



7th September 2026

Dear Patrolling Member
Scarborough Wombarra SLSC

WELCOME TO SEASON 2026-2027

Welcome back to the club for this upcoming season. I enclose for your attention the pre-season pack for season 2026-2027.

The committee thanks you very much for your continued support as returning patrol members of the surf club protecting the community and visitors to the area.

With the surf room and hall renovations completed we have a far more practical and organised working space for us to function on patrols, including hot and cold running water in the surf room for first aid. Flags go up for the patrol season on 27th of September, which is the Patrol Captains patrol.

With the 17 Illawarra surf clubs unifying last year and negotiating with State for a more favourable LSA for all concerned we are all the beneficiaries of a recently signed LSA for the next 3 years which removes our club of all Saturday patrols unless a designated public Holiday. This is a great benefit to our club with a smaller patrol base to help lighten the load during the season. Hopefully we can use that saved energy to get as many names as possible for at least 1 shift to cover the volunteer holiday rosters.

We need to take this opportunity not only to take a deep breath and understand we have certainty for the next 3 years for our patrolling commitments but to try and regenerate our patrol base. As a committee will keep working in that space with new programs and ideas that will hopefully get some footing, and that you see and welcome new club members in red and yellow on patrol. Any positive input from patrol members welcomed and please reach out at any time if you wanted to discuss a proposal.

We are committed to supporting our surf club and finding new ways to improve working conditions and make patrols as comfortable as possible. Let's enjoy the season ahead as part of a patrol team and club.

PATROL TEAMS & ROSTER

We remain at 6 patrols this season and all are solid. The patrol base we have is positive and communicative lead by our trusty and wonderful returning patrol captains: Ben, Zac, Pete, Tommy, Bindi, Ian, Kat and Henry.

Enclosed in the pre-season pack you will find your allocated patrol team and the patrol roster for the year. We will also continue the WhatsApp chat for your team and the club chat where you can communicate with your Patrol Captain and the rest of your team.

CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS – PEAK DAYS

Similarly to what we have done previously, a Google sheet has been prepared where all members can enter their name onto a day that they are willing and able to patrol on the main public holiday dates - Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day and Australia Day. This will be shared in early November.

Please consider one extra shift if you can manage on volunteer days so we can share the load. Even if not a full morning or afternoon shift, a couple of hours here and there is a great help.



COMMITTEE

Following the AGM held on the 9h August 2026, the following members were elected to committee positions:

Position	Name	Position	Name
President	Doug Hamill	Member Protection & Info Officer (MPIO - 1)	Thomas Summerhayes
Vice-President	John Liaropoulos	SBS Captain	Ian Crakanthorp
Secretary	Mark Chase	IRB Captain	Zac Lopresti
Treasurer	Jo Gullo	Gear Steward and Radio Officer	Ian Crakanthorp
Registrar	Robert Parsonson	Vice Gear Steward	John Newman
Club Captain	Ian Crakanthorp	Nippers Coordinator	Doug Hamill
Club Vice-Captain	Kat Watson	Health and Safety Representative	Rick Mohr
Chief Training Officer	Bindi Adams	Member Services, working with MPIO - 1	Peter Rafferty
First Aid Officer	Henry Kocatekin	Uniforms	Helen Briddon
		Social Media & Marketing	Rachelle Balez

We would like to thank outgoing committee member and Life Member Rick Mohr for his invaluable contribution to the surf club committee for his time, energy and experience.

We welcome John Newman and Mark Chase into the 26-27 committee.

To all the retuning committee members - thank you so much for coming back again this season. With continuity we can build momentum to make the surf club strong into the future.

PROFICIENCY

Included in the pre-season pack is a Circular that talks of proficiency requirements for this season. We ask that you look to complete the online theory component of proficiency as soon as you can. Your Patrol Captains will talk to you about the practical components of proficiency in the patrols before 31 December.



TRAINING

Please see the Education Dates for 2025/26 to date and additional to potentially be added.

Run Swim Run Proficiency

The previous RSW has been updated and now replaced with a more common-sense format: 100 metre run, 100 metre straight swim with tube rescue. There is also a board rescue requirement this season with the always CPR and Signals and all outlined in the attached document from State. As previous all requirements are to be completed before December 31st.

Online Education Proficiency

Can all returning patrol members please complete your online training element updates on the SLS education portal (as all seasons) as soon as possible so we don't have to chase all season. Reminders will go out through email and club WhatsApp chat before the end of year.

2026 Season SWSLSC Education Calendar (branch dates to be added when they've been finalised)

Date	Course	Venue
22-23rd Aug	SMPC	Woonona
20th Sept	First Aid	SWSLSC
25th Sept	IRBD and IRBC Evening Theory Session	SWSLSC
26th Sept	IRBD and IRBC water training and assessment	SWSLSC
27th Sept	Patrol Captains Training & Skills Maintenance Assess App sign-on for skills maintenance all members	SWSLSC
10th & 11th Oct	BM Intensive-Starts with Pool Swim (may potentially be reassigned, tbc)	SWSLSC
25th Oct	Nippers & SRC Proficiency Assess App sign-on to SRC/parent	Helensburgh Pool
31st Oct & 1st Nov	SMPC Catch up Proficiencies	Woonona Helensburgh Pool
14th Nov	ART	SWSLSC (tbc)
(TBD)	IRBD/C Training (in consultation with Zac, Ben, Henry & Phil Geary)	SWSLSC/Woonona (tbc)
29th Dec	Last Opportunity for Practical of Skills maintenance	SWSLSC/Woonona (tbc)
11th or 12th Jan (TBD)	IRBD/C Training	SWSLSC/Woonona (tbc)
1st or 2nd Feb (TBD)	IRBD/C Training	SWSLSC/Woonona (tbc)
15th & 16th Feb	IRBD/C Assessment	SWSLSC/Woonona (tbc)
All SRC training will align with Nippers sessions unless otherwise organised with Education		
1st & 2nd Mar (TBD)	IRBD/C Assessment	SWSLSC

There is possibility of a further SRC to Bronze course dependent on the birthdays of our current SRC's.
One if at the end of this year and I believe the others are March next year.



SLSNSW

Also included in this pre-season pack is the SLSNSW Pre-Season information pack for your information.

REGISTRATION

Online regos were open in August and have been trickling along. Please complete yourself ASAP if able. If you have had a change to any of your details or having any issues registering through the SLISA portal, please email club registrar Rob Parsonson at: registrar@swslsc.com.au

The patrolling membership fees have been donated by the Ritter Family to the club on your behalf ongoing for future years.

SOCIAL EVENTS

This year, we will look to continue to run social events to foster community within the club. As with every year, there will be an end of year awards night. A date and further details will be provided later in the season.

After last year's success, we will also run the 5th instalment of our Patrol Team relay after twilight Nippers, followed by a whole-of-club social event. In addition, we will look to get northern corridor surf clubs involved on the afternoon to help increase the awarenesses of the positivity at SWSLSC.

NIPPERS REGISTRATION

Registration will occur on Sunday the 11th of October 2026, 10am-12:30pm at the Surf Club. If you are unable to attend, please contact the Registrar Rob Parsonson at: registrar@swslsc.com.au

All new family registrations to be complete face to face at the club.

GIVE US YOUR THOUGHTS

Our committee contact details are also found in this pack. Please get in contact with me if you have any queries, comments, or suggestions, I'd love to hear it.

Thanks

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Hamill", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Doug Hamill
President



Scarborough Wombarra SLSC

NIPPERS



Welcome to the 2026-27 Surf Lifesaving Season

Rego Day

Sunday 11th October 2026
10am to 12.30 pm @ Surf Club
or contact club registrar
Rob Parsonson
registrar@swslsc.com.au

Fees

\$100 per child (*includes compulsory
parent associate membership*)
\$150 for 2 children (*incl. 1 parent
associate membership*)
\$180 family membership
Active Kids Vouchers are accepted

2026

25th October — Proficiency 1
(9am - 11:30am at Helensburgh Pool)
31st October — Proficiency 2
(9am - 10:30am at Thirroul Pool)
8th November — 1st Nippers
22nd November — 2nd Nippers
6th December — 3rd Nippers
13th December — 3rd Nippers
(Xmas Nippers)

Morning Nippers 10am - 11:30am
Twilight Nippers 3pm - 4:30pm

2027

17th January — 5th Nippers
31st January — 6th Nippers
14th February — 7th Nippers
(Twilight Nippers followed by
Iron Person Patrol Relay)
28th February — 8th Nippers
14th March — 9th Nippers
21st March — 10th Nippers
(Presentation)

All NEW Nipper registrations receive FREE club T-shirt and Cap
High viz pink singlets or rashies and nipper club caps
are compulsory for U6s- U14s at nipper meetings



Bring on Summer



PATROL TEAMS & ROSTER

2026/27

PATROL TEAM 1

Capt	Ben Hamill	BM
2	Zac Lopresti	BM
3	Doug Hamill	BM
4	John Liaropoulos	BM
5	Jed Stuart	BM

PATROL TEAM 3

Capt	Thomas Summerhayes	BM
2	Ant Ritter	BM
3	Matt Steffen	BM
4	Kieran Ritter	BM
5	Remy Harper	BM
6	Jemima Robinson Lemon	BM
7	Audrey Steffen	BM

PATROL TEAM 5

Capt	Kathleen Watson	BM
2	Rachelle Balez	BM
3	Simone Read	BM
4	Alara Ercan	BM
5	Maeve Steller-Rich	BM
6	Madeleine MacMahon	BM
7	Nara Rourke	BM
8	Layla Ercan	SRC

PATROL TEAM 2

Capt	Peter Rafferty	BM
2	Rick Mohr	BM
3	Brett Shirvington	BM
4	Nerissa Keay	BM
5	Simon Eckerman	BM
6	Ruby Eckerman	BM
7	Paul Cullen	BM

PATROL TEAM 4

Capt	Bindi Adams	BM
2	Ian Crakanthorp	BM
3	Gary Jordan	BM
4	Robert Parsonson	BM
Plus new BM's		
	John Newman	Radio
	Mick Newman	Trainee

PATROL TEAM 6

Capt	Henry Kocatekin	BM
2		BM
3	Beck Harper	BM
4	Shay Harper	BM
5	Rose Stuart	BM
6	Alyssa Jeffries	BM

#	Day	Date	AM	PM	SAT	Notes
1	Sunday	27/09/2026	PC	PC		Patrol Captains Patrol
2	Sunday	04/10/2026	4	3		
3	Monday	05/10/2026	6	5		
4	Sunday	11/10/2026	1	2		(Peter R away October long weekend)
5	Sunday	18/10/2026	3	4		
6	Sunday	25/10/2026	5	1		Pool Proficiency Helensburgh 9-11.30am
7	Sunday	01/11/2026	2	4		
8	Sunday	08/11/2026	1	2		NIPPERS #1
9	Sunday	15/11/2026	6	3		
10	Sunday	22/11/2026	4	5		NIPPERS #2
11	Sunday	29/11/2026	2	1		
12	Sunday	06/12/2026	5	6		NIPPERS #3
13	Sunday	13/12/2026	1	3		NIPPERS #4 Xmas
14	Sunday	20/12/2026	5	2		
15	Friday	25/12/2026	Call for volunteers			Volunteers on google sheet
16	Saturday	26/12/2026	Call for volunteers			Volunteers on google sheet
17	Sunday	27/12/2026	6	4		
18	Monday	28/12/2026	Call for volunteers			Volunteers on google sheet
19	Friday	01/01/2027	Call for volunteers			Volunteers on google sheet
20	Sunday	03/01/2027	3	1		
21	Sunday	10/01/2027	2	6		

#	Day	Date	AM	PM	SAT	Notes
22	Saturday	17/01/2026	4	5		NIPPERS #5
23	Sunday	24/01/2027	6	3		
24	Tuesday	26/01/2027	Call for volunteers			Volunteers on google sheet
25	Sunday	31/01/2027	1	2		NIPPERS #6
26	Sunday	07/02/2027	5	6		
31	Sunday	14/02/2027	4	3		NIPPERS #7 & Twilight Nippers followed by Iron Person Patrol Relay
32	Sunday	21/02/2027	2	1		
33	Sunday	28/02/2027	3	6		NIPPERS #8
34	Sunday	07/03/2027	4	5		
35	Sunday	14/03/2027	1	2		NIPPERS #9
36	Sunday	21/03/2027	4	3		NIPPERS #10 Presentation
37	Friday	26/03/2027	6	5		Good Friday
38	Saturday	27/03/2027	2	1		Easter Saturday
39	Sunday	28/03/2027	3	4		Easter Sunday
40	Monday	29/03/2027	5	6		Easter Monday
41	Sunday	04/04/2027	1	2		
42	Sunday	11/04/2027	3	4		
43	Sunday	18/04/2027	5	6		
44	Sunday	25/04/2027	PC	PC		Patrol Captains Patrol
45	Monday	26/04/2027	Call for volunteers			Volunteers on google sheet

BRING ON SUMMER



Bronze Medallion Course

Scarborough Wombarra Surf Lifesaving Club is encouraging all members who currently have a Surf Rescue Certificate, to get their Bronze Medallion qualifications prior to the start of the 2026-2027 season.

We welcome new enquiries, especially from locals thinking of becoming part of the Surf Life Saving movement, volunteering in the community, and joining our family-friendly club. Parents of Nippers who want to help with water safety at Nipper meetings are also encouraged to attend — the more water safety we have at Nippers, the more time they can spend in the water and build on their skills and confidence.



Venue: Scarborough Wombarra Surf Lifesaving Club

Dates: October, Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th

Time: 9.30am to 3.30pm

Please contact the club with any expressions of interest or general enquiries at: education@swslsc.com.au

Bring on Summer





PATROL RESERVES **WE NEED YOUR SERVICE**



DO SOMETHING FOR YOURSELF AND YOUR COMMUNITY
info@swslsc.com.au | swslsc.com.au

Circular 3958

Released: 28 July 2026

Subject	Skills Maintenance Requirements Surf Life Saving NSW 2026/27 Season
To	Branch Presidents, Branch Directors of Lifesaving, Branch Directors of Education, Club Presidents, Club Captains and Club Chief Training Officers
From	SLSNSW Education & Lifesaving Teams
Contact	education@surflifesaving.com.au

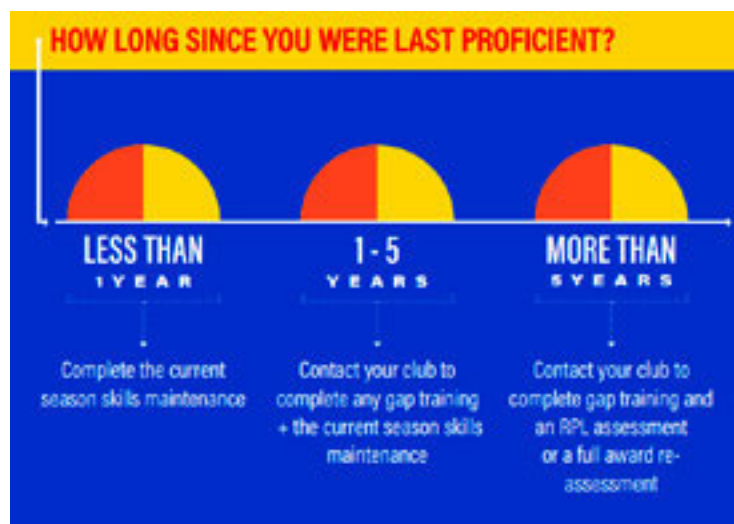
Summary, Key Changes & Focus Areas

All active lifesavers are required to complete annual skills maintenance to remain current in the awards they hold. Key changes and focus areas for the 2026/27 season are:

- The Bronze Medallion and Surf Rescue Certificate remain on a three-year practical assessment cycle. Focus areas for 2026/27 are:
 - Board Rescue
 - Spinal Management (Bronze Medallion only)
 - Orthopaedic Injuries (Bronze Medallion only)
 - Cardiac Conditions (Bronze Medallion only)
- Lifesaving CPR remains a focus and is included in both the online theory and practical components of awards that include resuscitation.
- Silver Medallion Patrol Captain (SMPC) award holders are required to complete an online theory component.
- Silver Medallion Beach Management (SMBM) award holders are required to complete the online Surf Risk Rating award if they haven't already. They are also encouraged to complete the Volunteer Leadership and Incident Management online modules. Together these three modules cover the online requirements of the SMBM>SMPC Bridging Course.
- Powercraft operators only need to complete a one-off skills maintenance assessment if they did not complete this last season.
- The Advanced Resuscitation Techniques [AID] (HLTAID007) award can no longer be made proficient. Members wishing to remain current must hold Advanced Resuscitation Techniques (HLTAID015).

Non-Proficient Members

The infographic below outlines the requirements for members who have not remained proficient for more than one year. Appendix 1 indicates the changes in the various awards over the years to enable required gap training to be identified. RPL enquiries can be sent directly to the SLSNSW Training & Education Team using the [RPL Enquiry Form](#).



Theory Component

Depending on the award, online theory components may provide updates on current procedures and operational practices, support practical skills maintenance, and reinforce learning through key lessons from previous seasons.

Members should complete all required theory components online before attending their practical skills maintenance assessment. Members requiring assistance with the online theory components should contact their Chief Training Officer, who can arrange appropriate support.

This season, theory components are required for the following awards.

Award	Content
Resuscitation	Practical Focus for Skills Maintenance – 2026/27 Season Learnings from Lifesaving CPR Rollout
Surf Rescue Certificate	
Bronze Medallion	As per Resuscitation & SRC First Aid Instructional Videos & Use of SLS Trauma Kits
Advanced Resuscitation Techniques	Learnings from Lifesaving CPR Rollout Effective Team Leadership During CPR Use of SLS Trauma Kits
IRB Crew	New Patient Pick Up Techniques* Powercraft Safety Module*
IRB Driver	
Rescue Water Craft	Powercraft Safety Module*
Silver Medallion Patrol Captain	Interactive Scenario
Silver Medallion Beach Management	Surf Risk Rating* Supplementary Training for Patrol Captains* Volunteer Leadership (encouraged) Incident Management (encouraged)

* Only required if not already completed. If unsure, members can enrol into Skills Maintenance for the award. If previously completed, the module will say **‘Review’** rather than **‘Start’**.

Practical Component

SLSA have developed a guide that outlines the benchmarks that members are expected to demonstrate when completing the practical components of skills maintenance. It is designed to help TAFs and endorsed delegates conduct assessments consistently and confidently, while supporting members to maintain the skills they need to perform their roles safely and effectively. Search for **Skills Maintenance 2026/27 - Practical Scenarios & Benchmarks** in the [SLS Members Hub Document Library](#).

Aquatic Rescue Pathway Awards

Bronze Medallion (BM) and Surf Rescue Certificate (SRC)

Note: Skills can be conducted in any order

1. Run-Swim-Rescue (timed)

100m Run – 100m Swim in 3:30 minutes or less

- The run distance to be taken from waist deep water, e.g., the run is from a flag, around a marker and to waist deep water. The swim component is to a marker 100m from waist deep water.
- The swim leg is conducted with a rescue tube attached to the rescuer. The use of fins is optional and permitted.
- Patients will be waiting in the water in line with the 100m marker. Rescuer secures the conscious patient with the tube. The timed component of the Run-Swim-Rescue finishes at this point.
- Rescuer swims 100m to return to the beach with the patient.
- Rescuer assists the patient to the water's edge.

2. Board Rescue

Demonstrate a minimum of one board rescue of a patient (conscious) in accordance with SLSA operating procedures in the current SLSA Public Safety and Aquatic Rescue training manual. The rescue must include the following:

- Negotiating the surf zone
- Securing the patient
- Returning to shore with the patient
- Calling for assistance

3. Signals

Demonstrate knowledge of signals. The demonstration must include the following:

- Beach to water signals
- Water to beach signals

4. Resuscitation (L-CPR)

Demonstrate the following incorporating Lifesaving CPR techniques:

- A primary assessment (DRSAB--) on a live patient including the demonstration of the lateral position
- Primary assessment (DRSABCD), 1 and 2 person CPR (adult or child AND infant) on an approved manikin – to include resuscitation methods using a resuscitation mask and AED (if using masks special cleaning procedures need to be followed)
- Team CPR scenario including primary assessment (DRSABCD) - to include resuscitation methods using a resuscitation mask, AED and BVM.
- Hand over to emergency services (simulated in groups) using IMIST AMBO

5. First Aid Skills (Bronze Medallion only)

Participation in First Aid Scenarios typically encountered on patrol. For Season 2026/27, the topics will be:

- Spinal Management (wet)
- Orthopaedic Injuries (soft tissue and fractures)
- Cardiac conditions

Silver Medallion Aquatic Rescue (SMAR)

Proficiency is required in the prerequisites for this award to remain current. The prerequisites are:

- Complete a 400m swim in 8 minutes or less in a swimming pool of no less than 25m length
- Hold and be proficient in the SLSA Bronze Medallion [and hold the Certificate II in Public Safety (Aquatic Rescue)].

Gold Medallion (GM)

1. Pre-requisite Awards

A member must be proficient in each of the following awards:

- Bronze Medallion
- Advanced Resuscitation Techniques
- First Aid
- Silver Medallion Patrol Captain or Silver Medallion Beach Management

2. Pool Swim

- The member must complete an 800m swim in under 14 minutes in a swimming pool of no less than 25m.
- The pool swim must be completed before any other component of a Gold Medallion skills maintenance.

3. Mission Test (timed)

- The distance will be 400m swim, 800m run, 400m board paddle, and 800m run.
- The time will be less than 25 minutes – the run distance to be taken from waist-deep water, e.g., the run is from a flag, around a marker and to waist-deep water. The aquatic components are from waist-deep water around two swimming buoys and back to waist-deep water
- Aquatic course must be around two swimming buoys.

4. Rescue

- Demonstrate a board rescue according to SLSA operating procedures in the current SLSA Public Safety and Aquatic Rescue training manual. The patient should be 200m out to sea.
- Demonstrate a tube rescue according to SLSA operating procedures in the current SLSA Public Safety and Aquatic Rescue training manual. The patient should be 100m out to sea and the member should use swim fins during this rescue.

5. Complex Rescue Scenario (may include one of the rescues above)

- Demonstrate a complex rescue scenario as set by the delegated assessor according to the SLSA operating procedures in the current SLSA Public Safety and Aquatic Rescue training manual
- The rescue must assess the following events:
 - Negotiating the surf zone
 - Securing the patient/s
 - Returning to shore without losing the patient/s
 - Calling for assistance
 - Performing emergency care as required by the patient/s.

Emergency Care Pathway Awards

Awards that include resuscitation skills require an annual resuscitation assessment. Once a member has successfully completed a resuscitation assessment for the season, they do not need to repeat the resuscitation component when completing skills maintenance for other SLSA awards.

Important: Completing SLSA skills maintenance does not renew any nationally recognised HLTAID units of competency associated with an award. For example, completing skills maintenance for the SLSA Resuscitation award does not renew HLTAID009 Provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and completing skills maintenance for Advanced Resuscitation Techniques does not renew HLTAID015 Provide Advanced Resuscitation and Oxygen Therapy.

Members wishing to renew their HLTAID units of competency should contact their Branch Director of Education or the SLSNSW Training & Education Team for advice.

Resuscitation

Demonstrate the following incorporating Lifesaving CPR techniques:

- A primary assessment (DRSAB--) on a live patient including the demonstration of the lateral position
- Primary assessment (DRSABCD), 1 and 2 person CPR (adult or child AND infant) on an approved manikin – to include resuscitation methods using a resuscitation mask and AED (if using masks special cleaning procedures need to be followed)
- Team CPR scenario including primary assessment (DRSABCD) - to include resuscitation methods using a resuscitation mask, AED and BVM.

Advanced Resuscitation Techniques

The requirements below apply to the Advanced Resuscitation Techniques award:

1. Resuscitation (CPR)

See Resuscitation components above for requirements. A member is proficient in this component of the ART Skills Maintenance if they have completed the relevant BM, SRC or Resuscitation Skills Maintenance.

2. Advanced Resuscitation

Team CPR scenario including primary assessment (DRSABCD) – to include resuscitation methods using a resuscitation mask, AED, oropharyngeal airways and oxygen supplement (oxygen cylinder connected to bag-valve-mask resuscitator on an unconscious patient).

3. Oropharyngeal Airways

- Correct measurement and insertion of an oropharyngeal (OP) airway
- Demonstrate an understanding of when and why an OP airway is introduced into resuscitation.

4. Bag-valve-mask resuscitator

Correct setup, check and use of bag valve mask resuscitator

Important: The deadline for the completion of the upgrade from Advanced Resuscitation Techniques (ART [AID]) - HLTAID007 to Advanced Resuscitation Techniques (ART) – HLTAID015 is July 2026. As such the Advanced Resuscitation Techniques (ART [AID]) - HLTAID007 can no longer be made proficient. Members wishing to remain current in ART will need to complete a new ART course.

Beach Management/ Award Member Pathway Awards

Radio Operations (RO)

While there is NO assessable practical radio component this season, clubs are encouraged to have member practice using radio equipment in an operational patrol environment including:

- Pre-operation checks
- Knowledge of local operating channels and uses
- Inter-patrol communications
- Rescue procedures, requests for assistance which include the four P's.

For those who use this award as part of their operation within a SLS communications centre, additional skills maintenance requirements may be included at a local level.

Silver Medallion Patrol Captain

This award will be updated once the online learning component is completed. There is no practical Skills Maintenance requirement for Season 26/27.

Silver Medallion Beach Management

There is no practical Skills Maintenance requirement for Season 26/27.

Powercraft Pathway Awards

As part of the transition to the updated IRB Crew and IRB Driver awards, a one-off skills maintenance assessment was introduced last season.

Members who successfully completed the one-off transition assessment last season do not need to repeat that assessment and may be deemed proficient through demonstration of competency during normal operational activities.

Members who **did not** complete the one-off transition assessment last season will need to complete it this season.

All IRB operators are encouraged to review the [9th Edition IRB Manual](#) to gain a better understanding of new content and techniques.

IRB Crew (IRBC)

1. Pre-requisite Awards

A member must be proficient in the Bronze Medallion award.

2. Safe and Effective Crewing

Demonstrate effective and safe crewing practice and ability including:

- Conscious/ Assisted patient pick-up (crew perspective)
- Bounce method patient pick-up
- Patient prioritising in a mass / multi rescue situation

Silver Medallion IRB Driver (SMIRBD)

1. Pre-requisite Awards and Licences

A member must be proficient in the following awards:

- Bronze Medallion
- IRB Crew

2. Safe and Effective Driving

Demonstrate the ability to apply safe driving practice including but not limited to:

- Conscious/ Assisted patient pick-up (driver perspective)
- Bounce method patient pick-up
- Patient prioritising in a mass / multi rescue situation
- 2 o'clock approach angle for patient pick-ups

Rescue Watercraft Operator (RWCO)

RWC Operators may be deemed proficient through demonstration of competency during normal operational activities.

1. Pre-requisite Awards and Licences

A member must be proficient in the Bronze Medallion award.

2. Safe and Effective Driving

Demonstrate the ability to apply safe driving practice including but not limited to:

- Continued application of the SLSA Powercraft Code of Conduct
- Competence in safe RWC Operator techniques including:
 - Ability to carry out an assisted launch from the beach
 - Parallel running
 - Figures of eight
 - Response to signals
 - Negotiation of surf as required
 - Demonstrate ability to conduct a victim rescue
 - Demonstrate the ability to reboard the craft from deep water
- Competence in pre- and post-operation procedures

All RWC operators are encouraged to review the [1st Edition RWC Manual](#) to gain a better understanding of new content and techniques.

Other Awards

Side-by-Side Vehicle (SSV)

A member's driver licence must be checked annually to ensure it remains current. The licence expiry date and confirmation that it has been sighted should be recorded in SurfGuard.

A member who loses their driver's license (whether through cancellation or suspension) must not drive the SSV. Provisional drivers are to display plates as required by [Transport for NSW](#).

Members must participate in an SSV Operator Induction for each new SSV make and model that they have not driven before. The SLSA SSV Operator Induction Guide is available in the SLS Members Area Document Library.

Age Managers & Age Manager Assistants

Age Manager and Age Manager Assistants must complete an annual skills maintenance by watching the SLSA Age Manager video in the eLearning platform. Upon completion, their award will be automatically updated in SurfGuard.

Age Managers who have been inactive for five years or more must complete the full Age Manager course again.

A member is proficient if they have:

- Completed the online SLS Child Safe Awareness course
- Completed the SLSA Age Manager course (online or face to face)
- A valid Working with Children Check (WWCC) noting that some exemptions apply
- Annual completion of the Age Manager Skills Maintenance video

Nipper Safety Assistants Award (NSA)

An annual skills maintenance is required to maintain proficiency in the NSA award incorporating the following:

- 50m swim using a continuous stroke from waist deep water,
- Demonstrate treading water for 2 minutes

- Demonstrate an aquatic rescue with rescue tube (conscious tube rescue only)
- Demonstrate knowledge of signals (beach to water and water to beach).

The NSA award skills maintenance should be completed in conditions similar to what the member could be expected to perform duties as part of their clubs' activities.

Appendix 1: Award Changes | Gap Analysis

Award	Season	Change
All Resuscitation (including SRC, BM, First Aid, ART)	2009/10	- Ratio of compressions to breaths in CPR changed to 30:2 - Defibrillation awareness added 'D' added to DRABCD, defibrillation
	2011/12	'S' added to DRSABCD, send for help
	2012/13	Treatment of anaphylaxis, using an autoinjector
	2013/14	Infant resuscitation on a manikin to be assessed in all CPR training
	2014/15	Victim's airway and breathing is routinely assessed on their back – they are only rolled if necessary to clear foreign matter
	2015/16	Specified number of scenarios and 2 minutes of uninterrupted CPR on: a) an adult manikin on the floor; and b) an infant manikin on a stable surface to be assessed in all CPR training
	2016/17	Rate of CPR compressions changed to 100-120 compressions per minute
	2025/26	Lifesaving CPR introduced
Advanced Resuscitation Techniques only	2010/11	- Suction introduced - SLSA awards Advanced Resuscitation Certificate and Defibrillation Certificate replaced with Advanced Resuscitation Techniques Certificate
	2014/15	Assessment of vital signs Respirations, Pulse and Temperature, completion of incident report, and 3x scenario to be assessed
	2017/18	- ARC guideline changes: - Checking resuscitation equipment (notably oxygen pipe connection, assembly, or resuscitation bag valve devices).
	2018/19	Training and assessment of dealing with life threatening bleeds
	2021/22	- ARC Guideline changes: (9.2.10) - Recommend against the routine administration of oxygen in persons with suspected heart attack and stroke who do not have signs of shock - Oxygen should be administered to persons with an oxygen saturation of less than 92% (where a pulse oximeter is available).

		○ Oxygen should be given to persons with signs of blue colouration of skin, shock, decompression illness or a situation suggestion carbon monoxide poisoning (irrespective of oxygen saturation level)
Bronze Medallion	2011/12	• IRB awareness added
	2012/13	• 2 new signals added ○ submerged patient missing (Code X); and ○ all clear
	2013/14	• 34th edition training manual released • Theory paper added to skills maintenance assessment • Revision of safety while working in a beach environment; surf awareness and rip current survival principles; how oxygen is used in team resuscitation; use of whistles as communication; identifying distressed and drowning victims; surveillance methods and beach management • Addition of use of swim fins as a basic survival technique; information on the lymphatic system; stroke; anaphylaxis; the phonetic alphabet; 3 person walk up spinal • Removal of in-water rescue breathing; 5-person spinal carry
	2016/17	• 34th edition (revised July 2016) training manual released • ARC (Aus Resuscitation Council) guideline changes: ○ Compression rate (100 – 120 compressions per minute) ○ Heart attack first aid treatment (give aspirin unless anaphylaxis is a contraindication) ○ Shock first aid treatment (no longer raise legs) ○ Heat exhaustion first aid treatment (give electrolyte sports drink) ○ External bleeding first aid treatment (no longer raise bleeding limb) ○ Spinal management (removal of standing spinal and application of a cervical collar)
	2017/18	• October 2017 reprint of SLISA 34th edition Public Safety and Aquatic Rescue (revised July 2016) • EpiPen administration (now 3 seconds and no massaging injection site) (9.2.7)
	2018/19	• ARC guideline changes: ○ Severe Bleeding (prioritise management of severe bleeding over airways) ○ Tourniquets (use of two) ○ Haemostatic dressing (to manage severe bleeding) ○ New guideline for first aid management of a diabetic emergency (9.2.9)
	2019/20	• PSAR 35th edition released May 2020

		○ Removal of oxygen therapy and oxygen aided resuscitation to the resuscitation component of the SRC / Bronze ○ Spinal Management content added to Bronze ○ Tourniquet training added to Bronze ○ Mental health awareness training for SRC and Bronze ● ARC guideline updates: ○ Shock (control bleeding, send for help, reassure) (9.2.3) ○ Snake bites (send for help, immobilise, and apply pressure) (9.4.1) ○ Hyperthermia (send for help and cool person by any means available) (9.3.4)
	2020/21	● ARC guideline changes: ○ Treatment for hyperthermia includes ice on the soles, palms, and cheeks in addition to groin and armpits. No longer on the back of the neck. (9.3.4) ○ Removal of blind finger sweeps for airway management. Now reach in to seize and remove visible items directly. (4)
	2022/23	● Industry Changes ○ A new brand of adrenaline autoinjectors are available with Anapen being reintroduced. Members should be familiar with and practice the administration of both an EpiPen and an Anapen training device
	2025/26	● Run-Swim-Rescue introduced to replace the Run-Swim-Run for Skills Maintenance only
	2026/27	● First Aid Skills Introduced: ○ Spinal Management (wet & dry) ○ Orthopaedic Injuries (soft tissue and fractures) ○ Cardiac conditions ● Board Rescue
IRB Crew & Driver	2007/08	● Powercraft Code of Conduct introduced
	2011/12	● Extra safety protocols for IRB introduced, including safe lifting of IRB, removal of right crew foot strap and addition of 'locked in' position for crew
	2015/16	● Introduction of lifejackets, personal flotation devices and surf helmets in IRB training
	2025/26	● Powercraft Code of Conduct updated
	2026/27	● New Pickups Introduced ○ Conscious/ Assisted patient pick-up ○ Bounce method patient pick-up

		○ Patient prioritising in a mass/ multi recuse situation (minimum 2 patients)
IRB Crew	2015/16	• Knots and lashings to be assessed
	2025/26	• New Crewing positions introduced ○ Rise Crewing Position ○ Standing Crewing Position ○ Lock-in Position ○ Emergency Punch Position • Re-boarding the IRB
IRB Driver	2024/25	• Wave negotiation at a 1 o'clock angle introduced
	2026/27	• 2 o'clock approach angle for patient pick-ups introduced

2026/27 SLSNSW PRE-SEASON INFORMATION PACK



SURF LIFE SAVING
NEW SOUTH WALES



Introduction

The Surf Life Saving NSW Pre-season Information Pack focuses on:



Changes to policies
or procedures



Links to key reference
material to review prior
to the season



Key tasks to complete
before the season starts



Key dates to be aware of

The information is divided into the following sections and aimed at:

Club Management

Directors of
Administration,
Presidents &
Treasurers

Lifesaving

Club Captains
& Directors of
Lifesaving

Education

Chief Training
Officers &
Directors of
Education

Surf Sports

Directors of
Surf Sports

Membership

Directors of
Member Services
& Junior Activity
Chairs

Information for all

SurfGuard Updates

SurfGuard is undergoing a major update as part of SLSSA's **Core Systems Rewrite**, designed to improve usability, reliability and the long-term sustainability of the platform. Rather than one large system change, new functionality will be introduced progressively through a series of releases between **April 2026 and June 2027**, with improvements across member management, awards, patrols, assets, incidents and other core SurfGuard functions. As new functionality becomes available, SLSNSW will provide users with updates and guidance to support the transition. Release dates are subject to change. View the current [Release Schedule](#).

Executive Training Calendar

SLSNSW delivers a range of online sessions throughout the season designed to support members of club management

teams. We recommend that all new club and branch officers attend the **Club Management Induction** in August, and that all new and existing officers attend the **Optimising Board Performance session** in October.

Register via the [Club Executive Training Schedule](#).

Child Safe Awareness Course for Patrol Members

Surf Life Saving NSW is committed to the safety and wellbeing of every child and young person who takes part in our activities, programs, events or services.

As part of our commitment, all patrolling members over the age of 18 along with those in the following roles, are required to complete the online SLS Child Safe Awareness (18 years+) course:

- Club and Branch officers
- MPIOs and Complaints Managers
- Age Managers
- Coaches and Officials
- Trainers, Assessors and Facilitators

Club Management

Key Changes

- Clubs registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) no longer require a separate NSW **Charitable Fundraising Number (CFN)**. To continue fundraising, clubs must maintain their ACNC registration and comply with the 16 National Fundraising Principles (see **Relevant Links** section).
- The approach to financial distributions aligned to **Annual Club & Branch Compliance** has changed. Clubs should review the updated circular to understand the new distribution model and compliance deadlines. Financial distributions have increased to **up to \$10,000**, with the full distribution (including a **\$2,000 compliance bonus**) available to clubs that meet both Phase 1 and Phase 2 requirements by the required deadlines.
- Clubs can access and download their current **Certificate of Currency** through the Marsh Club Portal (see **Relevant Links** section). If your club does not have its login details, your Branch Administration Officer can provide your Club ID to help you access the portal.

Reminders

- There is a **12-month access limit to SurfGuard** for all users. SurfGuard users not verified by clubs as part of the Annual Club & Branch Compliance process will be deactivated on 14 September 2026.
- SLSNSW delivers **Club Executive workshops** throughout the year, with topics including youth engagement, optimising board performance, marketing and finance. We encourage all new club and branch officers to attend the Club Management Induction, and recommend both new and existing officers participate in Optimising Board Performance.
- If your club adopts or amends its constitution, remember to notify **NSW Fair Trading, the ACNC, and SLSNSW**. This includes lodging an A6 form with NSW Fair Trading, updating your details through the ACNC Charity Portal, and providing your Branch Administration Officer with a copy of your updated constitution.

Relevant Links

[Club Executive Calendar](#) – Tasks Resources and Workshops – for training sessions aimed at club and branch officers together with an annual calendar of essential tasks and related resources to assist with day-to-day club management and compliance.

[Annual Compliance Circular](#) – for information on the requirements that all clubs and branches must meet to be compliant for the 2026/27 season and to ensure access to state funding distributions.

[Marsh Club Portal](#) – for access to the portal to download club Certificates of Currency.

[Club Guide](#) – for information related to the management of SLS Clubs, relevant for all members of the Club Management Team.

[IT Guidelines for Pre and Post Season](#) – a guide for IT and SurfGuard related tasks for the start and close of season.

[IT Systems Access \(Form 49\)](#) – to access the online form used to provide members with access to SurfGuard or the Sport Event Management System (SEMS).

[Member Wellbeing](#) – for information on the wellbeing support available to members, including the Member Assistance Program (MAP).

[Office of the Children's Guardian](#) – to access the portal to verify Working with Children Checks before the details are entered into SurfGuard.

[National Fundraising Principles](#) – to view the 16 nationally agreed rules on charitable fundraising conduct.

Key Tasks

- ☐ Complete annual compliance requirements as outlined in the above circular.
- ☐ Access the Executive Calendar and encourage club management team members to access online workshops.

Key Dates

- SLSNSW Awards of Excellence – Saturday 22 August 2026 (Hyatt Regency, Sydney)
- Insurance Renewal Declaration Deadline – Thursday 27 August 2026
- Compliance Part 1 Deadline – Friday 11 September 2026
- Compliance Part 2 Deadline – Friday 30 October 2026



Lifesaving

Key Changes

- Following issues experienced with the **SLS Operations App** last season, SLISA is developing a new interim app to support patrol operations this season. Review the [current FAQs](#). Further information will be shared with users as soon as it becomes available.
- To align with the **additional ANZAC Day public holiday** and maintain consistent community safety outcomes, patrol services will be extended to Monday 26 April 2027.
- SLSNSW, in partnership with Qantas, will issue all patrolling members in NSW with a **new patrol shirt** this season. Members are asked to return all previous unwanted patrol shirts at their first patrol so they can be responsibly recycled, helping keep outdated uniforms off the beach and out of landfill.
- A range of **Lifesaving Skills Development and Advanced IRB Skills Development Programs** will be delivered throughout the season to support member development and strengthen operational capability. A calendar of programs will be released soon.
- Clubs will soon be able to record **club-owned UAVs as Gear and Equipment** in SurfGuard. Once available, clubs will be asked to register all club-owned UAVs using this functionality. Further guidance will be provided when the functionality is released.
- The **Rescue Services application form** is now available on the SLSNSW website and will also be used for the re-endorsement of Rescue Services members (see **Relevant Links** section).

Reminders

- With the migration of the SLSNSW radio network from analogue to digital almost complete, all **radios must be reprogrammed** before the start of season (see **Relevant Links** section).
- The **"SCAN" channel** has been removed from all radios following an identified issue, reducing the risk of communications from SurfCom being missed.
- All radios now have access to **all branch networks**, allowing them to be operated across NSW wherever network coverage is available.
- All patrol members aged 18 years+ are required to complete the **SLS Child Safe Awareness (18 years+)** course.

Patrol members under 18 years are encouraged to complete the SLS Child Safe Awareness (13-17 years) course.

- All **club vehicles** (including ATVs, SSVs, tractors and 4WDs) must be appropriately registered. Where a vehicle is **conditionally registered**, clubs should ensure the approved area of operation is broad enough to cover all locations where the vehicle may reasonably be used, including surrounding beaches, parks, pathways, car parks, neighbouring clubs and incident response locations. Operating an unregistered vehicle, or operating outside the approved registration area, may affect insurance coverage.
- Club UAV operations conducted in accordance with the PSSOPs are covered for public liability under the SLS Group Policy. To ensure this coverage applies, **all club-owned UAVs must be included on the club's annual Insurance Declaration**. UAVs purchased after the annual declaration must be advised to Marsh. Clubs are also encouraged to consider additional coverage for damage, loss or theft of UAVs and associated equipment (e.g. batteries, controllers and chargers). Marsh can provide quotations on request.
- **Incident reporting and gear and equipment inspections** can be completed through the new interim Operations app, reducing paperwork and integrating directly with SurfGuard. All member injuries must also be reported to the State Operations Centre. Branch Inspectors must be registered in SurfGuard to access inspection functionality. Contact Hamish Jones (hjones@surflifesaving.com.au) to arrange access.
- The **Rescue of the Month** award aims to recognise excellence in lifesaving and service delivery, measured against industry best practice and operating procedures. Clubs are encouraged to nominate their members for this award.

Relevant Links

- [Reprogramming Radios](#) – to access Circular 3967 which outlines arrangements for clubs to have their radios reprogrammed.
- [Public Safety Standard Operating Procedures \(SOPs\)](#) – the guidelines established by SLSNSW to ensure safe, consistent and effective operations across various lifesaving activities.

- [Patrol Operations Manual \(POM\)](#) – the template that clubs complete outlining club-specific communication protocols, hazard and risk management plans, beach management strategies, and emergency operations plans.
- [Lifesaving Skills Development Programs](#) – for more information on the Lifesaving Development Programs, dates, locations and how to register.
- [Rescue Services Applications & Re-endorsements](#) – to access the Rescue Services Application Procedure and application form to become or to be re-endorsed as a Rescue Services member (Rescue Services includes Offshore Rescue Boats (ORBs), Rescue Watercraft (RWC), and Duty Officers).
- [Annual Compliance Circular](#) – for information on the requirements that all clubs and branches must meet to be compliant for the 2026/27 season and to ensure access to state funding distributions.
- [Gear and Equipment Inspection Program](#) – to access the circular explaining this program which ensures all SLS patrols have sufficient equipment to meet their Lifesaving Service Agreement requirements, and that gear and equipment details are accurately recorded in SurfGuard.
- [Gear & Equipment and Vessel Registrations](#) – for information on gear and equipment requirements leading into the 2026/27 season and on how to register, sell or dispose of Surf Rescue vessels.
- [Rescue of the Month](#) – for information on how to nominate members for the Rescue of the Month.
- [Critical Incident Support](#) – for information related to the critical incident support procedures, including short guides for members, families and friends.
- [Skills Maintenance webpage](#) – to access the SLSNSW Skills Maintenance Circular for the 2026/27 patrol season and other supporting resources.
- [Local SAREX Toolkit](#) – A practical, ready-to-use set of resources to help clubs plan and deliver Search and Rescue Exercises (SAREX).



Lifesaving *(Continued)*

Key Tasks

- ☐ Reprogram all radios (see Circular 3967).
- ☐ Plan patrol roster (using Lifesaving Service Agreement).
- ☐ Update and Provide a copy of the Patrol Operations Manual (POM) to all patrols.
- ☐ Complete gear and equipment inspections, attaching Defective Equipment Tags as required.
- ☐ Update the Emergency Call Out Team mailing group in SurfGuard.
- ☐ Register new Surf Rescue vessels, along with any existing vessels which are not on SurfGuard.
- ☐ Manage the sale or disposal of Surf Rescue vessels in line with requirements.
- ☐ Ensure Rescue Services members re-endorse using the online form before 31 December 2026.

Key Dates

- SLSNSW Awards of Excellence – Saturday 22 August 2026 (Hyatt Regency, Sydney)
- Club gear and equipment inspection deadline – Friday 11 September 2026
- Emergency call out team members entered into SurfGuard – Friday 11 September 2026
- Patrol season starts – Saturday 26 September 2026
- Patrol season ends – Monday 26 April 2027



Education

Key Changes

The opportunity to discuss the below key changes in more detail will be available to all Trainers, Assessors, Facilitators (TAFs) and Chief Training Officers (CTOs) at the upcoming branch pre-season meetings. They will also be presented in the online pre-season module which will be released late July/early August. Completion of the online module is a requirement for annual TAF re-endorsement.

Key changes to be communicated include:

- The focus of **skills maintenance** for SRC and Bronze Medallion this season includes:
 - board rescues (SRC & Bronze Medallion)
 - spinal management, orthopaedic injuries and cardiac conditions (Bronze Medallion only)
 - tourniquet familiarisation (Bronze Medallion) following the roll out of Trauma Kits to clubs last season
- A new **Skills Maintenance Tracker** is available this season to help clubs monitor who has completed skills maintenance and who still needs to do so. The tracker uses data from a custom SurfGuard report and provides an easy-to-read, colour-coded report. Feedback from clubs this season will inform the development of a Power BI dashboard planned for next season. The Skills Maintenance Tracker and supporting instructions are available in the Skills Maintenance Information Booklet (pages 14-15), accessed via the SLS Members Hub Document Library.
- The **Resuscitation [AID] (HLTAID001)** and **Advanced Resuscitation Techniques [AID] (HLTAID007)** awards can no longer be made proficient. Members wishing to remain current must hold the Resuscitation (HLTAID009) and/or Advanced Resuscitation Techniques (HLTAID015) award.
- SLSNSW is working with **RWC TAFs** to better support the consistency of the delivery and assessment of RWC training through the delivery of RWC TAF PD workshops. Outcomes from these workshops, alongside new engagement opportunities for those who could not attend, will be communicated in the coming weeks.
- To improve the member experience of accessing First Aid training via the volunteer-delivered model, the **First Aid Theory Assessment** is now integrated

into the SLS eLearning platform, removing the need for paper-based theory assessments and manual marking.

- New accredited courses will be added to the **SLS Assessing App** this season, starting with IRB Crew, followed by SMPC, IRB Driver and ART.
- **Matched grant funding** is available to help clubs purchase tablets for use with the SLS Assessing App.
- Clubs that did not access or fully utilise the **Lifesaving CPR Equipment Grant** funding last season can do so this season to support the ongoing delivery of **Lifesaving CPR**.

Reminders

- SLSNSW continues to provide a centralised **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)** service for SLS awards, units of competency, qualifications and in-depth proficiencies. The service supports returning members and those with existing skills or qualifications, while reducing the workload on volunteer TAFs. Clubs are encouraged to refer eligible members to the service (see **Relevant Links** section).
- **Fully subsidised First Aid training** (delivered by the SLS First Aid Training and Services [FATAS]) continues to be available for new ART award holders and First Aid, ART and Bronze Medallion TAFs. Contact the Training & Education Team to find out more.
- **Individual and group training sessions** continue to be available for first-time users of the SLS Assessing App, and those wanting a refresher.
- **Working with Children Checks** are required for TAFs who volunteer (or are likely to volunteer) with members under the age of 18 for more than 5 days in a calendar year.

Relevant Links

- [SLSNSW TAF Re-endorsement webpage](#) – to access information specific to TAF re-endorsement for the 2026/27 season.
- [SLSNSW Education SOPs](#) – Education procedures.
- [Skills Maintenance webpage](#) – to access the SLSNSW Skills Maintenance Circular and other supporting resources.
- [Co-Delivery](#) – to access resources to support the co-delivery process, including the Co-Delivery: Quick Reference Guide.

- [Become a Trainer, Assessor, Facilitator webpage](#) – to learn more about becoming a TAF.
- [SLS Training Resources webpage](#) – for members and TAFs to access the latest training and SLS course resources.
- [SLS Hub](#) – to access the SLS Document Library and eLearning platform.
- [SLSNSW Assessing App webpage](#) – to learn about the Assessing App and book an individual or group training session.
- [RPL Service](#) – to access information about the centralised RPL service.
- [Lifesaving CPR Equipment Grant 2026/27](#)
- [Education Tablet Grant 2026/27](#)

Key Tasks

- ☐ Assist TAFs to ensure currency in the latest HLTAID units of competency (CPR annually, First Aid and Advanced Resuscitation every three years).
- ☐ Support TAFs to complete the SLSNSW TAF pre-season online module (available in early August 2026) and then complete the online re-endorsement/re-appointment form.
- ☐ Ensure TAFs and patrolling members complete skills maintenance before 31/12/2026.
- ☐ Work with Branch Directors of Education to ensure that appropriate supervision is in place for all assessments and that supervisory activities are recorded through the Record of Supervision Form.
- ☐ Add/update the appropriate 'Endorsed Delegate' award to endorsed delegates for skills maintenance in SurfGuard for your club.

Key Dates

- Training Officer Certificate courses – quarterly intakes
- Assessor and Facilitator courses – intakes as required
- Branch Education Pre-Season Meetings – Aug/Sept 2026
- SLSNSW Awards of Excellence – Saturday 22 August 2026 (Hyatt Regency, Sydney)



Surf Sports

Key Changes

- The nomination and appointment process for officials for the 2027 Surf Life Saving State Championships has changed. Club quotas have been communicated. See [memo](#) for further information.

Reminders

- All competitors will be utilising **Live Heats** at branch carnivals and all state events. All competitors at these events will require a Live Heats wrist band to compete. Additional wristbands can be purchased via shop@sls.com.au
- All Branch level carnivals and above must be advised to the State Operations Centre (SOC@surflifesaving.com.au) **in advance of the carnival date** (i.e. type, age groups, expected numbers).
- Branch and Local Carnival Safety & Emergency Management Coordinators **must sign on/off with the State Operations Centre using call sign 'Carnival & [Location]'** for all carnivals and events they are overseeing. This protocol extends to all Special Events a club may be involved with.
- **Special Events** (any activity which is not specifically described in the Surf Sports manual (SSM) e.g. ocean swims, water safety/first aid for sports/ community events run by other organisations etc.) may only proceed if approved as a Special Event. The level and type of insurance coverage and/or limitations will be advised as part of the approval process.
- **Working with Children Checks** are required for coaches and officials who volunteer (or are likely to volunteer) with members under the age of 18 for more than 5 days in a calendar year. The [WWCC requirement flowchart](#) has been updated to provide more clarity around water safety members and their need to complete a WWCC.
- Coaches and Officials are required to have completed the online SLS **Child Safe Awareness (18 years +) course**. This requirement will be checked by SLSNSW during the reaccreditation process.
- All coaching and official **re-accreditation documentation** is to be sent to ssaccreditations@surflifesaving.com.au.

- SLSNSW are running Surf Sports Workshops to help clubs establish Surf Sports Programs and also upskill and accredit coaches and officials. See **Key Dates** section below. If you are interested, please email surfsports@surflifesaving.com.au.

Relevant Links

- [Surf Sports Weekly](#) – subscribe to the weekly electronic newsletter for all sport-related information, including SLSNSW and SLSA Sport Circulars and Memos.
- [Surf Sports Manual](#) – to access the online Surf Sports Manual.
- [Surf Sports Event Calendar](#) – the SLSNSW Sports Team and Branch Directors of Surf Sport are progressing on a state-wide surf sport calendar. We hope to publicise the 2026/27 SLSNSW Surf Sports Calendar in the coming weeks.
- [Live Heats Device Guide](#) – to access hardware requirements for the implementation of Live Heats technology to improve your club and branch carnival on-beach experience.
- [SLSA Live Heats Entry System](#) – to access user guides, webinars & FAQs for individual entries, team entries, event organisers & club management.
- [SLSA IT Helpdesk](#) – to access SurfGuard User Guides and log a support ticket.
- [Special Event Application Form](#) – to access the application forms for 'member only' and 'public involvement' Special Events. See 'Club Management' section above for further information about Special Events. Approval must be provided by your branch and by SLSNSW prior to engaging in any Special Events to ensure that insurance coverage is in place.
- [Officials](#) and [Coaches Reaccreditation Forms](#) – to access the reaccreditation forms.
- [SLSNSW Junior Activity Manual](#) – for information about competition eligibility requirements for juniors.

Key Tasks

- ☐ Ensure your club's officials and coaches accreditation is up to date if their accreditation period is ending on 31 December 2026 (see **Relevant Links** section).
- ☐ Ensure members' awards, proficiencies and patrol hours are updated in SurfGuard by 31 December relevant to their age group to compete.
- ☐ Ensure your branch has procured the relevant hardware to utilise the Live Heats platform (see **Relevant Links** section).
- ☐ Ensure your branch has an adequate supply of Live Heats wristbands prior to the start of the season (see **Reminders** section).
- ☐ Ensure your club's competitors have a Live Heats wrist band allocated to them.
- ☐ Encourage key personnel to subscribe to Surf Sports Weekly to keep up to date with all sport-related information (see **Relevant Links** section).



Key Dates

- Surf Sports Workshop – 8-9 August 2026 (Warilla Barrack Point)
- Surf Sports Workshop – 15-16 August 2026 (Tacking Point)
- SLSNSW Awards of Excellence – Saturday 22 August 2026 (Hyatt Regency, Sydney)
- Surf Sports Workshop – 12-13 September (Narooma)
- SLSNSW Interbranch Championships – 28-29 November 2026 (Caves Beach)
- SLSNSW Country Championships – 22-24 January 2027 (South West Rocks)
- SLSNSW Surf Lifesaving State Championships – 27 February-14 March 2027 (Swansea Belmont/ Caves Beach)
- SLSNSW Metropolitan/ Regional & Interseries Boat Championships – 20-21 March 2027 (Ocean Beach)

Membership

Key Changes

- SLSNSW has partnered with **The Duke of Edinburgh's Award** to recognise the volunteering, training, physical activity and leadership undertaken by members aged 13-25. Clubs interested in participating can submit an Expression of Interest and nominate a Duke of Ed Leader, with training and ongoing support provided.
- A new **Junior Activities Coordinator Course** will be available on the SLS eLearning platform in the coming months. The course covers the role of the JAC, activity planning and the delivery of safe and successful Nippers programs. Completion is required for all new Junior Activities Coordinators.
- SLSA has released a suite of resources and eLearning modules to help clubs communicate more effectively with people of all abilities and create more **inclusive beach and club environments**. Resources include communication tools, practical guidance and eight disability and inclusion eLearning modules.
- SLSA has clarified that it does not recommend the use of **high-risk aquatic play equipment** such as water trampolines and inflatable obstacle courses. Floating water mats (e.g. Lilly Pads) are included under SLSA insurance at no additional cost, provided they are used in accordance with certain conditions. See the [Junior Activities Manual](#) for more information.

Reminders

- **Peer Support Officers** continue to provide on-the-ground support following critical incidents, assisting Duty Officers with scene management, conducting well checks post-incident, and referring members to professional support services where required.
- All patrol members aged 18 years+ are required to complete the **SLS Child Safe Awareness (18 years+)** course. Patrol members under 18 years are encouraged to complete the **SLS Child Safe Awareness (13-17 years)** course.
- **Special Events** (e.g. camps, fun days, come and try etc.) may only proceed if approved as a Special Event. The level and type of insurance coverage and/or limitations will be advised as part of the approval process.

- If you experience an issue with SurfGuard, the SLS Members Hub or Nipper Admin Function, please **lodge a ticket** with the [SLSA IT Help Desk](#). Reporting issues ensures the SLSA IT Team has the information needed to investigate and resolve them. Even if you think an issue has already been reported, your ticket can help establish its impact and extent.

Relevant Links

- [SLS Members Hub](#) – to access the SLS Member Online Store, SLS Document Library and eLearning platform.
- [Member Wellbeing and Post Incident Support](#) – for information on member wellbeing and support services, post-incident support processes, and SLSNSW's Peer Support Program.
- [Workers Compensation](#) – for information and support for members who have suffered an illness or injury while performing authorised surf lifesaving activities.
- [Member Development](#) – for information about member development programs run by SLSNSW and SLSA. This page also includes information relating to member engagement opportunities, including youth engagement.
- [Member Recognition](#) – the [Member Recognition Factsheet](#) summarises the new [SLSA Recognition & Appreciation Framework](#). This page also provides information about additional recognition opportunities.
- [Junior Activities Manual](#) – provides all information relevant to Junior Activities and the delivery of the nipper program. Links and downloadable resources (position descriptions, games manuals, Junior Activity Search and Rescue Kit Guidelines) are available on the [Junior Activity webpage](#).
- [Child Safe](#) – for access to Child Safe resources including the Club Child Safe Risk Management Document and Child Safe Activity Planning Guide.
- [Working with Children Check Requirements](#) – for information on Working with Children Checks (WWCCs).
- [Office of the Children's Guardian](#) – clubs must verify all Working with Children Checks through the Employer Portal on the Office of Children's Guardian's website before the details are entered into SurfGuard.

- [Youth Engagement and Duke of Edinburgh Award](#) – access to information for Youth members, youth coordinators as well as resources to support the delivery of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Key Tasks

- ☐ Ensure that WWCCs are verified with the Office of Children's Guardian and that verification details are recorded in SurfGuard.
- ☐ Ensure that any expired WWCCs are renewed.
- ☐ Ensure that Age Managers have completed their training (including the annual Age Manager Video) to remain current.



Key Dates

- SLSNSW Awards of Excellence – Saturday 22 August 2026 (Hyatt Regency, Sydney)
- Branch Junior Activity Pre-season meetings – August-September 2026
- EOI for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Program Pilot – 01 September 2026
- 18-25 Programs (Sydney YHA) – Dates TBC
- Junior Lifesaver of the Year Program – April 2026
- Emerging Volunteer Leader Programs – Dates TBC