



2026 AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE NOMINATION GUIDE



SURF LIFE SAVING SYDNEY AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

Recognising the outstanding achievements and contributions of our Members and Clubs across all aspects of Surf Life Saving. The 2025/26 Season awards presentation, will take place on;

RESCUE SERVICES

SAT 23.05.26

RESCUE SERVICES BASE, LUGARNO

JUNIOR

SAT 30.05.26

RITZ CINEMAS, RANDWICK

SENIOR & YOUTH

SAT 04.07.26

THE BRIGHTON HOTEL SYDNEY



EVENT & AWARDS INFORMATION

EVENT

RESCUE SERVICES

Date: Saturday 23 May 2026
Location: Rescue Services Base, Lugarno

JUNIOR / UNDER 15

Date: Saturday 30 May 2026
Location: Ritz Cinemas, Randwick
Time: 2-6pm

SENIOR / YOUTH

Date: Saturday 4 July 2026
Location: The Brighton Hotel Sydney
Time: 6-11pm

AWARDS

GENERAL

Clubs may submit one (1) nomination only per category by
11.59 pm Wednesday 29 April 2026

RESCUE SERVICES

A Member or Club may submit nominations by
11.59 pm Saturday 2 May 2026

SURF SPORTS

Clubs may submit one (1) nomination only per category by
11.59 pm Wednesday 29 April 2026

**NOMINATE
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GENERAL CONDITIONS

NOTES

- All nominees must be SLSA financial members (or affiliated organisations). Nominations should focus on activities during the 2025/26 Surf Life Saving season, from 1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026.
- Where ages are mentioned, this refers to the members age as at 30 September 2025 in the 2025/26 season.
- Winners may be called upon to act as ambassadors of Surf Life Saving, both within the organisation and to external audiences.
- Team events and teams for Surf Life Saving Sydney and Surf Life Saving NSW State will not be considered for nomination for these awards.

GUIDELINES

- Applicants are required to complete and submit an online nomination form by **11:59pm Wednesday 29 April 2026** for General, Juniors and Surf Sports award categories. Applicants nominating for Rescue Services awards are required to submit an online nomination by **11:59pm on 2 May 2026**.
- Nominations will not be accepted via email or post. Applicants to contact Branch Office as soon as possible if they experience issues with the JotForm link.
- Applicants must address the criteria for their nominated award.
- Nominations are required to include a digital profile image of the nominee (for individual awards) or logo (for group/team awards) via the online nomination form. Please ensure all nominee photographs are from the shoulders up and are of high resolution. Branch Office will contact the Nominators if the supplied photo is not suitable.

SELECTION PROCESS

- Nominees for the Club of the Year, Surf Lifesaver of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, Young Surf Lifesaver of the Year and Young Volunteer of the Year will be invited to participate in an online interview following the close of nominations. Details of which will be available following the close of nominations.
- The selection panel will determine a winner from both a review of the application and the interview.
- Nominees from the remaining awards will be determined by a volunteer selection panel and will involve a review of applications.
- Selection panels will consist of both relevant committee members and independent members

WINNERS

- Winners of Awards listed in the 'SLSS Awards' list will be nominated for the SLSNSW Awards of Excellence.
 - As SLSS categories are aligned with SLSNSW/SLSA selection criteria, winners are not expected to resubmit applications.
 - SLSS may review successful nominations prior to submitting to SLSNSW based on feedback from SLSNSW in previous years.
- ### NEW IN 2026
- Young Lifesaver of the Year, previously known as Youth Lifesaver of the Year
 - Young Volunteer of the Year, previously known as Youth Volunteer of the Year
 - Young Volunteer of the Year is now recognised at a National Level, rather than only at a State level
 - The Innovation of the Year and the Community Education Program of the Year awards have been retired.
 - Introduction of a new Community Engagement of the Year award.



CLUB & COMMUNITY AWARDS



CLUB & COMMUNITY AWARDS (GENERAL)

NOMINATE
HERE

CLUB OF THE YEAR

Recognising an outstanding Surf Life Saving Sydney affiliated club that is committed to improving the experience of its members, providing a safer environment for the community, and improving club operations.



QUESTIONS/SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Tell us the story of your club.
 - What defines your culture, purpose and community impact?
 - Share your club's journey, what you stand for, and the moments that best reflect who you are today.
2. What are the most significant achievements your club has delivered in the 2025/26 season?
 - Outline key initiatives, programs or milestones across lifesaving, sport, membership, governance, community engagement or innovation.
 - Where possible, include measurable outcomes or evidence of success.
3. Why did these achievements matter?
 - Describe the difference they made, to volunteers, members, patrol operations, your local community or the broader Surf Life Saving movement.
 - How did you engage and bring members along the journey to achieve this impact?
4. How is your club building for the future?
 - What are your priorities for sustainable growth, leadership development, inclusion, capability uplift and continuous improvement?
 - How are you ensuring long-term success beyond this season?
5. What is one lesson your club can share with other Surf Life Saving Clubs both in Australia and Internationally?
 - Reflect on a key insight, innovation or approach that others could learn from, and explain why it has been effective.



CONSIDER

- Alignment to Strategy: How does your club's work contribute to the priorities and objectives of the Surf Life Saving Australia 2030 Strategic Plan? Provide specific examples of alignment and impact.
- Innovation and Strategic Delivery: What new initiatives, programs or events were implemented during the 2025/26 season to advance your strategic goals? How did you identify the need or opportunity, and how were outcomes measured?
- Sustainability and Continuous Improvement: How does your club embed sustainable practices and improvement measures across governance, leadership development, member capability, community engagement and the delivery of lifesaving services?
- Overcoming Challenges: What key challenges or barriers did your club face this season (e.g. resourcing, environmental, membership, operational), and how were they navigated to achieve success?
- Culture and Leadership: How does your club's management team and leadership group model positive behaviours, inclusive practices and a supportive culture? Provide examples that demonstrate this in action.
- Supporting Evidence: You are encouraged to attach supporting materials such as videos, photographs, testimonials, reference letters or media coverage that validate your submission.

Continued on next page

AWARD WINNERS

SLSS Winners Progress
to SLSNSW AOE



NEW SOUTH
WALES

SLSNSW Winners
Progress to SLSA AOE





CLUB & COMMUNITY AWARDS (GENERAL)

**NOMINATE
HERE**

CLUB OF THE YEAR

Recognising an outstanding Surf Life Saving Sydney affiliated club that is committed to improving the experience of its members, providing a safer environment for the community, and improving club operations.



SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

The following attachments should be uploaded to support the application:

- Club logo
- Club's strategic and/or operational plan
- Membership statistics for the last three (3) seasons (2023/24, 2024/25, 2025/26)
- A short club promotional video (to be used for SLSA media purposes)



OTHER CRITERIA

If your club has been a successful Club of the Year at Branch, State or National level in the past five (5) years, please note this on your submission.

AWARD WINNERS

SLSS Winners Progress to SLSNSW AOE



**NEW SOUTH
WALES**

SLSNSW Winners Progress to SLSA AOE





CLUB & COMMUNITY AWARDS (GENERAL)

NOMINATE
HERE

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OF THE YEAR

This award recognises outstanding, non-commercial programs, projects, or initiatives that demonstrate exceptional commitment to driving positive social change, promoting environmental sustainability, and/or advancing Diversity Equity & Inclusion. The initiative should significantly contribute to one or more SLSA's [strategic priorities](#).

To submit a nomination for this award, nominators are limited to a one page summary of your initiative which addresses the considerations outlined below. Further pages will not be considered.

The nominated program, project or initiative must have been delivered within the last 12 months; however, work contributing to its development in previous years will be considered.

QUESTIONS/SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Tell us about the initiative that is being nominated.
2. Describe the innovative or creative approach used in this initiative.
3. How has this initiative engaged with communities and responded to their needs throughout its development and implementation?
4. How has the initiative benefited the participants, the community and the organisation?
5. How has this initiative built meaningful partnerships, and fostered effective collaboration to achieve its goals?
6. How can this initiative be sustained over time, and what potential does it have to be scaled or adapted to benefit other clubs?



SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

The one-page summary will be the primary source of information. The following supporting materials are optional but can be uploaded:

- high resolution photos
- initiative logos

One piece of additional information may also be uploaded, such as:

- promotional material
- reference letter
- operational plans
- video of the initiative

AWARD WINNERS

SLSS Winners Progress
to SLSNSW AOE



NEW SOUTH
WALES

SLSNSW Winners
Progress to SLSA AOE





CLUB & COMMUNITY AWARDS (GENERAL)

**NOMINATE
HERE**

SERVICES TEAM OF THE YEAR

An outstanding team who have made a positive impact in Surf Life Saving or the community through their volunteer services.



QUESTIONS/SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Tell us about the Team being nominated.
2. What has been achieved?
3. What impact has this had, and for whom?



CONSIDER

1. What was the motivation or research which drove the team?
2. What were their aims and objectives?
3. What did it look like (location, duration, resources required etc.)?
4. How were they evaluated to ensure they achieved their aims and objectives?
5. Were there any challenges which needed to be overcome to achieve success?
6. You may wish to attach photographs, include links to any promotional material created or media coverage received.

AWARD WINNERS

SLSS Winners Progress
to SLSNSW AOE



**NEW SOUTH
WALES**



CLUB & COMMUNITY AWARDS (GENERAL)

**NOMINATE
HERE**

ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR

An Administrator who consistently goes the extra mile to make the lives of other members easier, or to make the services and programs delivered by the club run smoother.



QUESTIONS/SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Tell us about the member/individual being nominated.
2. What has been achieved?
3. What impact has this had, and for whom?



CONSIDER

1. What relevant positions, roles, or responsibilities do they hold?
2. Have they done something in response to an identified need or problem?
3. Have they done something new or different to achieve results?
4. Have they inspired others to think or to do things differently?
5. Have they had to overcome any challenges to make a difference or achieve success?
6. Do they model positive and supportive attitudes, behaviours and actions?

AWARD WINNERS

SLSS Winners Progress
to SLSNSW AOE



**NEW SOUTH
WALES**



LIFESAVING AWARDS



LIFESAVING AWARDS (GENERAL)



SURF LIFESAVER OF THE YEAR

An active patrolling member who has made an outstanding contribution to the delivery and development of surf lifesaving frontline services.

BETTY'S BURGERS YOUNG SURF LIFESAVER OF THE YEAR

An active patrolling member (between the ages of 15–21 as at 30 September 2025 in the 2025/26 season) who has made an outstanding contribution to the delivery and development of surf lifesaving frontline services.



QUESTIONS/SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Tell us about the member/individual being nominated.
2. What has been achieved?
3. What impact has this had, and for whom?



CONSIDER

1. What relevant positions, roles, or responsibilities do they hold?
2. Have they done something in response to an identified need or problem?
3. Have they done something new or different to achieve results?
4. Have they inspired others to think or to do things differently?
5. Have they had to overcome any challenges to make a difference or achieve success?
6. Do they model positive and supportive attitudes, behaviours and actions?



OTHER CRITERIA

• For Surf Lifesaver & Young Surf Lifesaver of the Year awards, nominations require patrol hours to be uploaded for the 2023/24, 2024/25, and 2025/26 season (extracted from Surf Guard).

AWARD WINNERS

SLSS Winners Progress to SLSNSW AOE



NEW SOUTH WALES

SLSNSW Winners Progress to SLSA AOE





LIFESAVING AWARDS (GENERAL)

**NOMINATE
HERE**

PATROL CAPTAIN OF THE YEAR

A Patrol Captain who is passionate about improving the service their patrol offers to the community, or the experience it offers to members.

PATROL OF THE YEAR

An exemplary Patrol that is a shining example of what a patrol should do (the service it provides), and how it should do it (the behaviour and attitude of its members).



QUESTIONS/SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Tell us about the member/individual being nominated.
2. What has been achieved?
3. What impact has this had, and for whom?



CONSIDER

1. What relevant positions, roles, or responsibilities do they hold?
2. Have they done something in response to an identified need or problem?
3. Have they done something new or different to achieve results?
4. Have they inspired others to think or to do things differently?
5. Have they had to overcome any challenges to make a difference or achieve success?
6. Do they model positive and supportive attitudes, behaviours and actions?

AWARD WINNERS

SLSS Winners Progress
to SLSNSW AOE
(except Patrol of the Year)



**NEW SOUTH
WALES**



EDUCATION AWARDS



EDUCATION AWARDS (GENERAL)

**NOMINATE
HERE**

ASSESSOR OF THE YEAR

An endorsed Assessor who is passionate about building the skills of others, consistently delivers a positive and supportive assessment experience, and who encourages other members to engage in training or assessment.

TRAINER OF THE YEAR

An endorsed Trainer who is passionate about building the skills of others, consistently delivers a positive learning experience, and who encourages other members to engage in the delivery of training.

FACILITATOR OF THE YEAR

A Facilitator who encourages members to engage in training or assessing, is passionate about building the skills of others, and consistently delivers a positive learning experience.



QUESTIONS/SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Tell us about the member/individual being nominated.
2. What has been achieved?
3. What impact has this had, and for whom?



CONSIDER

1. What relevant positions, roles, or responsibilities do they hold?
2. Have they done something in response to an identified need or problem?
3. Have they done something new or different to achieve results?
4. Have they inspired others to think or to do things differently?
5. Have they had to overcome any challenges to make a difference or achieve success?
6. Do they model positive and supportive attitudes, behaviours and actions?

AWARD WINNERS

SLSS Winners Progress
to SLSNSW AOE



**NEW SOUTH
WALES**

SLSNSW Winners
Progress to SLSA AOE
(except
Facilitator of the Year)





VOLUNTEER AWARDS



VOLUNTEER AWARDS (GENERAL)

**NOMINATE
HERE**

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

An impressive member who has made a difference through their volunteering efforts.

YOUNG VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

An impressive member (between the ages of 15-21, this refers to the members age as at 30 September 2025 in the 2025/26 season) who has made a difference through their volunteering efforts.



QUESTIONS/SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Tell us about the member/individual being nominated.
2. What has been achieved?
3. What impact has this had, and for whom?



CONSIDER

1. What relevant positions, roles, or responsibilities do they hold?
2. Have they done something in response to an identified need or problem?
3. Have they done something new or different to achieve results?
4. Have they inspired others to think or to do things differently?
5. Have they had to overcome any challenges to make a difference or achieve success?
6. Do they model positive and supportive attitudes, behaviours and actions?



OTHER CRITERIA

- Applications that focus on significant achievements in one particular area may not be considered if this area is also covered by other awards (e.g. Lifesaver, Coach, Official, Trainer and Assessor of the Year).
- Members eligible for Young Volunteer of the Year award are also eligible to nominate for Volunteer of the Year award.

AWARD WINNERS

SLSS Winners Progress
to SLSNSW AOE



**NEW SOUTH
WALES**

SLSNSW Winners
Progress to SLSA AOE





RESCUE SERVICES AWARDS



RESCUE SERVICES AWARDS

**NOMINATE
HERE**

RESCUE SERVICES MEMBER OF THE YEAR

A member involved in Rescue Services (Duty Officer, Rescue Water Craft, Surf Rescue 30, UAV) who has made a difference through volunteering efforts in rescue services.

DUTY OFFICER OF THE YEAR

A Duty Officer or Rescue Coordinator who has performed above and beyond the required standard and commitment required, representing SLS Sydney in a professional and well-regarded capacity at emergency incidents, training events/exercises and/or Emergency Operations Centre.



QUESTIONS/SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Tell us about the member/individual or team being nominated.
2. What has been achieved?
3. What impact has this had, and for whom?
4. For Rescue Services Member & Duty Officer of the year awards, any further supporting evidence that may assist nominees for consideration and a photo of nominee in uniform.



CONSIDER

1. What relevant positions, roles, or responsibilities do they hold?
2. Have they done something in response to an identified need or problem?
3. Have they done something new or different to achieve results?
4. Have they inspired others to think or to do things differently?
5. Have they had to overcome any challenges to make a difference or achieve success?
6. Do they model positive and supportive attitudes, behaviours and actions?

AWARD WINNERS

SLSS Winners Progress
to SLSNSW AOE
(except Duty Officer of the
Year)



**NEW SOUTH
WALES**



RESCUE SERVICES AWARDS

**NOMINATE
HERE**

RWC MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Patrol hours performed; completed all rostered patrols; external training or buddy system training; out of hours participation to call outs.

SURF RESCUE 30 MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Patrol hours performed; completed all rostered patrols; external training or buddy system training; out of hours participation to call outs.

UAV MEMBER OF THE YEAR

A UAV Pilot or Operator who has shown an outstanding commitment to the development of themselves and the UAV program, completing regular patrols, participating in training events/exercises and contributing to the development and innovation of the operations within Sydney Branch.



QUESTIONS/SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Tell us about the member/individual or team being nominated.
2. What has been achieved?
3. What impact has this had, and for whom?
4. For RWC, SR30 & UAV Member of the year awards, any further supporting evidence that may assist nominees for consideration + a photo of nominee in uniform



CONSIDER

1. What relevant positions, roles, or responsibilities do they hold?
2. Have they done something in response to an identified need or problem?
3. Have they done something new or different to achieve results?
4. Have they inspired others to think or to do things differently?
5. Have they had to overcome any challenges to make a difference or achieve success?
6. Do they model positive and supportive attitudes, behaviours and actions?



SURF SPORTS AWARDS



SURF SPORTS AWARDS

**NOMINATE
HERE**

MASTERS ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

An athlete over the age of 30 who has achieved sporting excellence.

ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

An athlete aged 15 or older who has achieved sporting excellence in Open Aged Competition.



QUESTIONS/SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Has the athlete competed in any representative teams (including international competition) during the 2025/26 season? If so, please list the team and how they contributed to the success of the team?
2. List the competition results achieved by the athlete in the 2025/26 season at championship carnivals or major surf sports events?
3. In the 2025/26 season how is the athlete a positive role model, a good sportsperson and/or an ambassador for Surf Life Saving? How do they contribute to broader lifesaving activities and engage with other members (including juniors or mentoring)?
4. Does the athlete hold any coaching and/or officiating qualifications?



CONSIDER

1. What relevant positions, roles, or responsibilities do they hold?
2. Have they done something in response to an identified need or problem?
3. Have they done something new or different to achieve results?
4. Have they inspired others to think or to do things differently?
5. Have they had to overcome any challenges to make a difference or achieve success?
6. Do they model positive and supportive attitudes, behaviours and actions?



OTHER CRITERIA

- A youth aged competitor (i.e. aged 15 to 18 years as at 30 September 2025 in the 2025/26 season) may be nominated for both Athlete of the Year and Youth Athlete of the Year. However, only results achieved in Open Age Events and Open Age Team representation are considered for the Athlete of the Year award.

AWARD WINNERS

SLSS Winners Progress
to SLSNSW AOE



**NEW SOUTH
WALES**

SLSNSW Winners
Progress to SLSA AOE
(except Masters Athlete of
the Year)





SURF SPORTS AWARDS

**NOMINATE
HERE**

YOUTH ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

An athlete aged between 15-18 (this refers to the members age as at 30 September 2025 in the 2025/26 Season) who has achieved sporting excellence in Youth and/or Open Aged Competition.



QUESTIONS/SELECTION CRITERIA

1. List the competition results achieved by the Youth Athlete in the 2025/26 season at championship carnivals or major surf sports events?
2. Has the Youth Athlete competed in any representative teams (including international competition, if relevant) during the 2025/26 season? If so, please list the team and how they contributed to the success of the team?
3. In the 2025/26 season how is the youth athlete a positive role model, a good sportsperson and/or an ambassador for Surf Life Saving? Do they contribute to broader lifesaving activities and engage with other members (including juniors, mentoring, coaching or officiating)?



CONSIDER

1. What relevant positions, roles, or responsibilities do they hold?
2. Have they done something in response to an identified need or problem?
3. Have they done something new or different to achieve results?
4. Have they inspired others to think or to do things differently?
5. Have they had to overcome any challenges to make a difference or achieve success?
6. Do they model positive and supportive attitudes, behaviours and actions?



OTHER CRITERIA

- A youth aged competitor (i.e. aged 15 to 18 years as at 30 September 2025 in the 2025/26 season) may be nominated for both Athlete of the Year and Youth Athlete of the Year. However, only results achieved in Open Age Events and Open Age Team representation are considered for the Athlete of the Year award.

AWARD WINNERS

SLSS Winners Progress
to SLSNSW AOE



**NEW SOUTH
WALES**

SLSNSW Winners
Progress to SLSA AOE





SURF SPORTS AWARDS

**NOMINATE
HERE**

COACH OF THE YEAR

An accredited coach who has made a significant contribution to athlete performance at a state, national and/or international level, to the development of athletes in SLS activities outside of surf sports, and to the educational development of other coaches in SLS.



QUESTIONS/SELECTION CRITERIA

1. What coaching qualification does the member currently hold, Foundation, Development or Performance Coach?
2. What coaching roles has the member fulfilled during the 2025/26 season at Club, Branch (where applicable), State, National and International Level?
3. List the competition results attributed to the coach, where this member was the primary coach for the athlete and/or team, in the 2025/26 season.
4. Has the coach been involved in any mentoring and development of other coaches, creating of supporting documentation and/or programs. Please provide examples of where the coach has shown a positive and supportive attitude, behaviour and actions (including who it has impacted and how) in the 2025/26 season?
5. Has the coach undertaken any personal development to improve themselves as a coach in the 2025/26 season?



CONSIDER

1. What relevant positions, roles, or responsibilities do they hold?
2. Have they done something in response to an identified need or problem?
3. Have they done something new or different to achieve results?
4. Have they inspired others to think or to do things differently?
5. Have they had to overcome any challenges to make a difference or achieve success?
6. Do they model positive and supportive attitudes, behaviours and actions?

AWARD WINNERS

SLSS Winners Progress
to SLSNSW AOE



**NEW SOUTH
WALES**

SLSNSW Winners
Progress to SLSA AOE





SURF SPORTS AWARDS

**NOMINATE
HERE**

OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR

An accredited surf sports official who has made a significant contribution to both officiating at a state, national and/or international level, and to the educational development of other officials in SLS.



QUESTIONS/SELECTION CRITERIA

1. What officiating qualification does the member currently hold, Core, Technical or Senior Official?
2. List the member's officiating roles they have fulfilled during the season at Club, Branch, State, National and International level (where applicable)
3. Describe the Officials achievements during the 2025/26 season, giving examples of how this has made a difference to others (athletes, officials, clubs etc). Areas of achievement may be in mentoring, education and training, documentation and process, new programs, solving problems etc.
4. Please provide examples of how the official adheres to and is a role model of the values of SLSA, Surf Sports and the SLSA's sports related policies such as the SLSA Gender Equity, Match Fixing and Member Protection policies.
5. Describe any training or development the official has undertaken this season to improve, which has had an impact on their performance or Surf Sports competition in general.



CONSIDER

1. What relevant positions, roles, or responsibilities do they hold?
2. Have they done something in response to an identified need or problem?
3. Have they done something new or different to achieve results?
4. Have they inspired others to think or to do things differently?
5. Have they had to overcome any challenges to make a difference or achieve success?
6. Do they model positive and supportive attitudes, behaviours and actions?

AWARD WINNERS

SLSS Winners Progress to SLSNSW AOE



**NEW SOUTH
WALES**

SLSNSW Winners Progress to SLSA AOE





SURF SPORTS AWARDS

**NOMINATE
HERE**

SURF SPORTS TEAM OF THE YEAR

An exemplary Surf Sports Team that has achieved notable success. Teams may represent any Surf Life Saving sporting discipline as defined in the Surf Sports Manual.



QUESTIONS/SELECTION CRITERIA

1. List the competition results achieved by the Team in the 2025/26 season at championship carnivals or major surf sports events?
2. Has the Team competed as a Branch/State or National representative team during the 2025/26 season? If so, please list the events?
3. In the 2025/26 season how has the Team been positive role models and shown good sportsmanship and/or been good ambassadors for Surf Life Saving? Do they contribute to broader lifesaving activities and engage with other members (including juniors)?



CONSIDER

1. What relevant positions, roles, or responsibilities do they hold?
2. Have they done something in response to an identified need or problem?
3. Have they done something new or different to achieve results?
4. Have they inspired others to think or to do things differently?
5. Have they had to overcome any challenges to make a difference or achieve success?
6. Do they model positive and supportive attitudes, behaviours and actions?

AWARD WINNERS

SLSS Winners Progress
to SLSNSW AOE



**NEW SOUTH
WALES**

SLSNSW Winners
Progress to SLSA AOE





JUNIOR AWARDS



JUNIOR AWARDS (GENERAL)

NOMINATE
HERE

BETTY'S BURGERS U15 SURF LIFESAVER OF THE YEAR

This award recognises and rewards patrolling members 13–15 years who have made an outstanding contribution to the delivery and development of surf lifesaving activities. It is aimed at members who represent the culture and core values of surf lifesaving.



QUESTIONS/SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Tell us about the member/individual being nominated.
2. What has been achieved?
3. What impact has this had, and for whom?



CONSIDER

1. What relevant positions, roles, or responsibilities do they hold?
2. Have they done something in response to an identified need or problem?
3. Have they done something new or different to achieve results?
4. Have they inspired others to think or to do things differently?
5. Have they had to overcome any challenges to make a difference or achieve success?
6. Do they model positive and supportive attitudes, behaviours and actions?



OTHER CRITERIA

- For U15 Surf Lifesaver of the Year award, nominations require patrol hours to be uploaded for the 2023/24, 2024/25, and 2025/26 season (extracted from Surf Guard).



JUNIOR AWARDS (GENERAL)

**NOMINATE
HERE**

FEMALE JUNIOR LIFESAVER OF THE YEAR

(U9, U10, U11, U12 AND U13)

MALE JUNIOR LIFESAVER OF THE YEAR

(U9, U10, U11, U12 AND U13)

Exemplary Male and Female Junior Surf Lifesavers (Nippers) who possesses a deep understanding and commitment to the Junior Development program, and takes an demonstrates leadership and a willingness to assist within their Club.



QUESTIONS/SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Tell us about the Nominee's increased understanding of how the skills developed in this season's Junior Development Program can be utilised in their future role(s) as Surf Lifesavers.
2. Describe the Nominee's commitment and dedication to their club's Junior Development Program this season.
3. List the Nominee's achievements in Surf Life Saving this season.
4. Has the nominee assisted in conducting Junior Development activities or initiatives this season, including taking on any challenges or leading new initiatives?



CONSIDER

1. What is their understanding of Surf Life Saving pathways and activities? Did they participate in any Club or Branch initiatives?
2. How would you describe their commitment and participation in Junior Development activities?
3. What were their greatest achievements (outside of Surf Sports) this season?
4. Considering their achievements for the 2025/26 season, what has this meant for the individual?
5. Are there areas within your Club/Branch/State where the nominee has made an important contribution to SLS?



JUNIOR AWARDS (GENERAL)

**NOMINATE
HERE**

U15 ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

The purpose of this award is to recognise and reward young athletes 13 – 15 years who have demonstrated sporting excellence as well as contributed to the area of surf sports within SLS.



QUESTIONS/SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Has the athlete competed in any representative teams (including international competition) during the 2025/26 season? If so, please list the team and how they contributed to the success of the team?
2. List the competition results achieved by the athlete in the 2025/26 season at championship carnivals or major surf sports events?
3. In the 2025/26 season how is the athlete a positive role model, a good sportsperson and/or an ambassador for Surf Life Saving? How do they contribute to broader lifesaving activities and engage with other members (including juniors or mentoring)?
4. Do they contribute to broader lifesaving activities and engage with other members (including juniors, mentoring, coaching or officiating)?



CONSIDER

1. What relevant positions, roles, or responsibilities do they hold?
2. Have they done something in response to an identified need or problem?
3. Have they done something new or different to achieve results?
4. Have they inspired others to think or to do things differently?
5. Have they had to overcome any challenges to make a difference or achieve success?
6. Do they model positive and supportive attitudes, behaviours and actions?



JUNIOR AWARDS (GENERAL)

NOMINATE
HERE

FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

(U9, U10, U11, U12, U13 AND U14)

MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

(U9, U10, U11, U12, U13 AND U14)

Young athletes who have demonstrated sporting excellence within their respective age category as well as contributed to the area of surf sports within SLS.



QUESTIONS/SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Has the athlete competed in any representative teams (including international competition) during the 2025/26 season? If so, please list the team and how they contributed to the success of the team?
2. List the competition results achieved by the athlete in the 2025/26 season at championship carnivals or major surf sports events?
3. In the 2025/26 season how is the athlete a positive role model, a good sportsperson and/or an ambassador for Surf Life Saving? How do they contribute to broader lifesaving activities and engage with other members (including juniors or mentoring)?



CONSIDER

1. What relevant positions, roles, or responsibilities do they hold?
2. Have they done something in response to an identified need or problem?
3. Have they done something new or different to achieve results?
4. Have they inspired others to think or to do things differently?
5. Have they had to overcome any challenges to make a difference or achieve success?
6. Do they model positive and supportive attitudes, behaviours and actions?



JUNIOR AWARDS (GENERAL)

**NOMINATE
HERE**

TEAM OF THE YEAR (JUNIOR)

The outstanding achievements made by a team in respect to surf lifesaving performances at any level (club/branch/state). Teams may include (but are not limited to) surf sports teams, lifesaving teams, support services teams, developments teams, management as well as education and training teams.

AGE MANAGER OF THE YEAR (JUNIOR)

Age Managers who have demonstrated excellence as well as significant contribution to the area of Junior Development within SLS.



QUESTIONS/SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Tell us about the member/individual or team being nominated.
2. What has been achieved?
3. What impact has this had, and for whom?



CONSIDER

1. What relevant positions, roles, or responsibilities do they hold?
2. Have they done something in response to an identified need or problem?
3. Have they done something new or different to achieve results?
4. Have they inspired others to think or to do things differently?
5. Have they had to overcome any challenges to make a difference or achieve success?
6. Do they model positive and supportive attitudes, behaviours and actions?

