



<b>Title:</b>	2025 Sharkskin QLD IRB Championships – Entry Bulletin
<b>Audience:</b>	ALL SLSQ Clubs, All SLSQ Branches, Officials
<b>Date:</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2025
<b>Sports Bulletin Link</b>	<a href="https://lifesaving.com.au/slsq-sports-bulletins">https://lifesaving.com.au/slsq-sports-bulletins</a>

## INTRODUCTION

The 2025 Sharkskin QLD IRB Championships attracts competitors from all over the state, providing an opportunity to unite showcasing one of Queensland's most iconic volunteer movements, Surf Life Saving.

A high-octane event, inflatable rescue boat (IRB) racing has a large following in Queensland as competitors fight it out for surf rescue supremacy.

Aside from the thrills of the competition the event is a real reinforcement of lifesaving skills. The races are all about simulating rescue situations and testing the abilities of drivers and crew members as they're transferred to a competitive setting.

This year's event is at Coolangatta SLSC from 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> July 2025.

This document outlines some key information relating to the 2025 Sharkskin QLD IRB Championships. Please note that SLSQ may have subsequent bulletins which may supersede information provided in this 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, 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 Advisor	Nigel Ward
Event Referee	Tony Carle
Safety & Emergency Management Coordinator	John Hamrey
Event Coordinator	Ryan Bennett
State IRB Competition Advisor	Scott Stephenson
Venue Representative	Coolangatta SLSC

### 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](https://lifesaving.com.au)  
ABN 27 360 485 381

### **SAFETY & EMERGENCY 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.

<b>POSITION</b>	<b>NAME</b>
Safety & Emergency Management Coordinator	John Hamrey
Deputy Referee	Michael Cook
First Aid/Medical Coordinator	Assist First Aid
Event Coordinator	Ryan Bennett

### **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 this Bulletin will not be taken as an excuse if a Club, Team or individual does not comply with the requirements outlines in this Bulletin.

### **ELIGIBILITY TO COMPETE**

All Competitors wishing to compete at the 2025 Sharkskin QLD IRB Premiership Series must have the relevant SLSA award for their Age Group as well as the relevant age competition evaluation they wish to compete in by the close of entries to be eligible to compete.

All entered athletes must have completed and signed the SLSA “Application for Membership Form” and paid any required membership fees as proof of their eligibility to race.

Competition eligibility is as per the current SLSA Surf Sport Manual Section 2.2 – Competition Eligibility.

### **Competitor Pre-Requisites**

At the date of entry closure for the competition to be contested:

(a) Drivers are required to:

- (i) Be a minimum of seventeen years of age as at the date of competition.
- (ii) Hold their relevant state/territory maritime licence required to operate an IRB.
- (iii) Hold their IRB drivers award, be currently proficient as required by SLSQ and have logged twenty (20) hours specific in-water IRB competition driving training under the supervision of a currently licensed IRB Surf Coach.
- (iv) Be endorsed by a currently accredited IRB Surf Coach as being competent for IRB competition.

(b) Crewpersons are required to:

- (i) Be a minimum of sixteen years of age as at the date of competition.
- (ii) Hold their IRB crewpersons award, be currently proficient as required by SLSQ and have logged twenty (20) hours specific in-water IRB competition driving or crewing training under the supervision of currently licensed IRB Surf Coach.
- (iii) Be endorsed by a currently accredited IRB Surf Coach as being competent for IRB competition.

(c) Patients are required to:

- (i) Be a minimum of fifteen years of age as at the date of competition and be a currently proficient Bronze Medallion holder.
- (ii) Hold their IRB crewpersons award, be currently proficient as required by SLSQ and have logged twenty (20) hours specific in-water IRB competition driving or crewing training under the supervision of currently licensed IRB Surf Coach.
- (iii) Be endorsed by a currently accredited IRB Surf Coach as being competent for IRB competition.

**Note:** The wearing of approved helmets is compulsory for patients in all events (other than the Rescue Tube Race). IRB patients are to wear helmets in both training and in competition. See also Section 2 of the Surf Sports Manual.

(d) Handlers, at the date of competition, are required to:

- (i) Be a minimum of fifteen years of age as at the date of competition and be a currently proficient Bronze Medallion holder.
- (ii) Hold the IRB crewpersons certificate and be currently proficient as required by SLSQ.
- (iii) Be a member of the same club or team as the crews and be entered at the competition (exemption may be given by the Referee for a member of another club or team to be a Handler provided that the Handler is entered at the competition).
- (iv) Wear a competition cap and shall be required to wear a distinctive high visibility pink, orange, yellow, green or red coloured vest as determined by SLSA (or relevant SLS Event Organiser) if entering the water beyond knee depth.
- (v) Comply with all instructions of the officials.
- (vi) Make every effort to ensure that they, or the equipment that they are handling, does not impede another crew, otherwise both their competitor and the Handler may be subject to disqualification.

(e) Competitors should be conversant with all current specifications, competition rules and event conditions etc. pertaining to IRB competition and comply accordingly. Attention is also drawn to other relevant sections of the Surf Sports Manual including *Section 2 – General Competitive Conditions* and any other relevant circulars or bulletins that must also be complied with.

**Note:** In all training and competition, it is compulsory for drivers, crew and patients to wear SLSA approved level 50 Lifejackets (level 50s Lifejackets are not SLSA approved). High visibility vests are not permitted to be worn over the top of Lifejackets. See also section 2 of the Surf Sports Manual.

### Entry Limitations

**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

- (a) IRB competition may be conducted in different categories of age, grade and gender.
- (b) A competitor may compete or nominate to compete in a maximum of twelve events plus the IRB Relay at any one competition.
- (c) A Driver and/or crew may compete in a particular event once e.g. a driver cannot compete in an event in one team as a driver and compete again in the same event as a driver or crewperson in a separate team.
- Note:** This does not preclude an eligible driver, crew or patient from the same team swapping roles in different rounds of the same event.
- (d) If eligible to compete in multiple grades or age categories, drivers and crewpersons may do so but may only compete in a particular event once e.g. open male rescue is a different event to the under 23 male rescue.
- (e) IRB patients are to be considered as gender neutral with respect to their participation in male and female IRB events.
- (f) Patients may compete in any grade, age or gender category events but may only compete in a particular event once.
- (g) Competitors are allowed to participate in 35+ events and 45+ events at a single carnival but are unable to “double dip”. i.e. A 45+ competitor would be able to do the 45+ Surf Rescue and the 35+ Teams Race, however they would not be allowed to do the 45+ Surf Rescue and the 45+ Surf Rescue.
- (h) Attention is also drawn to other relevant sections of the Surf Sports Manual including *Section 2 – General Competitive Conditions* and any other relevant circulars or bulletins which must also be complied with.

**NB:** It is an offence to enter a person who does not meet any of the above requirements, and any irregularities will be considered and dealt with by the SLSQ Surf Sports Committee or the 2023 Sharkskin ‘Ocean Roar’ IRB Premiership Series Disciplinary Committee accordingly.

## **ENTRY REGISTRATIONS**

Club entries for the 2025 Sharkskin QLD IRB Championships must be submitted via SLSA ‘SEMS’

For any Clubs having trouble with this system please contact the SLSQ Sport Administrator, Karen Degnan ([kdegnian@lifesaving.com.au](mailto:kdegnian@lifesaving.com.au))

Entries close: Midnight on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

Late entries will close at midnight on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July. No additional entries under any circumstances will be made after this date.

## **Random Draws**

If 3 or more teams from an individual club are drawn in the same heat of the initial random draw the Surf Life Saving Queensland will re-draw the individual event. No re-draws will be done for double-ups in the initial draw. No re-drawing will be completed after the first round of competition.

## ENTRY FEES

The entry fee per competitor at the 2025 Sharkskin QLD IRB Championships is \$37.50 (inc GST).

All online entries received after the initial closing date will incur a late fee of \$50 (inc GST) plus the original entry of \$37.50.

A tax invoice for all SLSQ club entries (including late entries) will be issued to Clubs in the week after the event.

## EVENT LIST

2025 QLD IRB Championships						
DIVISION	TUBE	MASS	TEAMS	SURF	ASSEMBLY	RELAY
Open Female	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Open Male	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ (Mixed)	✓ (Mixed)
U23 Female	✓	✓	✓	✓		
U23 Male	✓	✓	✓	✓		
35+ Female	✓	✓	✓	✓		
35+ Male	✓	✓	✓	✓		
45+ Mixed	✓	✓	✓	✓		

Events are as outlined in the current Surf Sports Manual and associated bulletins. Clubs may enter unlimited teams per category; per event in accordance with SLSA Competition Rules.

## OFFICIALS

All officials will be required to be current accredited SLSA officials and be the holder of a current BlueCard and have their CYRMS and Child Awareness Courses recorded on SurfGuard.

All competing clubs must supply one official per 10 competitors, without exception.

If an official would like to nominate for the event, please follow the below link:

2025 Sharkskin QLD IRB Championships - [Officials Nominations](#)

## Nominations Close

Officials Nominations close – COB Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025.

## DRAFT TIMETABLE

The below timetable is only a draft and is subject to change. The Program of Events will go out with the Final Bulletin.

### *Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July*

11.30pm -	Carnival Committee
11.45pm	Scrutineering Officials
12.00pm	Scrutineering –
1.00pm –	IRB Duty Crews -
5.30pm-	Team Managers –

### *Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July*

6.00am –	All IRB duty crews report
6.30am -	Carnival Committee Meeting
6.30am –	Official Breakfast and Sign on
7.00am –	All Officials briefing
7.15am-	All Officials to help setup beach
7.30am -	Team Managers Briefing
7.45am –	Marshalling for first event
8.00am –	First Event

## DRESS OF COMPETITORS

Competition caps must be worn in all events for these championships except patients which will be required to wear helmets as stated in the clarification above.

All competitors will be required to wear SLSA approved level 50 Lifejackets in all training and competition. Competitors will not be required to wear the High vis vest over the top of the lifejacket.

## EVENT MEDALS, TROPHIES & POINTSCORE

SLSQ Championship medals will be awarded to team members gaining 1<sup>st</sup> (Gold), 2<sup>nd</sup> (Silver) or 3<sup>rd</sup> (Bronze) in all Championship events contested.

The point score awarded to each Champion Club, within each event's age category, will be 6 points for 1<sup>st</sup> place, down to 1 point for 6<sup>th</sup> place. If, when the event has concluded, there is a tied pointscore, the club with the most first places will be declared the winner. Failing this, the club with the most 2<sup>nd</sup> placings to 6<sup>th</sup> placings respectively will be considered to determine a tie and dual trophies will be presented.

Trophies will be awarded (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>) for the U23, Open and Masters (inc 35+ & 45+) divisions.

Overall Pointscore: To calculate this pointscore we will allocating 12 – 11 – 10 – 9 etc for the clubs that place in the different age categories (U23, Open & Masters). For example, a club that wins the U23 pointscore and comes 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Open and Masters will gain 34 points.

**DEAD HEATS** – Where a dead heat (as defined in the current edition of the Surf Sports Manual) occurs in the final of an event, the clubs of individuals/teams will share the placing points and medal relative to the finish placing. The club of the next individuals/teams to finish will receive the relative placing points based on the number of individuals/teams finishing ahead of them. For example: if two individuals finish equal 1<sup>st</sup>, both individuals/teams shall receive 6 points each and the gold medal. The next placing individual/team shall be awarded the 4 points and the bronze medal for coming 3<sup>rd</sup>.



### TEAM MANAGERS

We will be utilising Team Manager data from the 2025 Sharkskin 'Ocean Roar' IRB Premiership Series. If you have a new Team Manager for the QLD Champs please advise Karen Degnan.

### PATIENT/DUTY BOAT ROSTER

The Duty Boat Roster and Patient boat roster will be finalised once the entries are closed but would remind all clubs that they may need to assist in this area by supplying an IRB.

### GEAR TRAILER/VEHICLE PARKING

The location of gear trailer parking will be notified in the Final Bulletin.

All club, competitors and officials are to read and obey the parking signs set up by the Gold Coast City Council and the Carnival Committee and any vehicles that are illegally parked that results in an infringement notice will be the responsibility of the vehicles owner, SLSQ will take no responsibility.

### SCRUTINEERING

Scrutineering will start at 12.00pm on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July with all Gold Coast Clubs asked to present gear and equipment between 12:00pm- 2:00pm, and all Sunshine Coast Clubs between 2:00pm- 4pm. For engines the Air boxes are to be removed, whilst for IRB's the floorboards are to be left in and all clubs will need to show a current registration for all boats. Any club that has a question about this please email the Sport team at SLSQ.

For all details regarding Scrutineering procedures please refer to the following documents that can be found on the SLSA member's portal: (*Portal/Library/Sport/Manuals and Technical Rules/SLSA/IRB*)

- IRB Competition – Gear & Equipment Regulations 2025

**Clubs will be sent Scrutineering paperwork; this will need to be completed and brought to Scrutineering on the day.**

**Please Note: All clubs competing in the Assembly teams that the fuel bags that are used in the assembly teams' event must have unmodified manufacturers flaps over the fuel clip eyelet.**

### IRB SAFETY REPORTING PROCEDURES

In conjunction with the Surf Sports Committee, the IRB Competition Panel has created some IRB safety reporting documents for all IRB coaches to fill out for every IRB training session.

These documents include an Injury Report, Risk Assessment Form and Daily Training Log. The Daily Training Log and Risk Assessment Form must be filled out prior to every session and if necessary, the injury report must be filled out as soon as an injury occurs.

Please take note if an injury does occur, a SLSQ injury report form and a marine incident report form must be filled out as well as the IRB injury report. Copies of these documents must be sent in with the IRB incident report form.

These documents must be returned to Ryan Bennett at Surf Life Saving Queensland at the end of every month. The first due date for these is at the end of the month your club started training. The forms will be collated and filed in the event of any injuries sustained during training and/or competition.

Any queries should be directed to the Sport Development Coordinator Dan Homer on 07 5566 1012.

## **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 operation 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 however the proximity to Coolangatta Airport could have an impact on the use of Drones at the State IRB Championships.

### **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.

## **HEALTH & WELLBEING**

The welfare of all competitors and officials is of paramount importance and athletes or their Parent/guardian in the case of underage competitors should seek advice prior to the competition from a qualified professional for any health concerns if required.

Any competitor or official who suffers illness or injury prior to or at the event must seek a medical clearance before resuming their normal activities which includes training and competition.

In addition, SLSQ may, at its sole discretion, require a competitor and/or official to be assessed for physical and/or psychological fitness to participate in the competition. This ensures the safety and wellbeing of the athlete concerned and fellow competitors while also ensuring all parties and SLSQ are not placed at risk.

SLSQ will be supplying adequate shade tents at all marshalling areas for officials and competitors throughout the event. It is highly recommended that all athletes ensure they carry with them adequate apparel to assist with reduction of sunburn, along with recommended use of sunscreen throughout the day.

## **ANTI-DOPING & MATCH FIXING**

Through affiliation with SLSA, SLSQ supports the Australian Government, Sport Australia, the Australian Olympic Committee, and Sport Integrity Australia in their efforts to eradicate match-fixing and the use of drugs in sport.

It is strongly recommended that all coaches and Team Managers complete the Sport Integrity Australia Anti-Doping Fundamentals Course (formerly Level 1) as well as the Sport Integrity Australia Introduction to Match Fixing Course. Both of these courses are free of charge and provide an opportunity to develop a knowledge and understanding of anti-doping and match fixing in sport.

These courses can be accessed at: <https://elearning.sportintegrity.gov.au/>

## **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 them 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 Portal).



## 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 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](mailto:rbennett@lifesaving.com.au)

Surf Life Saving Queensland

PO Box 436

West Burleigh, QLD, 4019

Phone: (07) 5566 1006