



## ANNOUNCEMENT

<b>TO:</b>	Club Presidents, Club Secretaries, Club Captains, Club CTOs CC: BOM LSRSC, EC, SSC, Y&JDC, MSC
<b>FROM:</b>	Director Education
<b>DATE:</b>	Monday, 19 January 2026
<b>PAGES:</b>	3
<b>NUMBER:</b>	32: 2025/26
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Gold Medallion Award Assessment EOIs Open March 2026
<b>OVERVIEW:</b>	The aim of this award is to provide lifesavers with a benchmark of fitness and endurance that meets the minimum requirement for work in the professional lifeguard industry. Note : this is not an employment qualification. If you are interested in working as a professional lifeguard you may be expected to undergo other training requirements.

Sydney Branch scheduled two (2) assessment opportunities as per calendar for members to complete the Gold Medallion Award Assessment and/or skills maintenance this season. Registrations from Clubs for the last opportunity for this season – March 2026 are now open.

**Assessment #2 March 2026 (new award & skills maintenance)**

**Saturday 7 March 2026 – Randwick/Waverley venue (TBC)**

**Closing date Registrations Wednesday 4 February 2026**

**Registration link <https://form.jotform.com/260177618576871>**

**Clubs please ensure only those members eligible who meet ALL award pre reqs are submitted to Branch Office. Clubs can do an ‘assessment candidate qualifications check’ in Surfguard of your members before registration.**

**Candidate numbers will be capped to a total of 20 including Assessors and Water Safety per group. Pending responses – beach location size – assessor availability we may be able to have 2 groups for assessment on the same day – but this is not confirmed. Clubs & candidates will be advised after registration closing date of final arrangements.**

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## UNIT OF COMPETENCY

This award is aligned to the nationally recognised unit of competency

- PUASAR017 Undertake advanced surf rescue

This unit is part of the PUA30319 Certificate III in Public Safety (Aquatic Search and Rescue). You can apply for the unit of competency and the Certificate III in Public Safety through your state centre.

## PRE REQUISITES

To be eligible to attempt a Gold Medallion assessment, candidates will need to:

- be at least 17 years old on the date of assessment
- hold and be proficient in all of the following SLSA awards:
  - Bronze Medallion
  - First Aid
  - Advanced Resuscitation Techniques
  - Silver Medallion Patrol Captain or Silver Medallion Beach Management

## ASSESSMENT

To be deemed competent in the Gold Medallion candidates will need to complete all of the following activities :

- swim 800m in under 14 minutes in an open water course not more than 400 m in length (the course should be set around a single buoy so that candidates have to swim the same track but in different directions) or a swimming pool of no less than 25 m in length, unaided and in freestyle. **(this task Sydney Branch would ask be conducted prior to Gold Medallion assessment day and proof of timed swim via the jotform link [Swim Time Proof Form Gold Medallion](#). Time pool swims are to be overseen by an endorsed Assessor and signed off by an endorsed Assessor and are to be completed within the time frame of date of this circular and final assessment date.**
- complete a mission test of a 400 m swim, 800 m run, 400 m board paddle, 800 m run in under 25 minutes
- complete a tube rescue of an unconscious patient 100 m out at sea (use of fins preferred)
- complete a board rescue of a novice swimmer 200 m out at sea
- perform a complex patient rescue, including selecting equipment, returning patient to shore and treating patient appropriately and completing post-operational requirements

Candidates must display 'a sense of urgency' equal to a real situation in all rescue activities (tube, board and complex scenario).

## Who Can Assess?

Assessor Gold Medallion - endorsed as per state requirements annually. Surf Life Saving Sydney will appoint the Gold Medallion Assessors for our scheduled assessment dates.

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## Assessment

Assessment is through practical demonstration of all the skills listed in the Assessment Criteria above.

## Proficiency Requirements

This award is valid for only 12 months. The whole assessment must be undertaken again each year for the award to remain current.

## Registration Process

Clubs are to register their eligible candidates for the **Assessment dates via registration links on page 1 of this circular.**

Those members who are eligible to attend are asked to advise their Club Chief Training Officer/Club Captain or Club Administration of their interest. Clubs are to check the candidate meets all the award pre requisites before registering the member.

- Candidates are not to be registered for assessment of this award if they do not hold all of the award pre requisites and these are recorded in Surfguard on their member award record.
- Branch office will confirm to all Clubs and candidates via email after the closing date only those confirmed are eligible to attend the assessment.
- Once confirmed, Branch office will create new award Assessment request in Surfguard.
- Following the course, Clubs will be advised by the Branch Office of their successful candidates and the Branch will 'process results' and 'candidate approval steps of the Surfguard assessment process on behalf of the Clubs and their candidates.
- Clubs need to provide sufficient rescue boards and rescue tubes and other relevant equipment for their candidates to bring to assessment.
- Candidates are required to wear club competition cap and high vis singlet to assessment.
- Meeting point on assessment day for candidates will be advised by Branch office to candidates via communication closer to the date.
- **Evidence of the timed pool swims is to be completed and submitted by Club prior to assessment day**
- **Candidates will not be able to participate in the assessment without proof of the timed pool swim.**

Any enquiries, please contact the Branch Office [education@sls.sydney](mailto:education@sls.sydney)

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