



Title:	2026/27 Season Proficiency Update/s - SLSQ State, Annual Proficiency Requirements and Award Updates
Document ID:	09.09.2026_EDUCC
Department:	Membership Education
Audience:	All Clubs, All Branches, Chief Training Officers, Club Administrators, Regional Administrators, Education and Lifesaving Committee Members, Powercraft panel, Chairs of Education and Lifesaving, Membership, Surf Sports, Education EATS/EDC's, ELT, RM's & SMG
Type:	SLSQ State, Skills Maintenance Requirements 2026/27 Season - ECT TAF's - Powercraft IRB and RWC - Drone Operators - Radio Operator Award [ROC]
Date:	09.09.2026

SLSA Annual Proficiency requirements refer to:

[Circular 80/25-26 Skills Maintenance \(Proficiency Check\) Requirements for 2026/27 Season](#)

This circular provides a summary of the additional **SLSQ State, Annual Proficiency Requirements** for the 2026/27 season.

Members and TAFs should identify the award or role they hold below and complete the applicable requirements by 31 December 2026.

KEY DATE | 31 December 2026.

Applicable online modules, proficiency and induction requirements are to be completed *on/or before 31 December 2026*.

Surf Life Saving Queensland

18 Manning Street t. +61 7 3846 8000
 South Brisbane QLD 4101 f. +61 7 3846 8008
 PO Box 3747 w. lifesaving.com.au
 South Brisbane QLD 4101 ABN 27 360 485 381

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REQUIREMENTS at a glance

AWARD / ROLE	2026/27 REQUIREMENT	ACTION
Emergency Care Training (ECT)		
ECT TAF's	Complete: ECT TAF Annual Proficiency, Professional Development Module via Member Training Portal <i>Completion contributes to the annual ECT Trainer proficiency and endorsement requirements.</i>	Complete by: 31/12/2026
Powercraft		
IRB Crew (IRBC)	Maintain Bronze Medallion proficiency and demonstrate safe/effective IRB crewing competency. <i>Transition assessment requirements subject to 2025/26 award completion. * Refer to IRB Skills Card_2026/27</i>	See IRB 2a. section below Complete by: 31/12/2026
Silver Medallion IRB Driver (SMIRBD)	Maintain Bronze Medallion + IRB Crew proficiency and demonstrate safe IRB driving/operational competency. <i>Transition assessment requirements subject to 2025/26 award completion. * Refer to IRB Skills Card_2026/27</i>	See IRB 2a. section below Complete by: 31/12/2026
RWC Operator (RWCO)	Maintain prerequisite award currency and demonstrate safe RWC operational competency during approved operational activities. *Refer to NEW RWC Skills Card_2026/27	See IRB 2b. section below <i>Demonstrate competency and required sea time</i>
RWC Crew Induction	Complete the new RWC Crew Induction, as applicable.	See IRB 2c. Effective from: 1/10/2026
All Powercraft Award Holders	IRB and RWC Online Professional Development Module/s will focus on best practice and safety, due for release October 2026. <i>These modules will support operators to maintain safe, consistent and contemporary operational practices and reinforce the standards expected of all SLSQ Staff and Members undertaking Powercraft duties.</i>	Due for Release: October 2026
Drone Operators		
Drone Operators	Complete: Online Theory module, FlyFreely instant mission and conduct a one-battery assessment flight	See 3. Section below Complete by: 31/12/2026
Radio Operators Certificate (ROC)		
ROC Award Holders	NIL Skills Maintenance practical assessment requirement	<i>Completion of GWN Radio Module recommended</i>

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REQUIREMENTS in further detail

1. ECT TAF's

WHO: All Emergency Care Training (ECT) TAF's.

COMPLETE: The ECT Trainer Proficiency , Professional Development Module

This module supports ongoing trainer industry and VET currency, current training package and industry requirements and consistent ECT training and assessment practices.

OUTCOME: Completion contributes to maintaining annual ECT Trainer proficiency and endorsement for the 2026/27 season.

COMPLETION BY: On/or before 31 December 2026

ACCESS via: [SLSQ Member Training Portal](#) | via *Skills Maintenance and/or Emergency Care Training* section

2. POWERCRAFT

INFLATABLE RESCUE BOAT (IRB)

As part of the transition to the updated IRB Crew and IRB Driver awards, a *one-off skills maintenance assessment* was introduced last season.

All IRB operators are encouraged to review the [9th Edition IRB Manual](#) to gain a better understanding of new content and techniques.

2a. Inflatable Rescue Boat [IRB]

- IRB Crew (IRBC)
 - SM IRB Driver (SMIRBD)
- a. Members **who completed** their IRB Crew or Silver Medallion IRB Driver award **during the 2025/26 season** are not required to repeat the annual proficiency assessment for 2026/27 season as competency has been recently demonstrated through completion of the new award.
 - b. Members **who DID NOT complete** their IRB Crew or Silver Medallion IRB Driver award **during the 2025/26 season** are required to demonstrate skills in a 'one off' skills maintenance this season, due to changes to the award delivery that came into effect from 2025/26 season.
 - c. For existing award holders, proficiency may be demonstrated and assessed during *normal operational activities*, rather than requiring a separate formal proficiency session.

IRB Crew Certificate | SKILLS MAINTENANCE

For this award to remain current candidates must complete at least one of the following:

- **Perform** an annual skills maintenance check refer to:
[2026-2027 IRB Crew & Driver Skills Maintenance Guide.v1.0.pdf](#)
OR



- **Demonstrate** at least 3 hours of sea time over the previous 12 months **and** undertake a familiarisation and demonstration of any pre-season updates relevant to the award.

Silver Medallion IRB Driver | SKILLS MAINTENANCE

For this award to remain current candidates must complete at- least one of the following:

- **Perform** an annual skills maintenance check refer to:
[2026-2027 IRB Crew & Driver Skills Maintenance Guide.v1.0.pdf](#)
OR
- **Demonstrate** at least 5 hours of sea time over the previous 12 months **and** undertake a familiarisation and demonstration of any pre-season updates relevant to the
[9th Edition IRB Manual](#)

“One-Off” Skills Maintenance requirements

An appropriately authorised/endorsed assessor has the opportunity to observe and confirm competency aligned with;

- Refer to: [Circular 80/25-26 Skills Maintenance \(Proficiency Check\) Requirements for 2026/27 Season](#)

“Normal operational” activities is participation in routine authorised Surf Life Saving QLD activities where the member is actively performing the skills relevant to their award.

This may include;

- Patrol operations | Training activities | Water safety | Rescue operations and exercises
- Other approved operational activities, where an endorsed assessor has the opportunity to observe and confirm competency aligned with;

2b. Rescue Watercraft [RWC]

All RWC operators are encouraged to review the [RWC Manual - 1st Edition](#) to gain a better understanding of all content and techniques.

Skills maintenance for the Rescue Watercraft Operator certificate **must be completed** as per SLSQ state centre requirements and may be assessed during normal operational activities.

- Rescue Watercraft Operator (RWCO)

“Normal operational” activities means participation in routine authorised Surf Life Saving QLD activities where the member is actively performing the skills relevant to their award.

For RWC Operators, this includes:

- **Perform** an annual skills maintenance check refer to [RWC Skills Card 2026/27](#)
OR
- **Demonstrate** at least 15 nominal hours of sea time during the previous 12 months ref:
[RWC Manual - 1st Edition](#)
And



- **Demonstrate** the required operational skills to the satisfaction of an Assessor RWC/Endorsed Assessor – RWC; and
- Completing familiarisation and demonstration of any pre-season updates relevant to the award, refer to [RWC Skills Card 2026/27](#)
- Operational competency includes safe launch, parallel running, figures of eight, response to signals, surf negotiation as required, victim rescue, deep-water reboarding and pre/post-operation procedures.

2c. RWC CREW Induction

EFFECTIVE FROM: 1 October 2026

The new RWC Crew Induction *supersedes* the previous induction content and provides a standardised training framework for preparing members undertaking RWC Crew duties to safely and competently undertake the RWC crew duties during patrol and emergency operations.

The RWC Crew Induction must be completed by:

- **All new members** undertaking RWC crew duties from **1 October 2026** who have not previously completed an SLSQ-recognised RWC Crew Induction
- **Existing members who have not previously completed** the former RWC Crew Induction
- **Existing members where their previous induction or demonstrated competency does not meet the current requirements**, as determined by SLSQ or an appropriately endorsed RWC Assessor.

Existing members who have previously completed the superseded RWC Crew Induction are not required to repeat the full induction, unless specifically identified by SLSQ. Any new or changed safety, operational or competency requirements will be addressed through the 2026/27 RWC proficiency/pre-season update.

The required induction will strengthen practical capability in RWC launch and retrieval, rescue operations, patient handling and transfer, and safe crew operations, ensuring members understand their role when working alongside an RWC Operator.

Outcome: Completion will contribute to maintaining your annual RWC Award proficiency and endorsement for the 2026/27 SLSQ season.

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3. QLD DRONE OPERATORS

WHO: All SLSQ Drone Operators

COMPLETE:

1. The online Theory Module and assessment covering Drone SOP's via [SLSQ Member Training Portal](#) via *Skills Maintenance* section
2. A FlyFreely instant Mission, including pre and post flight checks, aligned to the prescribed SLSQ checklists
3. Conduct a one-battery assessment flight maintaining positive control of the drone throughout the flight



OUTCOME: For eligible members, completion contributes to maintaining annual Drone Operator and Trainer proficiency and endorsement for the 2026/27 season.

COMPLETION BY: On/before 31 December 2026

ACCESS via: [SLSQ Member Training Portal](#) via *Skills Maintenance and/or Other Courses* section

4. RADIO OPERATORS CERTIFICATE (ROC)

WHO: All members holding the Radio Operators Certificate (ROC).

COMPLETE: NIL Skills Maintenance practical assessment requirement for the 2026/27 season.

OUTCOME: Eligible members will have ROC proficiency updated centrally by SLSA, No Assessor App or club recording action is required for this season.

PRACTICE: Clubs are encouraged to practise safe and effective radio use during normal patrol and operational activities.

NOTE: The GWN Radio Learning Module is separate to the 2026/27 ROC Skills Maintenance requirement. Further operational instructions will be issued regarding completion of the GWN Radion Module 15-minute module, including applicable members and timeframes.

*All members **are strongly encouraged to complete** the GWN Radio module to support the safe, effective and responsible use of GWN radios and the protection of SLSQ and Club equipment. The module reinforces correct radio use, including preventing inadvertent duress activations, reducing lost radios and improving cleaning, maintenance and care practices.*

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ACCESS & SUPPORT

All SLSQ and Members are advised to access ALL training resources directly through the [Member Training Portal](#).

**Effective from 27 July 2026, the previous Education Hub has been decommissioned.*

IMPORTANT: To ensure full access to ALL training and resources for the 2026/27 season, members are advised to access training *directly through the Member Training Portal* using their Single Sign-On, rather than accessing aXcelerate or eTrainU directly.

Accessing training through the Member Training Portal ensures all member profile matching, prerequisites and training requirements are correctly validated before progressing to the required learning.

Useful Links

How do I access the Member Training Portal?

Access via: [SLSQ Member Training Portal](#)

Video Tutorials: [Click here to access our "How to Guides"](#) including MTP Walkthrough Guide



Support | Have a question or need assistance?

If you have any questions, please contact your Branch and/or dedicated SLSQ Regional Education Staff member via; [Key Regional Education Staff Contact Details](#)

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