Title:	2025 North Australian Championships – Final Bulletin
Audience:	All Clubs & All Branches
Date:	22nd October 2025
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2025 North Australian Championships – Final Bulletin

INTRODUCTION

The 2025 North Australian Surf Lifesaving Championships attracts competitors from Queensland and Northern Territory, providing an opportunity to unite over three days showcasing one of Queensland's most iconic volunteer movements, Surf Life Saving.

This year's event will be held as follows:
Friday 31st October 2025 - Mackay Aquatics and Recreation Complex, 193 Boundary Road Ooralea.
Saturday 1st October 2025 – Sunday 2nd October 2025 - Mackay Harbour Beach

This document outlines some key information relating to the North Australian Championships. Please note that SLSQ may have subsequent circulars which may supersede information provided in the circular.

COMPETITION COMMITTEE

The Competition Committee (CC) will direct all matters relating to the actual conduct of the competition. The CC may, in accordance with the rules contained in the current edition of the Surf Sports Manual, any subsequent amending bulletins and this circular, postpone, cancel and or alter any or all events at the Championships, and/or alter the venue of the competition.

The CC may consult and seek advice from appropriate officials, athletes and other personnel on competition conditions and safety issues when required. The CC shall appoint the various sub committees and panels as required for the event e.g. Disciplinary Committee & Coach/Athlete Panel.

POSITION	NAME
SLSQ Sport Officer/Proxy	John Hamrey
Event Referee	Kurt Goodwin
Safety & Emergency Management Coordinator	Kye Yeabsley
Event Manager	Ryan Bennett
Venue Representative	Peter Marshall
SLSQ Sport Manager	Stuart Hogben

SAFETY & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

A Safety & Emergency Committee (SEC) shall be appointed which must consider and advise the Referee and Competition Committee on all matters relating to competition and non-competition safety and emergency management. The Chair of the Committee shall be the Safety & Emergency Management Coordinator who shall also be a member of the Competition Committee. The composition of the SEC will be determined by SLSQ.

POSITION	NAME
Safety & Emergency Management Coordinator	Kye Yeabsley
Deputy Referee	Natalie Cumming
First Aid/Medical Coordinator	Mackay SLSC
Event Manager	Ryan Bennett
IRB/Water Safety Coordinator	David Young

DISTRIBUTION OF BULLETIN

It is most important that the information in this Bulletin is brought to the attention of all Carnival Officials, Team Managers, Coaches and Competitors.

Non-receipt of the Bulletin will not be taken as an excuse if a Club, Team or individual does not comply with the requirements outlines in this and other Bulletins and Circulars.

ENTRIES

Entries for the 2025 North Australian Championships will close at 9am on Tuesday 28th October 2025. Any entries received after this date will receive a late entry fee of $40 on top of the $40 entry fee.

Please check https://liveheats.com/events/416573 to ensure you are entered into all divisions you wish to contest.

Clubs have until 9am on Tuesday 28th October 2025 to make any existing changes to entries. After this time, additions to the Pool Rescue Competition will only be allowed if a lane is available.

EVENT ADMINISTRATION

Event Administration will be inside the Mackay Surf Life Saving Club. Hours of operation will be:

Friday: Carnival Administration Staff will be on-site at the Pool on Friday during and after the Team Managers' Meeting

Saturday: 6.30am to 5.30pm

Sunday: 6.15am to finish of carnival

The Event Coordinator – Ryan Bennett – 0418 797 537 will be on-site from Wednesday 29th October 2025 and may be contacted via mobile phone.

LIVEHEATS

LiveHeats will be utilised throughout the Carnival, Wrist Bands will not be used at Mackay pool on Friday.

All athletes who do not have a LiveHeats wrist band will need to register at Event Administration.

Bands can be collected from the Mackay ARC at any time during the Pool Rescue events (please see Stuart Hogben or Admin). If you can't make it to the pool, bands will be available from admin from 6.30am on Saturday/Sunday morning.

If you have already been issued a band at a previous event, please ensure you bring it along. Athletes must wear the LiveHeats wristband assigned to them. Replacements bands are available for $5 (credit card preferred or correct change). Members that have not received one previously will be issued one free of charge.

PROGRAM OF EVENTS

The Program of Events is attached. Please be aware that this program is subject to change.

NOTE: Events will NOT be delayed for competitors who choose to compete in more than one age group/category OR that are waiting for BORROWED gear/equipment. Accordingly, competitors MUST select their priority of events carefully.

Revisions of the Carnival timetable and program of events MAY occur at the discretion of the Carnival Referee or Carnival Committee. Team Managers should ensure that their competitors are at the beach well in advance of the scheduled starting times.

In the event of any changes, competitors and Clubs will be advised accordingly by way of a special Team Managers Meeting and/or public address announcements.

MEETING, REPORTING & COMMENCEMENT TIMES

The below timetable is only a draft and is subject to change.

Friday 31st October 2025

9.00am	NAC Competition Committee AND Safety & Emergency Committee Meetings (At Pool)
10.00am	Entry to Pool available from now – Competitors/Spectators
	All Pool Rescue Competition Officials
10.30am	Warm-Up
	Pool Rescue Team Managers Briefing
10.45am	Marshalling
11.00am	Pool Rescue Competition Commences

Prior to 12.00pm	-Club IRB's and Motors to be delivered	Front of Clubhouse
2.30pm	Championship Referee, Area Referees and Sectional Referees Briefing	Mackay Aquatics & Rec Centre
3.00pm	All IRB Duty Boat Personnel	Front of Clubhouse
4.00pm	Referee, Area Referees & Sectional Referees Meeting	Mackay Aquatics & Rec Centre
4.30pm	Team Managers Meeting	Mackay Aquatics & Rec Centre

Saturday 1st November 2025

6.00am	All IRB Duty Boat Personnel	Front of Clubhouse
6.30am	Competition Committee & Safety & Emergency Committee Meetings	
7.00am	Officials	Front of Clubhouse
7.00am	March Past Marshalling	On the Beach
7.15am	March Past Commences	On the Beach
7.30am	First Aid Personnel	Front of Clubhouse
7.45am	Marshalling Commences	On the Beach
8.00am	Competition Commences	
7.00am	All Surf Boat Event Officials and Boat Team Managers	Front of Clubhouse
7.45am	Surf Boat Competitor Marshalling & Team Managers	On the Beach
8.00am	Surf Boat Competition Commences	
TBA	Lifesaver Relay	On the Beach
5.00pm	Officials De-Briefing	Front of Clubhouse

Sunday 2nd November 2025

6.00am	All IRB Duty Boat Personnel	Front of Clubhouse
6.00am	NAC Competition Committee AND Safety & Emergency Committee Meetings	
6.15am	All 1km & 2km Beach Run Officials	Front of Clubhouse
6.30am	All First Aid Personnel	First Aid Room
6.30am	1km & 2km Beach Run Competition Marshalling	On the Beach
7.00am	1km & 2km Beach Run commences	
7.00am	Championship Officials	Front of Clubhouse
	All Aged Relay Marshalling Commences	Beach Area
7.45am	All Aged Relay Competition Commences	Beach Area
8.00am	Championships Marshalling Commences	On the Beach
8.30am	All Other Competition Commences	On the Beach

TEAM MANGERS

Attendance at all Team Managers Briefings/Meetings (as advised above) is COMPULSORY for all competing Clubs. An attendance record will be kept at all briefings/meetings. Failure to attend a scheduled briefing/meeting may result in a Club being disqualified from competing at the Championships.

Team Managers should be identified with 'TEAM MANAGER' shirts or identification badges whilst in the competition arena. Team Managers are requested to only enter the competition arena when necessary to report into the Marshal or to approach the Sectional Referee or Competitor Liaison.

All Club Team Managers, Assistant Team Managers, Age Managers and Chaperones are required to possess a current Working with Children 'Suitability Card' – reviews will be undertaken throughout the Championships. The same will apply for all Carnival Officials, Water Safety and IRB Drivers and Crew.

Team Managers' Briefing

The main Championships' Team Managers' Briefing will be held on Friday 31st October 2025, commencing at 4.30pm at the Mackay Aquatics and Recreation Complex (Ooralea). Attendance at this Briefing is COMPULSORY and failure for a Club to be represented may result in vital information being missed and could also result in disqualification from the Championships.

Other Team Manager Briefings will also be held for specific events – i.e. Pool Rescue, IRB, Surf Boat Short Course Series – and Clubs are advised to check the Briefing Times and Locations as advised earlier in this Bulletin.

AGE GROUP RESTRICTIONS

As per directives from the NAC Competition Committee Under 14 competitors are NOT permitted to compete 'up' in Under 15 INDIVIDUAL events at the 2025 North Australian Championships. However, Under 14 competitors with a current and proficient Surf Rescue Certificate are permitted to compete 'up' in Under 15 TEAM events.

Should an Under 14 competitor compete 'up' in an Under 15 OCEAN Team event, they will be required to wear their Marine Stinger Protective Clothing.

The NAC Competition Committee would like to invite any U10 competitors that would like to compete in U11 team events to participate at the 2025. North Australian Championships.

POOL RESCUE COMPETITION

The Pool Rescue Competition will be held on Friday 31st October 2025, commencing at 11.00am SHARP at the Mackay Aquatic and Recreation Complex (Ooralea).

POOL ENTRY WILL ONLY BE AVAILABLE FROM 10.00am AND WARM-UP IS TO COMMENCE FROM 10.30am. Please do NOT enter the Pool Complex or the Swimming Pool before these times.

The NAC Pool Rescue Competition will be conducted under the rules as published in the relevant sections of the current SLSA Surf Sports Manual AND the ILS Competition Manual – 2https://www.ilsf.org/2023/05/01/new-ils-competition-rulebook-published-in-preparation-for-lwc-2024/ plus any subsequent Bulletins.

IMPORTANT:

Competitors in the U11 to U13 age categories will ONLY be permitted to wear RUBBER fins that meet SLSA/ILS specifications. Competitors in the U14 to U17 age categories are permitted to wear any fins (including FIBREGLASS fins) that meet SLSA/ILS specifications.

As well as supplying their own fins, competitors/Clubs MUST also supply their own Rescue Tubes for their competitors in the MANIKIN TOW and MEDLEY RELAY events. Please also be aware that competitors in the 'MANIKIN TOW' events MUST have a handler that is wearing a Club Competition or Swim Cap.

A Club Timekeeper Roster will be distributed once Pool Rescue Entries have been completed. Failure for Clubs to meet their rostered duty may result in disqualification of competitors from the Pool Rescue Competition.

QUEENSLAND COUNTRY TEAM (U13-U17)

A Queensland Country representative team will be selected based on performances and results from the 2025 North Australian Championships along with other events. The team will be made up of U13, U14, U15 and U17 competitors (male and female) – with six (6) males and six (6) females per age group to be selected along with reserves.

The Queensland Country Team will travel to the Gold Coast to compete in the Queensland Interbranch Championships on Saturday 29th November and Sunday 30th December 2025.

A selection panel of four people will be on hand at the Championships to select the Queensland Country Team. The Team will be announced as part of the Presentation Ceremony at the conclusion of the Championships on Sunday 2nd November 2025.

Team Management positions for this Team will also be selected and announced at the Championships.

Interested members are NOT required to nominate for selection in the Queensland Country Team – all U13, U14, U15 and U17 competitors at the Championships will be considered for selection.

DRESS OF COMPETITORS

As per SLSQ Policy MS13, 'high visibility clothing'. All competitors competing in ocean events at the 2024 North Australian Championships will be required to wear a high visibility lycra vest that is fluoro pink in colour. This is not a requirement for pool or beach event.

A COMPULSORY LONG SLEEVE GARMENT TO BE WORN BY U11 - U14 COMPETITORS IN THE BEACH EVENTS (SPRINTS, FLAGS AND RELAYS) – NOT REQUIRED IN THE DISTANCE RUNS

Clubs and competitors are also reminded that these lycra vests must meet the requirements of the 'SLSA competition sponsorship policy 5.8'. and be approved by the NAC competition committee should there be concerns regarding conflicting sponsorships or other details.

Surf Life Saving Queensland
18 Manning Street
South Brisbane QLD 4101
PO Box 3747
South Brisbane QLD 4101

t. +61 7 3846 8000
f. +61 7 3846 8008
w. lifesaving.com.au
ABN 27 360 485 381

SURF SPORTS
SURF LIFE SAVING QUEENSLAND

In all events, competitors must wear approved competition dress/apparel as detailed in the current edition of the SLSA Surf Sports Manual – Section 2.5 'Dress of Competitors' – and any subsequent Bulletins/Circulars.

Wearing of Marine Stinger PPE (Stinger Suits)

In abiding by the information and guidelines contained within the latest SLSQ Marine Stinger Risk Management Guidelines (updated by the SLSQ Lifesaving Committee – 27th November 2020), the following will apply at the 2025 North Australian Championships:

It will be COMPULSORY for all U11, U12, U13 and U14 competitors to wear appropriate PPE (Stinger Suits) during ALL water (OCEAN) events throughout the duration of the Championships. This will also apply to any U14 competitor competing up in an U15 water (OCEAN) team event.

At this stage, according to the current Guidelines/Policy and recent approval by the SLSQ Lifesaving Committee, U15, U17, Open and Masters competitors will NOT be required to wear appropriate PPE (Stinger Suits) UNLESS weather conditions, sting treatments, stinger captures, risk assessments or the Carnival Referee and/or Championships' Competition Committee dictate otherwise.

PLEASE NOTE: All U15, U17, Open and Masters Competitors are strongly advised to bring a Stinger Suit with them to the Championships as the Safety Officer MAY at any time during the Championships enforce the wearing of such Stinger Suits by ALL or ANY competitors in ALL water events.

ATHLETE/COACH ADVISORY PANEL

The Carnival Committee (CC) will be appointing an Athlete/Coach Advisory Panel for this event. The Panel will be made up of a mix of athletes and coaches and will be a resource for the Carnival Referee and Sectional Referees. This Panel will also be able to take any issues to the Carnival Committee during the running of the event if necessary.

RESULTS

Results can be viewed live at LiveHeats.com.

Results will also be posted on the Surf Sports Facebook Page & SLSQ Website post event. Results will also be emailed to all clubs and Team Managers post the event.

EVENT MEDALS, TROPHIES & POINTSCORES

SLSQ Championship medals will be awarded to individuals and team members gaining 1st (Gold), 2nd (Silver) or 3rd (Bronze) in all U11 to U17 Championship events contested.

The following rules will apply to the 2023 North Australian Championships with respect to points allocations:

1st – 6 points
2nd – 5 points
3rd – 4 points
4th – 3 points
5th – 2 points
6th – 1 point

For the 2025 NAC, medals will be awarded for all U11-U15 events. In addition, the following trophies/prizes will be awarded:

- Male and Female Age Champions, which will be presented for the WINNER of each age category with points accrued for all individual events, as per the following:
    - Age Champion TROPHIES – OVERALL – Male & Female (Trophies)

Trophies and Prizes

The main presentation ceremony will be held at the conclusion of the Championships on Sunday 27th October, 2024, with the following trophies and prizes announced:

- Officials Service
- Surf Boat Pointscore
- Pool Rescue Pointscore
- Age Champions – Overall
- Senior Pointscore
- Junior Pointscore
- Masters Pointscore
- Overall Pointscore
- Overall Handicapped Pointscore
- Queensland Country Team representatives

CLUB TENTS

The erection of Club Tents will be permitted at the back of the beach. Please check with Workforce Coordinator, Peter Marshall, before erecting tents. Clubs are reminded to bring plenty of shade and water for their competitors and members.

WARM UP/WARM DOWN

Club Team Managers, Age Managers and Coaches are to be alerted to and reminded of the SLSA Water Safety Policy in relation to pre-competition warm-ups, post-competition warm downs and any training sessions conducted prior to the commencement and after the cessation of competition each day.

The Championships' Carnival Committee will ensure that adequate Water Safety and IRB Crews are rostered during the hours of competition each day. The Australian Lifeguard Service and/or the Mackay Surf Life Saving Club Rostered Beach Patrol will also be providing a patrolled flagged area at the northern end of Harbour Beach during the hours of competition each day as well.

HOWEVER, there will be NO Water Safety provided by the Championships' Carnival Committee for Warm-up and Warm-down periods prior to the start of competition and after the cessation of competition. This responsibility lies firmly with the Club Coach or Age Manager that is conducting the training session/s.

Warm Up Areas

To ensure the safety of all water safety and competitors, warm up has been broken up into time slots to assist coaches prepare their athletes in the same area without any issue of collision between swimmers and craft. Therefore, coaches and clubs are asked to follow the below times:

- 7:00am – 7:20am All Water Areas – SWIM ONLY
- 7:20am – 7:40am All Water Areas – CRAFT ONLY

If competitors would like to warm up outside of these times, they are asked to move outside the competition area.

WATER SAFETY (IRB & ORANGE SHIRT)

The WATER SAFETY ROSTERS are attached. Please ensure that your Club is aware of your respective shifts in each roster, as non-compliance with these rosters will result in further action being taken by the Carnival Referee.

If there are any problems with your allocated roster/s, please discuss them with either, Kurt Goodwin (Carnival Referee), David Young (IRB Coordinator) or Ryan Bennett (Event Manager) prior to the start of the Championships on Saturday 26th October 2024.

IRB Water Safety

This roster is for IRB Driver and Crewperson Only. Additional Event IRB personnel are responsible for laying of the cans for each area.

IRB Drivers and Crew are required to meet with IRB Co-ordinator David Young at 6am on the morning of competition.

THESE CLUBS WILL ALSO NEED TO SUPPLY A MINIMUM OF TWO (2) APPROVED PFD's PER BOAT FOR THE DURATION OF THE CHAMPIONSHIPS – CLEARLY MARKED!

A reminder that craft is to be delivered to the Mackay SLSC prior to 12.00pm on Friday 31st October, unless prior arrangement has been made with the IRB Coordinator, David Young or the Event Manager, Ryan Bennett. All craft will be scrutineered prior to and following use at the Championships.

These clubs will also need to supply a minimum of two (2) approved PFDs per boat – clearly marked!

GEAR TRAILER/VEHICLE PARKING

Ample vehicle and trailer parking is available in close proximity to the carnival site. Ample access points will also be available boat and craft access to each of the arenas. AREAS WILL BE CLEARLY SIGNED.

There are several conditions regarding equipment which may be placed within and around the parkland and grounds during the Championships:

- Upon arrival, a parking marshal will direct you to a petitioned area within the park grounds to store your gear trailer and equipment for the duration of the competition.
- Vehicles are not permitted to be parked within the park grounds and must be removed immediately once trailers have been dropped off.
- There will be only 2 vehicles permitted in the park grounds at any one time for equipment set-up and/or drop-off.
- There will be a NO PEG POLICY within the park grounds.
- All surf boat trailers must be parked in the far southern car park near the beach vehicle access
- The storage of gear and equipment within the park grounds is at the risk and responsibility of the owner/member and the respective Club. Please ensure your gear is secure at all times!

MEDIA & PHOTOGRAPHY

Drones:

For the safety of competitors, officials and spectators SLSQ prohibits the use of drones or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) at this event by members and/or public unless approved by SLSQ, 7 days prior to the event. The operator must supply an operations manual (including risk management plan), provide a copy of public liability insurance and comply with all Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) requirements. SLSQ may utilise the use of our own drones to conduct aerial surveillance and monitor hazards.

Photography:

As a condition of entry, all competitors agree to have photos and video taken during the event used for promotional material by SLSQ.

Photographers within the carnival area must have a visible photographer's pass as well as their BlueCard.

SCRUTINEERING

Scrutineering is not compulsory for these championships, but it is important to note that there will be random craft and equipment checks undertaken throughout the championships by competitor liaisons. if you have any concerns regarding your gear and equipment, please do not hesitate to contact the referee, during the championships.

CANCELLATION POLICY

The following Cancellation Fee & Refund Policy will be adhered to:

- If a carnival is cancelled, with no postponement before the first event is conducted, 75% of all entry fees will be refunded to all Clubs (25% retained for administration costs).
- If a carnival is cancelled, after the first event is conducted, no refund will be given.
- If a carnival is postponed and re-scheduled to another date, a 75% refund will be issued to competing Clubs that cannot compete at the re-scheduled event.

BEHAVIOUR/MISCONDUCT

Any misconduct while at the event will not be tolerated. This includes the days leading into the competition and any official social activities following the conclusion of the event. Offending members risk disciplinary action against both themselves and their Clubs.

Please refer to the current Surf Sports Manual sections 2.27 SLSA Code of Behaviour and 2.28 Abuse/Inappropriate Behaviour and the Policy 6.5 Member Protection Policy (available online at the Members Area).

PROTESTS

All protests shall be lodged with the appropriate Liaison Officer in each Area in accordance with procedures set down in the current edition of the Surf Sports Manual and any subsequent bulletins and shall identify the specific sections/clauses in the Competition Manual and or event rules upon which the protest is based.

Protest Forms are available from the Liaison Officer. An 'Appeals Fee' of $110 (inc. GST) must accompany all documentation when the process is officially submitted to the Appeals Committee for adjudication.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Should further information be required please contact the Sport Team at:

rbennett@lifesaving.com.au
Surf Life Saving Queensland
PO Box 436
West Burleigh, QLD, 4019
Phone: (07) 5566 1006

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