



ANNOUNCEMENT

TO:	Club Presidents, Secretaries, Captains, Chief Training Officers, Surf Sports Coordinators, Junior Development Coordinators, Members Services, Interested Parties
FROM:	Director of Administration
DATE:	Wednesday, 11 March 2026
PAGES:	5
NUMBER:	44: 2025/26
SUBJECT:	2025/26 Awards of Excellence Nominations
OVERVIEW:	Nominations for the 2026 Surf Life Saving Sydney Awards of Excellence are now open. The Awards of Excellence recognises outstanding achievements and contributions across all aspects of Surf Life Saving.

Outline of the award categories, selection criteria and application processes for the Surf Life Saving Sydney (SLSS) 2026 Awards of Excellence can be found in the [SLSS 2026 AOE Nomination Guide](#).

The Awards of Excellence recognises outstanding achievements and contributions across all aspects of Surf Life Saving.

This year's awards presentations will take place as follows;

- **Rescue Services:** Saturday 23 May 2026, Lugarno Avenue Rescue Services Base
- **Junior / Under 15:** Saturday 30 May 2026, Ritz Cinemas, Randwick
- **Senior / Youth:** Saturday 4 July 2026, The Brighton Hotel, Sydney

When considering each nominee, please also consider that each submission addresses the relevant criteria of the specific award the Club wishes to nominate for its member.

Special Note

- **Only one application will be accepted per club for each award category (except Rescue Services Awards).** Rescue Services members are invited to submit nominations on behalf of peers for these awards.
- Clubs may work collaboratively on joint nominations for Club and Community awards, where multiple clubs have worked together on initiatives/activities, for all member specific categories where a member is a financial member of multiple clubs, and for all team categories where team members are drawn from multiple clubs.

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The following changes have been introduced for the 2025/26 season:

Award Name Change

- 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'

Award Recognition at National Level

- Young Volunteer of the Year is now recognised at a National Level, rather than only at a State level

Retired Awards

- Innovation Award
- Community Education Program of the Year*

New Award

- Community Engagement of the Year

*In place of the retiring Community Education Program of the Year Award, SLSA have introduced a new award for the 2025/26 season – Community Engagement of the Year.

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PRESENTATION INFORMATION

EVENT: Junior / Under 15 Awards Presentation
TIME / DATE: 2pm Saturday 30 May 2026
LOCATION: Ritz Cinemas, 45 St Pauls St, Randwick NSW 2031

Awards presented:

- Junior Development Team of the Year
- Age Manager of the Year
- Betty's Burgers Under 15 Surf Lifesaver of the Year
- Under 15 Athlete of the Year
- Female Athlete of the Year (U9)
- Female Athlete of the Year (U10)
- Female Athlete of the Year (U11)
- Female Athlete of the Year (U12)
- Female Athlete of the Year (U13)
- Female Athlete of the Year (U14)
- Male Athlete of the Year (U9)
- Male Athlete of the Year (U10)
- Male Athlete of the Year (U11)
- Male Athlete of the Year (U12)
- Male Athlete of the Year (U13)
- Male Athlete of the Year (U14)
- Female Junior Lifesaver of the Year (U9)
- Female Junior Lifesaver of the Year (U10)
- Female Junior Lifesaver of the Year (U11)
- Female Junior Lifesaver of the Year (U12)
- Female Junior Lifesaver of the Year (U13)
- Male Junior Lifesaver of the Year (U9)
- Male Junior Lifesaver of the Year (U10)
- Male Junior Lifesaver of the Year (U11)
- Male Junior Lifesaver of the Year (U12)
- Male Junior Lifesaver of the Year (U13)

Ticket sale information will be made available shortly. Clubs are to book & pay for tickets on behalf of their members. Members will not be invoiced directly.

EVENT: Senior and Youth Awards Presentation
TIME / DATE: 6pm Saturday 4 July 2026
LOCATION: The Brighton Hotel Sydney, 2 Princess St, Brighton-Le-Sands NSW 2216

Awards presented:

- Club of the Year
- Community Engagement of the Year
- Administrator of the Year
- Surf Lifesaver of the Year
- Betty's Burgers Young Surf Lifesaver of the Year
- Patrol Captain of the Year
- Patrol of the Year (Team Award)
- Volunteer of the Year
- Young Volunteer of the Year
- Assessor of the Year
- Trainer of the Year
- Facilitator of the Year
- Services Team of the Year
- Masters Athlete of the Year
- Athlete of the Year
- Youth Athlete of the Year
- Coach of the Year
- Official of the Year
- Surf Sports Team of the Year

Ticket sale information will be made available shortly. Clubs are to book & pay for tickets on behalf of their members. Members will not be invoiced directly.

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EVENT: Rescue Services Awards Presentation
TIME / DATE: Saturday 23 May 2026
LOCATION: SLSS Rescues Base, Lugarno Ave, Burraneer

Awards presented:

- Surf Rescue 30 Member of the Year
- RWC Member of the Year
- Rescue Services Member of the Year
- UAV Member of the Year
- Duty Officer of the Year

Details of this event have been previously shared with Rescue Services members. All Rescue Services members are invited to submit nominations on behalf of their peers for the following awards:

IN MEMORIAM

At the 2026 Senior / Youth AOE Presentation, we will again be featuring an "In Memoriam" tribute, to acknowledge members of Sydney Club's that have passed during the 2025/26 Season. We wish to show our appreciation and respect for these Members, their volunteering efforts and contributions to Surf Life Saving.

We kindly ask Clubs to provide details of Members who have passed away from 1 June 2025, up until present, that they would like to be included in the "In Memoriam" tribute and are asked to provide a high-resolution photo that clearly shows the member, and the Member's full name (inclusive of any post-nominals) for each member being honoured in this tribute.

Submissions can be made via the JotForm [here](#). This form will close on **8 May 2026**.

Links

Nominations for Senior / Youth Awards

Close: **11:59pm on 29 April 2026**

[2025/26 AOE – Senior / Youth Nominations](#)

Nominations for Junior / Under 15 Awards

Close: **11:59pm on 29 April 2026**

[2025/26 AOE – Junior / Under 15 Nominations](#)

Nominations for Rescue Services Awards

Close: **11:59pm on 2 May 2026**

[2025/26 AOE – Rescue Services Nominations](#)

The 2026 Surf Life Saving NSW Awards of Excellence function on Saturday 22nd August 2026. This event will be held at Hyatt Regency Sydney, 161 Sussex Street, Sydney NSW 2000.

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CONDITIONS

General notes

- All nominees must be an SLSA financial member. 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.
- Surf Life Saving Sydney Branch or Surf Life Saving NSW State team events or teams will not be considered for nomination for these awards.

Guidelines for submission

- Nominations will **not be** accepted via email or post. Applicants to contact Branch Office as soon as possible if they experience issues with the included JotForm links (above).
- Nominations are 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 following awards will be invited to participate in an online interview. Nominees will be contacted following the closure of nominations. The SLSS selection panel will determine a winner based on a review of written nominations as well as the interview.
 - Club of the Year
 - Surf Lifesaver of the Year
 - Volunteer of the Year
 - Young Surf Lifesaver of the Year
 - Young Volunteer of the Year
 - Under 15 Surf Lifesaver of the Year
 - Age Manager of the Year
- Winners of the remaining awards will be determined by a selection panel and will involve a review of submitted nominations.

Any queries relating to this Circular can be directed to Branch Office at events@sls.sydney.

Warm Regards

Jessica Cantrick

Director of Administration
Surf Life Saving Sydney

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