mixed Beach Relay – must have 2 males and 2 females

### 6.4 OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS – ENTRY RESTRICTIONS

U15 aged competitors who turn fifteen during the season, and gain a SLSA Bronze Medallion, may participate in the older age surf sports event divisions, as noted below:

- All U17 Team events apart from competing on a surf ski.
- U17, U19 and Open age Surf Belt Race events as a Handler (only).

A separate Australian Championships entry fee is applicable for all U15 competitors entering U17 team events.

Competitors U17 aged and up are limited to compete in two team events per discipline i.e. No triple dipping.

- Example: U17 Competitor may compete in their age group (U17) plus one more (U19 or Opens) for discipline-specific team events. Alternatively, an U17 competitor may compete in the U19 and Open category for a discipline specific team event, but not the U17s.

#### Entry Restrictions

- The Open Mixed Taplin Relay is restricted to 1 team from each club. The Relay team must include 3 x male and 3 x female competitors
- Mixed Beach Relay – must have 2 males and 2 females

### 6.5 SWIMMING AREA

For Surf Belt Race events, reel handlers are permitted to double up in teams competing in different heats, quarter finals and semi-finals of the same event provided that no shuffling of rounds are required to accommodate handlers (i.e., the draw process is not hindered).

### 6.6 BOAT AREA

- As detailed in Note 1 of Section 5.1(a) of the Surf Sports Manual only accredited S3 and S2 Sweeps will be eligible to sweep surf boats in these Championships. For further information please refer to the SLSA Sweep Accreditation Document.
- Please note Section 5.1 (f) of the Surf Sports Manual re the mandatory wearing of helmets in Surf Boats unless an acceptably low-level risk is assessed.
- Surf Boat Competitors are reminded to refer to the Surf Sports Manual Section 5.1(c) Note 7 that details particular 'double dipping' rules that apply to the Australian Surf Life Saving Championships.



## **6.7 BEACH EVENTS**

All March Past events (Open and U23) will occur as a final (no qualifying rounds) on Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

### **7. INTERNATIONAL COMPETITORS**

Conditions of entry for international competitors:

- a) SLSA reserves the right to invite and/or accept entries from international competitors and club teams to compete in any event at the Australian Championships.
- b) Limited Entry Events – only one entry from each country may be accepted into a limited entry event. If more than one individual or club team nominates, only the national champion or highest ranked individual/club team from that country (as advised by the governing body to SLSA) will be allowed to compete.
- c) Youth Championships entry restrictions apply to any international club entries. All other events (unrestricted) in Masters and Opens have no limits on international competitors or club teams entering.
- d) International club teams must be a genuine club team (not composite teams) and must compete in club colours to be eligible to compete.
- e) International individual competitors may compete in their club caps or, with the permission of their country, compete in their national colours.
- f) All international competitors and club teams must gain international clearance from their governing body and must be submitted to SLSA prior to competition.

International Competitors are required to email [events@slsa.asn.au](mailto:events@slsa.asn.au) with the following information:

- Clearance from their national body that competitor is a financial member of their club, is in good standing with the national body and holds appropriate awards/proficiencies in that country
- Full name of competitor
- Date of Birth of competitor
- A list of all individual and team events they will be competing in
- Contact email of competitor

Note 1: All international competitors will be ineligible for championship medals, however are eligible for club points.

### **8. LIMITED ENTRIES**

Nominations of individuals and teams Limited Entry Events will be the responsibility of State Centres and will be required to be provided by Friday, 6 March.

Please see the Limited Entry Events Circular for further information.

### **9. LIST OF EVENTS**

A list of Championships events can be found in the Australian Surf Life Saving Championships 2026 – List of Events document.

### **10. AUSSIES OCEAN SWIM**

The Aussies Ocean Swim will be held at North Kirra on Sunday, 22 March 2026. Please see refer to the Ocean Swim Entry Circular for further information.

### **11. ADAPTIVE EVENTS**

SLSA will be offering dedicated Adaptive Surf Sports events for competitors with a disability. A selected program will be on offer as participation events. Events will feature adaptations and modifications to maximise participation and ensure an accessible and enjoyable opportunity for all competitors.

Please see Circular– Australian Surf Life Saving Championships 2026 Adaptive Surf Sport Events for further information.

### **12. SCRUTINEERING INFORMATION**

Further information will be released in the Scrutineering Circular closer to the event.



## 13. GENERAL EVENT INFORMATION

### 13.1 LIVEHEATS

The 2026 Australian Surf Life Saving Championships will be utilising LiveHeats for event entries, marshalling and recording processes across all events.

**Competitors must wear their own liveheats band in every race including finals, or there will be penalties.** You can check if it is your wristband by scanning the QR code on the underside of the wristband.

All competitors who have an existing LiveHeats wristband from any Surf Sport event are to bring these wristbands to Aussies 2026. **If you have already been issued a wristband and require a new one, you will be charged \$10 for a new one.**

Please note LiveHeats wristbands will not be required for Surf Boats, March Past or RnR competitors.

Competitors can view all draws and results via the SLSA page on the LiveHeats website:

<https://www.liveheats.com/slsa>

Refer to the [LiveHeats Cheat Sheet](#) for all you need to know prior to coming to the event.

### 13.2 SHIPPING CONTAINERS

Clubs transporting containers to North Kirra, must complete the following form and be prepared to provide the following information by Monday 9 February:

- Club
- Container size
- Container arrival & pick up date
- Container organisers name, phone number & email
- Transporting company (e.g. Toll)
- Transport company email and phone number
- Container ID #

**CONTAINER INFORMATION FORM** - [2026 Australian Surf Life Saving Championships Container Information – Fill out form](#)

Once the form has been completed, an email will be sent from the SLSA events team with final delivery and loading details.

### 13.3 NAMES OF TEAMS IN TEAM EVENTS

Where the club has one or more teams entered in an event, then that event code number for each competitor in each team shall be subtitled “A” for the first team or “B” for the second team, etc., as applicable.

**Note:** SLSA reserves the right to change any team name deemed inappropriate.

### 13.4 POWERCRAFT REQUIREMENTS

The 2026 Australian Surf Life Saving Championships will see the Powercraft (IRB & RWC) rostering process continue as per last year's system. Individual clubs are not required to provide personnel to fill water safety shifts. SLSA will be looking to engage active and enthusiastic Powercraft personnel across varying levels of experience and expertise to manage water safety processes across all Championships. SLSA will provide a subsidy, where appropriate, for those personnel engaged in water safety throughout the Championships. Further information regarding the nomination of personnel for Aussies 2026 water safety will be provided in the forthcoming Powercraft Circular.

Clubs will still be required to provide IRBs as per previous years. This information will be included in the Powercraft Equipment Circular.

### 13.5 WATER SAFETY REQUIREMENTS (U13)

Individual clubs will be required to assist with specific water safety requirements for U13 competition. Further information regarding quotas and a timetable for U13 water safety will be released at a future date.



### 13.6 DRESS OF COMPETITORS

In all events, competitors must wear approved competition dress as detailed in the current edition of the Surf Sports Manual and any subsequent Bulletins or Circulars.

Approval may be granted by the Championship Referee for a club or competitor to wear a singlet or vest different to the supplied singlet provided it complies with the SLSA Sponsorship Policy 6.28 (available via the SLSA Member's Area). This approval is subject to colour and visibility of the club/competitor singlets being fluoro yellow ONLY. This must be presented for approval to the Carnival Referee or Deputy Referee. The approved lycra singlets may only then be worn during the heats. For the Quarter Finals, Semi Finals and Finals the SLSA branded event lycra singlets must be worn, **NO EXCEPTIONS**. Competitors will be checked at the start line, and no competitor will be allowed to compete unless they comply.

SLSA Staff, Championship Referee, Area Referee and/or Sectional Referee reserve the right to order the removal or covering of signage, ID, or logos in conflict with the Championships sponsor and/or the SLSA Sponsorship Policy 6.28

## 14. TEAM MANAGERS

### 14.1 TEAM MANAGER ACCREDITATIONS

Each club will be provided with accreditation passes for the Team Manager and each Assistant Team Manager to gain access to each relevant competition area. Below is the recommended ratio of competitors/ accreditation passes):

- 1x overall Team Manager
- Number of areas club competitors are competing in = number of Assistant Team Manager accreditations,
  - o e.g.: 5 areas (3x water, 1x boat & 1x beach areas) = 5 Assistant Team Managers

Please note, if your club enters Masters and Opens competitors, the club's overall Team Manager is responsible to pass on all accreditation passes to Masters and Opens Assistant Team Managers.

### 14.2 TEAM MANAGER REQUIREMENTS

Each club must have a Team Manager complete the online Team Manager Declaration Form by Friday, 20 February to ensure you receive all relevant information relating to the 2026 Australian Surf Life Saving Championships.

If you are team manager for all three championships, please complete all three forms:

- **Youth** [Kellogg's Nutri-Grain Nipper and Youth Championships 2026 Team Manager Form – Fill out form](#)
- **Masters** [2026 Australian Surf Life Saving Masters Championships Team Manager Form – Fill out form](#)
- **Opens** [2026 Australian Surf Life Saving Open Championships Team Manager Form – Fill out form](#)

## 15 TEAM APP

Aussies 2026 will be using the 'Team App' smart phone application to send out updates and notifications to competitors. Download 'Team App' from the App Store or Google Play. Once you have downloaded the app and created a user login, search for '**Aussies 2026**' in the search bar at the top of the screen and click on the event to join. From here you will be able to access event documentation, timetables and where to find all the latest and up to date information on the event. It may also be helpful to visit the website for further clarification at <https://www.teamapp.com/faqs>

If you'd prefer the website version please click here:

[https://2019aussiechampionships.teamapp.com?\\_webpage=v1](https://2019aussiechampionships.teamapp.com?_webpage=v1)

## 16 COMPETITION MANIPULATION AND ANTI-DOPING

### 16.1 Competition Manipulation

The SLSA National Policy on Competition Manipulation covers all SLS Events that are conducted by SLSA, State Centres, Branches and Clubs and includes special events, conducted by third parties sanctioned by an SLS entity, and any event, competition or series connected with Surf Lifesaving. Please refer to Policy Document 5.11 for further details.



## **16.2 Anti-Doping**

Members have responsibilities under Policy 5.2 Anti-Doping Policy and Policy 6.23 Illicit Drugs in Sport (both available in the SLSA Members Portal).

It is strongly recommended that all Athletes, Coaches, Team Managers and Support Personnel complete the online Sports Integrity Australia training module "Clean Sports 101" and conduct at least one (1) anti-doping education activity with all competitors from the Club. <https://www.sportintegrity.gov.au/resources/education>

## **17 CONTACT**

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the SLSA Events team:

**Email:** [events@slsa.asn.au](mailto:events@slsa.asn.au)