



ANNOUNCEMENT

TO:	SLSS Club Presidents, Secretaries, Club Captains, Surf Sports Teams and Youth & Junior Development Teams CC: BOM, LSRSC, SSC, Y&JDC
FROM:	Director, Surf Sports
DATE:	Wednesday, 19 August 2026
PAGES:	4
NUMBER:	16: 2026/27
SUBJECT:	2026 Interbranch Team Selection & Nomination Information
OVERVIEW:	Expressions of interest are now open for Athletes wishing to be selected in the Surf Life Saving Sydney Interbranch Team for 2026. Selection Carnival will be held Sunday 11 October 2026 at South Maroubra Beach

2026 NSW Interbranch Championships – Sydney Branch Team Nominations

Surf Life Saving Sydney invites all eligible competitors in the **U12 to U19** age groups for the 2026/2027 season to nominate for selection in the **Surf Life Saving Sydney Interbranch Team** to compete at the **2026 NSW Interbranch Championships**.

Event Details:

Venue: Caves Beach SLSC

Dates: Saturday 28 November & Sunday 29 November 2026

Important – ILS World Championships: *Athletes who will be attending the ILS World Championships in South Africa and are travelling prior to 28 November 2026 are asked not to nominate for the Sydney Branch Interbranch Team this season, as the events and associated travel will clash.*

Athletes who are travelling to South Africa after 1 December 2026 are encouraged to nominate for selection in the Sydney Branch Interbranch Team.

General Information:

Being selected for this team is a significant privilege, as it comprises the top athletes from Surf Life Saving Sydney Branch. The Sydney Branch Team achieved the title of NSW Interbranch Champions in both 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025. Competing alongside fellow athletes from the Sydney Branch offers a valuable experience for all participants. When submitting nominations, it is crucial to confirm your availability for both days of the carnival, which includes travel and shared accommodation with the team.

Selection will be based on performance in events such as Iron Person, Swim, Board & Ski (Ski U17 & U19 ONLY), Beach Flags, Beach Sprints & Relays, and Beach Run & Relays.

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The 2026 Interbranch Team (48) will consist of the following:

- U12, U13, U14, U15, U17 and U19 Age Groups
- U12, U13, U14, U15, U17 and U19: Maximum of four (4) females and four (4) males per age group

For the 2026 NSW Interbranch Championships, the following rules will apply to ALL competitors:

- Any competitor is permitted to complete up one (1) age division' from their nominated age division although they can only compete in a single age division not both.
- U15's are permitted to complete up one age division' providing they have attained their **Bronze Medallion** as per Section 2.3.7 of the [SLSA Surf Sports Manual, 38th Edition](#), revised December 2025. NO U15's will be eligible to compete in the ski event.

Please note: a U15 competitor may only undertake the swim or board leg of the U17 Taplin Relay.

Event compositions will be as follows:

Single Gender Events

- Surf Race - Two (2) competitors per age group
- Board Race - Two (2) competitors per age group
- Iron Person – Two (2) competitors per age group
- U17s Ski – Two (2) competitors per age group
- U19s Ski – Two (2) competitors per age group
- Cameron Relay – Three (3) person relay, one (1) runner. One (1) team per age per branch
- Sprint – Two (2) competitors per age group
- Beach Run – One (1) competitor per age group
- Flags – One (1) competitor per age group
- Board Rescue – Two (2) competitors per team, one (1) team per branch.
- All Age Board Relay – One (1) competitor per age group per branch.
- All Age Beach Relay – One (1) competitor per age group per branch.

Mixed Gender Events

- Mixed 6 Person Taplin – Two (2) Swim, two (2) Board, two (2) Ski, male & female in each leg.
- Mixed Board Relay- Two (2) person relay, one (1) male & one (1) female. One (1) team Mixed
- Ski Relay – Two (2) person relay, one (1) male & one (1) female. One (1) team per branch.
- Mixed Beach Relay sprint – Four (4) person relay, two (2) male & two (2) female. One (1) team per age group per branch.
- Mixed Beach Relay – Two (2) x 500m (U12) & two (2) x 1km (U13-U19), two (2) person relay, one (1) male & one (1) female. One (1) team per age group per branch.

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To be considered for selection of all competitors:

1. Must be a Financial Member with Competition Rights with a Sydney Branch Surf Life Saving Club
2. All entrants must meet SLSNSW award, patrol, and proficiency requirements as per the 2026/27 proficiency competition requirements and any other subsequent bulletins issued. Competitors U17 & U19 are required to hold a Bronze Medallion (BM) to be able to compete in the U17 & U19 ski competition and have completed their proficiency for the 26/27 season.

All competitors are advised to read the following:

[SLSS-Athelete-Selection-Policy.pdf](#)

[SLSS-Athlete-Agreement.pdf](#)

This can also be found on our website [Sydney Branch Team](#)

Selectors will be making selections as per the Interbranch event compositions above and using the following carnivals results to gauge the **current level of skill and physical fitness of the competitors.**

It is encouraged that competitors attend the following carnivals:

Carnival	Location	Date	Which athletes
Interbranch Trials Carnival	Sth Maroubra	11 October 2026	U12 – U19 All Competitors Beach/Water
For the Water Events, Water Safety (WS) personnel will be required.			
Athletes competing in the U12–U14 age groups must arrange for and bring a qualified and proficient Water Safety (WS) member with them to assist with water safety requirements.			

At the discretion of the Selectors - results of past events listed below, may also be considered:

1. 2026 Sydney Branch Championships (Age and Open)
2. 2026 SLS NSW State Championships (Age and Open)
3. 2026 SLS Australian Championships (Youth and Open)

To be considered for selection all competitors must NOMINATE via this link and fill in the online nomination by 30th September 2026:

[2026 Surf Life Saving Sydney Interbranch Team – Athlete Nomination](#)

**Team Announcement:**

Athletes who are selected will be formally notified via email by Friday, 6 November 2026. Selected athletes will be required to confirm their position in the Sydney Branch Team and keep their selection strictly confidential until the official team announcement has been made.

The Sydney Branch Team will be officially announced on the Surf Life Saving Sydney website and Facebook page no later than Monday, 23 November 2026.

Athletes may be selected to compete in a range of events across different disciplines. The event program and team selections may change at any time throughout the Championship weekend, and athletes are expected to remain flexible and adaptable to meet the needs of the Sydney Branch Team.

While an athlete's name may appear in LiveHeats against a particular event, this does not guarantee that they will compete in that event. Final event selections, team combinations and any changes will be determined by the Sydney Branch Team Management and Coaching Team based on team requirements, athlete performance, conditions and the overall needs of the team.

Athletes are expected to support these decisions and be prepared to compete in any event or discipline for which they are selected.

Team Training:

Upon selection all successful athletes will be advised of team training dates and times by Team Managers. It is expected that all selected athletes will make all efforts to attend the nominated training sessions.

Cost:

Upon selection each athlete will be required to pay a levy of \$575.00 + GST. This levy covers accommodation, transport, food & beverage, team uniform etc. and will be invoiced to your Club and must be paid to Surf Life Saving Sydney by 23 November 2026. Team Management reserves the right to remove a competitor from the team in the event the levy is not paid.



Further Information:

Upon selection all successful athletes will receive a more detailed information package, however if you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact;

Team Manager Donna Hargreaves

Mobile: 0403 335 625 or

Email: surfsportssecretary@sls.sydney

Finally, we wish all competitors all the best in their endeavours for this selection.

Thank you.

Kind regards,

Michele Cole
Director, Surf Sports
Surf Life Saving Sydney