



SURF LIFE SAVING SYDNEY BRANCH

SLS Sydney 2026 Branch Championships – Final Bulletin

Title: Sydney Surf Lifesaving 2026 Branch Championships
Date: 29/1/2026
This document contains the relevant information for the Sydney Surf Lifesaving 2026 Branch Championships to be held at South Maroubra, 30 th & 31 st January 2026 and Elouera/Wanda 7 th & 8 th February 2026.

DISTRIBUTION OF THIS BULLETIN

It is most important that the information in this Circular be brought to the attention of carnival officials, team managers, coaches and competitors. Non-receipt of this circular will not be taken as an excuse if a club, team or individual does not comply with the requirements outlined in this and other circulars which refer to the 2026 Sydney Branch Championships.

IMPORTANT DATES

JANUARY 2026		
Friday 30 th January	5.00pm	Championships Day 1: Champion Lifesaver (Theory/Resus/ Live Patient)
Saturday 31 st January	7.00am	Championships Day 2: Beach Runs, Champion Lifesaver, Champion First Aid, R&R, Belts, Adaptive, U9's & U10s Beach Events, Board Riding
FEBRUARY 2026		
Saturday 7 th February	7:30am	Championships Day 3: Opens and Masters, Boats, March Past JLOTY Presentation
Sunday 8 th February	7:30am	Championships Day 4: Age Championships U9s& U10s Water, All events U11s to U14s

ENTRIES

Please be advised there are no late entries. Any amendments to entries are only allowed for competitors already entered in the events.

Team Managers will be required to make team changes direct through LiveHeats. Team Changes will not be accepted at Central Control.

Please refer to the Live Heats Team Managers Guide for further information. Changes to the composition of teams can occur until marshalling commences via Live Heats.

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LYCRA VESTS

Clubs will need to contact the office to arrange collection.

LIVE HEATS

Live Heats will be used at the Sydney Branch Championships, and all competitors must have a Live Heats wristband. The only **exceptions** to this are Boat and March Past Competitors. Live Heats will still be used for these events for marshalling and overall results, but no bands are needed.

Athletes must bring their assigned Live Heats wristband and must marshal in person, for all events.

All registered relay teams **MUST** have correct names listed in Live Heats. Each team member will be tapped on and any name that does not match the team manager will need to make changes to Live Heats in order for that team to compete. Marshalls will not be making any team changes.

Replacement wristbands will be available for purchase at a cost of \$11.00 at Central Control on the beach at both South Maroubra and Elouera/Wanda. These prices include GST. No cash, payment is electronic only. No invoices to clubs will be issued.

CENTRAL CONTROL

There will be a central control area set up on the beach each day of the championships. The area will be identified with large red flags. Maps also indicate the location of Central Control.

This area is where team managers can receive assistance with live heats, wrist bands, entries and any general enquiries.

This area is where all water safety, first aid and power craft will need to sign on and off each day.

PROTEST/APPEALS

All protests shall be lodged with the appropriate carnival official in accordance with the procedures outlined in the current edition of the SLSA Surf Sports Manual and shall identify the specific sections/clauses in the Surf Sports Manual upon which the protest is based.

Protest/Appeal Forms will be readily available from the Competitor Liaison Officers located in the various competition areas. A cash fee of \$150.00 AUD per appeal (incl. GST), must be paid to lodge an appeal with the Appeals Committee. Should the appeal be successful, the fee will be refunded.

COMPETITORS

- While every effort will be made to avoid clashes in the timetable, athletes will have to decide to contest one or the other.
- All athletes must marshal in person, for all events
- All Athletes need to be marked with their age group and Team Letter or Team Name that has been entered into Live Heats i.e. (A) or (B) or Blue, White, Red.

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LIFESAVING EVENTS

All clubs and competitors are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the procedures for these events. Clubs must ensure that their attire complies with the requirements outlined in the Surf Sports Manual

- The sequence of events for the beach and water activities will align with the standard carnival schedule in the respective areas and will be communicated to the Lifesaving Championship competitors by the Lifesaving Sectional Referee on the day of the event.
- Equipment - Competitors and clubs are required to supply their own rescue boards, tubes, manikins, swim fins, and any additional equipment as necessary (please refer to the Surf Sports Manual). Additionally, competitors and clubs must provide manikins, plastic bags, cleaning solutions, masks, and pens.
- Competitors will be required to bring their rescue tube on Friday night where they will be scrutinised and kept secure until Competition on Saturday 31st January. Please ensure that they are clearly marked with your name and or club.
- The Theory paper will be an online version, so each competitor will be required to bring a device of some form (preferably a laptop or tablet) with them to complete this component of their event. Please arrive in time to connect to Wi-Fi if required. It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure they can access the paper.
- Competitors will need to make sure they have their login ID and password for the SLSA Hub with them as the theory will be accessed via the eLearning platform that same as Skills Maintenance.

BOATS

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 Surf Life Saving Sydney Championships

- "Double dipping" (i.e., competing in more than one division or age category of rowing) by crews will not be permitted at the 2026 SLSS Branch Surf Boat Championships. Exceptions to this condition are as follows:
- Sweep Oarsmen may continue to compete in multiple divisions and age categories but, as per existing SLSA rules, shall only compete in a particular division or category once irrespective of whether they are sweeping or rowing.
- Individual rowers from an age crew who are also competing with another crew (i.e., not the same four (4) rowers) in an older age category are permitted to row in a second category at the Championships provided that the other crew members are not also doubling up to form separate crews.
- Should a member of any crew become indisposed they may be replaced subject to approval of the Carnival Referee provided they comply with the requirements for the event.
- If an U19 or U23 competitor is rowing in an older age category made up of mixed age groups, they can continue to row in that older age category even if their own individual age division is suspended or cancelled. However, a crew made up entirely of rowers from suspended or cancelled age or gender group(s) shall not be permitted to compete.

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IRON PERSON ORDER

- For Age Championships and U15 it will be Swim - Board
- U17, U19, Open & master's will be drawn at the officials briefing on Saturday morning at Elouera SLSC

MARCH PAST

We would like each club to have at least one (1) March Past team competing or provide a "Colour Party" to be part of the Opening Ceremony.

This event will start at 7:30am so "Colour Party" pairs will need to marshal on the beachfront at Wanda SLSC at 7:15am.

OFFICIALS

Official appointments have been published and will continue to be updated as positions are filled. We are still in need of officials for Saturday 7th February at Wanda/Elouera. Any clubs who have officials willing to assist please contact Jamie Vueti, sydoofficials@sls.sydney. No new officials will be signed off at the Branch Championships. All officials must be accredited and have submitted a nomination form.

All Officials should check their appointments, as there have been many changes and ensure they understand their appointed role and responsibilities. All Officials should be familiar with Section 13 'Officials and their Duties' of the current Surf Sport Manual.

Officials Briefing:

There will be a briefing for senior officials each morning of competition for each championship during the Officials Breakfast. Sectional Referees will brief officials in their respective areas.

What to bring:

Please find a few essential items you will need to bring daily:

- Water Bottle (we won't provide plastic water bottles for environmental reasons. Please bring along a reusable water bottle to fill up throughout the day. There will be plenty of water refill stations.)
- Sunscreen
- Wet Weather Gear
- Bettys Burger Official Shirt
- Sydney SLS Blue Hat or appropriate sun protection
- Official name badge
- Note book – Pen/Pencil
- All Breakfast, morning tea, lunch will be supplied by Sydney branch.

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WATER SAFETY

Age Championships

Clubs will be rostered on to assist with water safety and have been notified of their requirements. If clubs do not provide rostered water safety as per their notified requirements, Surf Life Saving Sydney will stand down all athletes from that club from competition until such time as the required are present. All water safety must sign on and off at Central Control. A Sydney Branch water safety shirt will be provided and needs to be returned after each shift. Orange caps must be worn, and each club is to supply their own equipment with at least 1 rescue board and all others with rescue tubes. Please note that there must be a combination of both pieces of equipment.

Each club will need to ensure that at least two (2) of their water safety team are SMAR trained personnel. They will form the SMAR team if required. Each club must nominate two (2) SMAR representatives, and they will need to advise Central Control on Sunday 8th February at sign on. A briefing will be held prior to competition.

Each area will have an appointed water safety supervisor who will be responsible for the water safety team in their area. Directions will be given by this supervisor to the appointed club water safety team leader.

Open/Masters

There is no requirement for water safety however we must have a SMAR team appointed. Each club competing must nominate a SMAR representative, and they will need to report to Central Control on Saturday 7th February and sign in. A briefing will be held prior to competition.

FIRST AID

Clubs will be rostered on to provide a First Aid Team and equipment. Clubs will be notified of their requirements. If clubs do not provide rostered First Aid as per their notified requirements, Surf Life Saving Sydney will stand down all athletes from that club from competition until such time as the required First Aid are present. All First Aid Officers must sign on and off at Central Control.

The visiting club is to provide the following:

- Full Patrol First Aid Kit x 1
- Full Oxy Kit x 1
- Equipped Bum Bag per team member

POWERCRAFT

Clubs will be rostered on to assist with IRB carnival water safety. Clubs will be notified of their requirements. If clubs do not provide rostered IRB personnel as per their notified requirements, Surf Life Saving Sydney will stand down all athletes from that club from competition until such time as the required are present. All Power Craft Drivers and Crew must sign on and off at Central Control.

- IRB Driver & Crews are required to be in place at their respective rostered times
- Host Club will supply IRBs whilst other clubs rostered need to supply their own PFD, sunscreen & any other items they wish to bring along. IRB crews will be rotated between areas during the carnival.

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ACCESS TO COMPETITION AREAS

The competition area will be set-up each day and we ask clubs not to set up tents until this has occurred. Tents will be provided in competition areas for competitors where possible.

Only competitors will be allowed in the competition area, and team managers when required. No coaches or spectators are allowed in the area. Once marshalled only competitors and officials are to remain in the area.

All craft is to be kept out of the area until required.

PRESENTATIONS

There will be no formal presentations at the championships apart from selected events where they will be presented by VIP's. All other events will be presented in each competition area at the conclusion of each race.

South Maroubra – the podium will be set up in front of the surf club for those wishing to have photos and for formal presentations

Elouera - the podium will be set up in front of the surf club for those wishing to have photos and for formal presentations on the Saturday (7th Feb) and will be near Central Control on the Sunday.

MEDALS – COMPETITORS OUTSIDE BRANCH

If a competitor from outside Sydney Branch places in a medal position, the next Sydney competitor will also receive that medal.

ie; Sydney Club 1st, outside competitor 2nd, Sydney club 3rd, Sydney club 4th, there will be one gold, two silvers (3rd becomes 2nd), one bronze (4th becomes 3rd)

Competitors from outside branch do not receive any points.

POINTSCORE

- Events will only be conducted and medals/points gained with 3 or more competitors and/or teams entered in that event. The Point score will be finalised at the conclusion of ALL Branch Championship Events.
- The Open point score will include Water, Beach, Boats, U15 – Open R&R, Belts, Board Riding, U23 and Open March Past events.
- A Masters point score will include Water, Beach, Board Riding and Boat events.
- A Lifesaving point score will include Champion Life Saver (Age, Open & Masters) and Champion First Aid.
- An Adaptive point score will include water and beach events
- Age point score will include Water, Beach, Junior R&R, Junior March Past, Board Riding
- The point system will work as follows: 6 points for 1st place and then down to 6th place which will be awarded 1 point. In the case of a tie, they will be awarded the same points, and the next place will drop a position

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DRONES

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

MEDIA

Photography & Media Photography: As a condition of entry, all competitors agree to have photos and video taken during the Championships used for promotional material by SLSS. SLSS will not be issuing media/photography accreditation to team members or team management. Professional photographers will be attending, and material will be available via social media and to Clubs on request. Clubs are welcome to take photographs from outside the competition area. Go Pro's may only be used within the competition area on approved fittings and fixtures as set out in relevant SLSA bulletins.

Media: No competitor, team manager, official or spokesperson for a club shall make media statements which could bring the Championship, its sponsors, or officials into controversy or disrepute. Such statements will be a breach of policy and could potentially result in sanctions against members involved. Please note that statements to the media regarding about the Championships will be made only by approved authorised spokespeople.

CONTINGENCY

If the surf and/or weather conditions prevent the program being conducted as scheduled, a decision will be made by the Competition Committee as to contingency arrangements.

If it is deemed that there is no contingency available, only events that are the Age and Open qualifying events, will be conducted as detailed by the competition committee.

In the event the Championships are either cancelled, or the program amended, prior to the day, the event details will be emailed to Club Presidents and Secretaries and placed on the Surf Life Saving Sydney website and Facebook page.

WILDCARD APPLICATIONS

Surf Life Saving Sydney acknowledges the fact that some competitors may not be able to compete at the Branch Age Championships due to extenuating circumstances. An application must be completed prior to marshalling of the Iron person event via online form or manual form available from Central Control.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Any misconduct while at the Championships will not be tolerated. This includes the days leading into competition and any official social activities following the conclusion of the Championship. Offending members risk disciplinary action against both themselves, and their Clubs. 10 Parents or supporters, particularly those appointed as Officials, are not allowed to assist competitors during the competition. Any breach of this policy may result in the disqualification of an athlete and/or club from the remainder of the competition and is at the discretion of the Referee. Parents or supporters must also understand that they are role models for young athletes. Clubs should make sure that parents and supporters understand that abuse of officials, other competitors or clubs will not be tolerated. Team Managers and Club Presidents should ensure that their parents and supporters understand their role at this competition and that expected standards of behaviour are clearly explained. Please refer to 38th Edition Surf Sports Manual sections 2.27 SLSA Code of Behaviour and 2.28 Abuse/Inappropriate Behaviour and the Policy 6.05 – Member Protection Policy (available online at Members Area > Library > Governance > Policy > SLSA > Policy 6.05).

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