

Technical Official Learner Guide and FAQ

July 2024



Introduction

Technical Officials ensure that surf sports events are conducted in a safe and secure environment, within current rules and regulations. Roles for Technical Official at Club/Branch/State Surf Sport Competitions may include Marshall/Check-Marshall/Starter/Check-starter/Recorder/Timekeeper/Finish Judge and a range of other positions. Participants will be aged 16 years and older. Technical Officials may officiate at events for competitors of all ages.

Step 1: Course Allocation

Congratulations, you have decided that you would like to become a Technical Official.

- Login to the [SLS Members Area](#) > Click on eLearning > Training Library > SLS – Officiating (view courses) > Technical Official > Purchase
- You will receive an email from 'etrainu LMS' once you have been allocated a course
- Contact your State/Territory for more information on how to enrol in the Technical Official course <https://sls.com.au/state-centres/>

Some states conduct beach assessments before the online theory modules. Please confirm with your Club/Branch/State regarding the sequence of course elements.

Additionally, note that some Clubs/Branches/States offer online learning in a face-to-face group format. Ensure you understand the method of completion before starting. If you prefer to complete it independently, that is also acceptable.

Step 2: Obtain Working with Children Check (WWCC)/Working with Vulnerable People Check (WWVP) or check currency

- The requirements for WWCC/WWVP are slightly different in each State/Territory. To determine what they are for your situation, please click [here](#).
- Once the requirements for your State/Territory are complete, please provide your SLS Club with your WWCC/WWVP number so this may be recorded in SurfGuard.
- Contact your State/Territory if you are unsure of the requirements.

Step 3: Child Safe Awareness Course

- Officials may be required to complete the SLS Child Safe Awareness Course. Please check with your Branch/State or Territory on this requirement.
- The SLS Child Safe Awareness Course is in the [SLS Members Area](#) > Click on eLearning > SLS – Safety and Wellbeing > SLS – Child Safe Awareness.

Step 4: Complete Module 1 - Australian Sports Commission's (ASC) Community Officiating Essential Skills

- The Community Officiating Essential Skills course is Module 1 of the SLS Technical Official course. The online course has been developed to assist officials in learning the basic skills they will need to officiate effectively.
- Log into the [SLS Members Area](#) > eLearning > My Training > Technical Official > Australian Sports Commission's Community Officiating Essential Skills > View Slides > Start > Click the link button.
- You will be taken to [Australian Sport Learning Centre](#) (external website) > Log In or Create New Account > Officials Essential Skills Go > Complete: Community Officiating Essential Skills course (no fee).
- Upon completion, take note of the certificate number located at the bottom of the certificate.
- Log back into the [SLS Members Area](#) > eLearning > My Training > Technical Official > ASC Community Officiating Essential Skills > View Slides > Take Assessment > Complete Question 1 and 2 (enter certificate number) > Submit.

Step 5: Complete the Online Theory Modules

- Login to the [SLS Members Area](#) > click on eLearning > My Training > SLS – Technical Official
- Complete the following course modules at your own pace:
 - Technical Official Module 2 – Being an SLS Technical Official
 - Technical Official Module 3a – Technical Official in Action (Marshall/Check Marshall)
 - Technical Official Module 3b – Technical Official in Action (Starter/Check Starter)
 - Technical Official Module 3c – Technical Official in Action (Timekeeper, Finish Judge, Recorder)
- Upon successful completion of the course, you will automatically be allocated SLS “SS - Technical Official (Online Theory Modules)” award.

Step 6: Enquire about a Face-to-Face Workshop/Officiating Session

- Once you have completed the ASC Community Officiating Essential Skills course and SLS online Technical Official Modules, please contact your Club/Branch/State to arrange attendance at a face-to-face workshop/officiating session.
- Your Club/Branch/State will take you through a face-to-face workshop/officiating session (duration is dependent on each Club/Branch/State).

Step 7: Complete On-The-Job Assessments

- Request to officiate in the three positions in which you must be assessed. You must complete the three positions over a minimum of two days, or two surf sports events i.e. three positions in two days/events.
- Ensure you take your Technical Official Assessment Portfolio (located in the SLS Members Area > Document Library on those days).
- A Technical or Senior Official organised by your Club/Branch/State will complete the on-beach assessments, and if you are deemed competent in each role, sign off on that assessment.
- When all assessments are completed, make sure you have completed all elements of the course listed in this document and give your Assessment Portfolio to your Club/Branch/State. You will be allocated the SS - Technical Official award and your officiating badge/card will be posted to you.

Step 8: Begin Officiating

- As a Technical Official, you may officiate at all levels in the discipline that you have been assessed on, but with mentoring you can also explore other disciplines and roles.

FAQs

Is Core Official a prerequisite for Technical Official?

- No. Core Official is an entry level course where participants will be aged 16+ and will generally be non-bronze proficient.
Core Official is designed to be a quick and easy course for those wanting to officiate **at junior surf sports events (up to U15)**.

Is Technical Official a pre-requisite for Senior Official?

- Yes

What is the difference between a Core Official and Technical Official?

- Core Official accreditation allows you to officiate at any carnival and competition, including State Championships, where up to and including under 15 years age categories are conducted. Officiating roles are limited to Marshall, Recording Judge, Timekeeping Judge and Finish Judge.
- Technical Official accreditation allows you to officiate at junior level surf sport events and U15 to Open surf sport events. Officiating roles may include Marshall/Check-Marshall, Starter/Check-Starter, Recorder, Timekeeper, Finish Judge and other positions.

What do I do if I accidentally enrolled in the wrong course?

- Please email education@sls.com.au

How long does the Technical Official accreditation last for?

- All courses are accredited for four (4) years. Please ensure that you submit your reaccreditation by the end of the fourth year to maintain your accreditation. Officials are required to keep a record of their attendance and positions held at surf sports events and attain 100 points within a four (4) year period (please refer to the electronic logbook for more details).
- To reaccredit, complete the officiating reaccreditation form found on the [SLS Members Area](#) > Document Library.

Am I required to keep a logbook?

- Yes. At all levels, officials are required to record each surf sports event attended in the electronic logbook. This will be confirmed by the event referee/coordinator/officials logbook approver.

Where is the electronic logbook?

- The SLSA Officials Logbook is located on the [SLS Members Area](#) > Surf Sports > Add Official Attendance.
- The [SLSA Officials Logbook User Guide](#) is in the SLS Members Area > Document Library.

How long will it take for me to complete the course?

- Each online learning module is designed to take approximately 30 minutes.
- A face-to-face should take approximately two (2) hours and will generally be conducted at a carnival to provide you with on-the-job training.
- Your on beach assessments will take a minimum of two (2) surf sports event or days.

How much does it cost? How do I pay?

- Each State/Territory differs in price. Payment can be made with credit/debit card in the [SLS Members Area](#) > eLearning. You will receive an invoice to your email address once payment has been processed.

I haven't received the receipt for my course. Where is it?

- All officiating courses are linked to your SLS membership profile. Your receipt will be emailed to the email registered in profile. Please ensure your email is up to date in the SLS Members Area, and check your junk or spam folders.

The online course starts at Module 2. Where is Module 1?

- Module 1, is the Australian Sports Commission's Community Officiating Essential Skills course. Please refer to step 3.

I've got to the last slide, however it won't let me complete the course

- Make sure that you have opened every slide in the course and that you have completed all the questions, clicked all tiles/icons and watched each video to the end.

Where can I find my Official's license number?

Log into the [SLS Members Area](#) > Memberships > Awards > SS – Technical Official > Award Number. Your Award Number is your license number.

Where can I find the expiry date of my Officials qualification?

- Log into the [SLS Members Area](#) > Memberships > Awards > SS – Technical Official > Expiry Date.

If I would like a copy of my SLS certificate of completion, where can I find it?

- Log into the [SLS Members Area](#) > click on eLearning > My Training > scroll down to Completed Courses > SLS – Technical Official > Click on Certifications > Certification 1.

How do I locate my Australian Sports Commission Community Officiating Essential Skills Certificate?

- Log into the Australian Sports Commissions Learning Centre <https://learning.ausport.gov.au/login/index.php>
- OFFICIALS Essential Skills Go > Click on Go.
- Scroll to the bottom of the page, click on 'Community Officiating Essential Skills Certificate > View certificate.

Where can I find the Surf Sports Manual?

The Surf Sports Manual can be found in two locations:

- www.sls.com.au/ssm
- [SLS Members Area](#) > Document Library > Organisation – Surf Life Saving Australia > Search – Surf Sports Manual (PDF copy)

What other courses would further increase my knowledge as an official?

- The Australian Sports Commission has a wide range of resources available for officials [Officiating | Australian Sports Commission \(ausport.gov.au\)](#) and [Building strong relationships – Community Officiating Essential Skills \(youtube.com\)](#)
- Sport Integrity Australia have a range of courses such as Complaint Handling located <https://elearning.sportintegrity.gov.au/>

If you require technical assistance with the SLS Members Area or with the online training process, consult the *SLS eLearning User Guide* available on the [SLS IT Helpdesk website](#).