



Title:	2026 North Australian Championships – Entry Bulletin
Audience:	All Clubs & All Branches
Date:	4 th September 2026
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2026 North Australian Championships – Entry Bulletin

INTRODUCTION

The 2026 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 30th October 2026 - Mackay Aquatics and Recreation Complex, 193 Boundary Road Ooralea.

Saturday 31st October 2026 – Sunday 1st November 2026 - Mackay Harbour Beach

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

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 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
Carnival Chair	TBA
Event Referee	Natalia Cumming
Safety Coordinator	TBA
Event Coordinator	Nigel Ward
Venue Representative	Peter Marshall

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.

POSITION	NAME
Safety Coordinator	
Deputy Referee	Kurt Goodwin
First Aid/Medical Coordinator	
IRB/Water Safety Coordinator	David Young

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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 outlined in this and other Bulletins.

ELIGIBILITY TO COMPETE

The age of competitors will range from Under 11 to Masters.

Events will be conducted in accordance with the SLSA Surf Sports Manual, current Edition, AND any subsequent Bulletins issued from Surf Life Saving Australia and/or Surf Life Saving Queensland.

Pool Rescue Events, whilst adhering to the SLSA Surf Sports Manual, will also be conducted in accordance with the ILS Competition Manual, AND any subsequent Bulletins.

A copy of these manuals/rules can be found on www.ilsf.org and also via the SLS Hub.

All competitors wishing to be nominated for the 2026 North Australian Championships (NAC) **MUST** have attained their relevant award/s and/or applicable **2026/27** Competition Evaluation by the close of nominations at midnight on Wednesday 21st October 2026. (**NOTE: These Swims must be for the 2026/27 season and not from the 2025/26 season**)

Under 10's may compete in Under 11 team events only.

ALL Under 15 competitors **MUST** have a current and proficient Surf Rescue Certificate to be eligible to compete at the 2026 NAC (Under 14 competitors competing 'up' in Under 15 TEAM events **MUST** have completed their relevant competition evaluation).

ALL Under 17, Open and Masters' competitors **MUST** have a current and proficient Bronze Medallion to be eligible to compete at the 2026 NAC.

Important: ALL competitors must have the required awards listed on Surfguard before the close of late entries to enable entry via Liveheats. **Entries are via Liveheats only.**

It is also **MANDATORY** that all competitors (including reel party members of Belt Race teams) are entered.

PLEASE NOTE:

It is an offence to enter a person who does not meet the requirements as listed above ('Entry Conditions'), and any irregularities will be considered by the Carnival Committee. Random checks of all entries will be carried out upon receipt (i.e. award details). Any Club entry found to be incorrectly completed will be dealt with accordingly.



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ENTRY REGISTRATIONS

Entries are invited from all Clubs within Queensland and the Northern Territory, for the events as listed under (Competition Events) in this Bulletin.

The method of entry is via Live Heats

Adaptive Events

All Adaptive Surf Sport Competitors must submit entries via Live heats

Entries CLOSE at MIDNIGHT, Wednesday 21st October 2026

Late Entries Close: MIDNIGHT Monday 26th October 2026

ENTRY FEES

The entry fee per competitor at the 2026 North Australian Championships is \$40.00 (inc GST) per person for U17 – Masters Competitors and \$45.00 for U11-U15 competitors regardless of the number of events entered.

Nominations received at Surf Life Saving Queensland after the close of entries on midnight Wednesday 21st October 2026 will incur a late fee of \$45.00 (Inc GST) PLUS the original entry fee of \$45.00 (inc GST)

There is No entry fee for the Adaptive Events.

EVENT LIST

Masters Events

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. 110 Years Female Ski Relay (min) | 28. 30-39 Years Male Board Rescue |
| 2. 110 Years Female Surf Board Relay (min) | 29. 30-39 Years Double Ski |
| 3. 110 Years Female Surf Teams (min) | 30. 40-49 Years Female 2km Beach Run |
| 4. 110 Years Female Taplin Relay (min) | 31. 40-49 Years Female Beach Flags |
| 5. 110 Years Male Ski Relay (min) | 32. 40-49 Years Female Beach Sprint |
| 6. 110 Years Male Surf Board Relay (min) | 33. 40-49 Years Female Rescue Tube |
| 7. 110 Years Male Surf Teams (min) | 34. 40-49 Years Female Surf Board |
| 8. 110 Years Male Taplin Relay (min) | 35. 40-49 Years Female Surf Race |
| 9. 140 Years Female Beach Relay (min) | 36. 40-49 Years Female Surf Ski |
| 10. 140 Years Male Beach Relay (min) | 37. 40-49 Years Ironwoman |
| 11. 30-39 Years Female 2km Beach Run | 38. 40-49 Years Female Board Rescue |
| 12. 30-39 Years Female Beach Flags | 39. 40-49 Years Male 2km Beach Run |
| 13. 30-39 Years Female Beach Sprint | 40. 40-49 Years Male Beach Flags |
| 14. 30-39 Years Female Rescue Tube | 41. 40-49 Years Male Beach Sprint |
| 15. 30-39 Years Female Surf Board | 42. 40-49 Years Male Rescue Tube |
| 16. 30-39 Years Female Surf Race | 43. 40-49 Years Male Surf Board |
| 17. 30-39 Years Female Surf Ski | 44. 40-49 Years Male Surf Race |
| 18. 30-39 Years Ironwoman | 45. 40-49 Years Male Surf Ski |
| 19. 30-39 Years Female Board Rescue | 46. 40-49 Years Ironman |
| 20. 30-39 Years Male 2km Beach Run | 47. 40-49 Years Male Board Rescue |
| 21. 30-39 Years Male Beach Flags | 48. 40-49 Years Double Ski |
| 22. 30-39 Years Male Beach Sprint | 49. 50+ Years Female 1km Beach Run |
| 23. 30-39 Years Male Rescue Tube | 50. 50+ Years Female Beach Flags |
| 24. 30-39 Years Male Surf Board | 51. 50+ Years Female Beach Sprint |
| 25. 30-39 Years Male Surf Race | 52. 50+ Years Female Rescue Tube |
| 26. 30-39 Years Male Surf Ski | 53. 50+ Years Female Surf Board |
| 27. 30-39 Years Ironman | 54. 50+ Years Female Surf Race |

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- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 55. 50+ Years Female Surf Ski | 71. 60 - 69 Years Male Rescue Tube |
| 56. 50+ Years Ironwoman | 72. 60 - 69 Years Male Surf Board |
| 57. 50+ Years Female Board Rescue | 73. 60 - 69 Years Male Surf Race |
| 58. 50-59 Years Male 2km Beach Run | 74. 60 - 69 Years Male Surf Ski |
| 59. 50-59 Years Male Beach Flags | 75. 60 - 69 Years Ironman |
| 60. 50-59 Years Male Beach Sprint | 76. 60+ Years Male Board Rescue |
| 61. 50-59 Years Male Rescue Tube | 77. 60+ Years Double Ski |
| 62. 50-59 Years Male Surf Board | 78. 70+ Years Male 1km Beach Run |
| 63. 50-59 Years Male Surf Race | 79. 70+ Years Male Beach Flags |
| 64. 50-59 Years Male Surf Ski | 80. 70+ Male Beach Sprint |
| 65. 50-59 Years Ironman | 81. 70+ Male Rescue Tube |
| 66. 50-59 Years Male Board Rescue | 82. 70+ Years Surf Board |
| 67. 50-59 Years Double Ski | 83. 70+ Male Surf Race |
| 68. 60- 69 Years Male 1km Beach Run | 84. 70+ Male Surf Ski |
| 69. 60 - 69 Years Male Beach Flags | 85. 70+ Ironman |
| 70. 60 - 69 Years Male Beach Sprint | |

Junior Events

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 86. All Age Relay (8 in total: 1 per age group – U11, U12, U13, U14, U15, U17, Open & Masters) | |
| 87. U11 Beach Relay | 119. U12 Male Surf Board |
| 88. U11 Board Relay | 120. U12 Male Surf Race |
| 89. U11 Cameron Relay | 121. U12 Ironman |
| 90. U11 Female 1km Beach Run | 122. U12 Surf Teams |
| 91. U11 Female Beach Flags | 123. U13 Beach Relay |
| 92. U11 Female Beach Sprint | 124. U13 Board Relay |
| 93. U11 Female Board Rescue | 125. U13 Cameron Relay |
| 94. U11 Female Surf Board | 126. U13 Female 2km Beach Run |
| 95. U11 Female Surf Race | 127. U13 Female Beach Flags |
| 96. U11 Ironwoman | 128. U13 Female Beach Sprint |
| 97. U11 Male 1km Beach Run | 129. U13 Female Board Rescue |
| 98. U11 Male Beach Flags | 130. U13 Female Surf Board |
| 99. U11 Male Beach Sprint | 131. U13 Female Surf Race |
| 100. U11 Male Board Rescue | 132. U13 Ironwoman |
| 101. U11 Male Surf Board | 133. U13 Male 2km Beach Run |
| 102. U11 Male Surf Race | 134. U13 Male Beach Flags |
| 103. U11 Ironman | 135. U13 Male Beach Sprint |
| 104. U11 Surf Teams | 136. U13 Male Board Rescue |
| 105. U12 Beach Relay | 137. U13 Male Surf Board |
| 106. U12 Board Relay | 138. U13 Male Surf Race |
| 107. U12 Cameron Relay | 139. U13 Ironman |
| 108. U12 Female 1km Beach Run | 140. U13 Surf Teams |
| 109. U12 Female Beach Flags | 141. U14 Beach Relay |
| 110. U12 Female Beach Sprint | 142. U14 Board Relay |
| 111. U12 Female Board Rescue | 143. U14 Cameron Relay |
| 112. U12 Female Surf Board | 144. U14 Female 2km Beach Run |
| 113. U12 Female Surf Race | 145. U14 Female Beach Flags |
| 114. U12 Ironwoman | 146. U14 Female Beach Sprint |
| 115. U12 Male 1km Beach Run | 147. U14 Female Board Rescue |
| 116. U12 Male Beach Flags | 148. U14 Female Surf Board |
| 117. U12 Male Beach Sprint | 149. U14 Female Surf Race |
| 118. U12 Male Board Rescue | 150. U14 Ironwoman |

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- 151. U14 Male 2km Beach Run
- 152. U14 Male Beach Flags
- 153. U14 Male Beach Sprint
- 154. U14 Male Board Rescue

- 155. U14 Male Surf Board
- 156. U14 Male Surf Race
- 157. U14 Ironman
- 158. U14 Surf Teams

Senior Events

- 159. U15 Beach Relay
- 160. U15 Board Relay
- 161. U15 Cameron Relay
- 162. U15 Female 2km Beach Run
- 163. U15 Female Beach Flags
- 164. U15 Female Beach Sprint
- 165. U15 Female Board Rescue
- 166. U15 Female Rescue Tube
- 167. U15 Female Surf Board
- 168. U15 Female Surf Race
- 169. U15 Ironwoman
- 170. U15 Male 2km Beach Run
- 171. U15 Male Beach Flags
- 172. U15 Male Beach Sprint
- 173. U15 Male Board Rescue
- 174. U15 Male Rescue Tube
- 175. U15 Male Surf Board
- 176. U15 Male Surf Race
- 177. U15 Ironman
- 178. U15 Surf Teams
- 179. U17 Beach Relay
- 180. U17 Board Relay
- 181. U17 Taplin Relay
- 182. U17 Female 2km Beach Run
- 183. U17 Female Beach Flags
- 184. U17 Female Beach Sprint
- 185. U17 Female Board Rescue
- 186. U17 Female Rescue Tube
- 187. U17 Female Single Ski
- 188. U17 Female Surf Board
- 189. U17 Female Surf Race
- 190. U17 Ironwoman
- 191. U17 Male 2km Beach Run
- 192. U17 Male Beach Flags
- 193. U17 Male Beach Sprint
- 194. U17 Male Board Rescue
- 195. U17 Male Rescue Tube
- 196. U17 Male Single Ski

- 197. U17 Male Surf Board
- 198. U17 Male Surf Race
- 199. U17 Ironman
- 200. U17 Surf Teams
- 201. Open Female 2km Beach Run
- 202. Open Female Beach Flags
- 203. Open Female Beach Relay
- 204. Open Female Beach Sprint
- 205. Open Female Board Relay
- 206. Open Female Board Rescue
- 207. Open Female Double Ski
- 208. Open Female Surf Belt
- 209. Open Female Single Ski
- 210. Open Female Surf Board
- 211. Open Female Surf Race
- 212. Open Female Surf Teams
- 213. Open Female Taplin Relay (3-Person)
- 214. Open Ironwoman
- 215. Open Male 2km Beach Run
- 216. Open Male Beach Flags
- 217. Open Male Beach Relay
- 218. Open Male Beach Sprint
- 219. Open Male Board Relay
- 220. Open Male Board Rescue
- 221. Open Male Double Ski
- 222. Open Male Single Ski
- 223. Open Male Surf Board
- 224. Open Male Surf Race
- 225. Open Male Surf Teams
- 226. Open Male Taplin Relay (3-person)
- 227. Open Ironman
- 228. Open Male Surf Belt
- 229. Open Lifesaver Relay
- 230. Junior March Past
- 231. Open March Past
- 232. Open Mixed Double Ski
- 233. Open Ski Relay

Pool Rescue Competition Events

- 234. U11 Female 50m Brick Carry
- 235. U11 Female 100m Swim with Obstacles
- 236. U11 Female 100m Patient Tow with Fins
- 237. U11 Male 50m Brick Carry
- 238. U11 Male 100m Swim with Obstacles

- 239. U11 Male 100m Patient Tow with Fins
- 240. U12 Female 50m Brick Carry
- 241. U12 Female 100m Swim with Obstacles
- 242. U12 Female 100m Patient Tow with Fins
- 243. U12 Male 50m Brick Carry

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- 244. U12 Male 100m Swim with Obstacles
- 245. U12 Male 100m Patient Tow with Fins
- 246. U11&U12 Female 4 x 50m Medley Relay
- 247. U11& U12 Male 4 x 50m Medley Relay
- 248. U13 Female 50m Brick Carry
- 249. U13 Female 100m Swim with Obstacles
- 250. U13 Female 100m Patient Tow with Fins
- 251. U13 Male 50m Brick Carry
- 252. U13 Male 100m Swim with Obstacles
- 253. U13 Male 100m Patient Tow with Fins
- 254. U14 Female 50m Manikin Carry
- 255. U14 Female 100m Swim with Obstacles
- 256. U14 Female 100m Manikin Tow with Fins
- 257. U14 Male 50m Manikin Carry
- 258. U14 Male 100m Swim with Obstacles
- 259. U14 Male 100m Manikin Tow with Fins
- 260. U13&U14 Female 4 x 50m Medley Relay
- 261. U13&U14 Male 4 x 50m Medley Relay
- 262. U15 Female 100m Swim with Obstacles
- 263. U15 Female 100m Manikin Tow with Fins
- 264. U15 Female 100m Manikin Carry with Fins
- 265. U15 Female 50m Manikin Carry
- 266. U15 Male 100m Swim with Obstacles
- 267. U15 Male 100m Manikin Tow with Fins
- 268. U15 Male 100m Manikin Carry with Fins
- 269. U15 Male 50m Manikin Carry
- 270. U17 Female 100m Swim with Obstacles
- 271. U17 Female 100m Manikin Tow with Fins
- 272. U17 Female 100m Manikin Carry with Fins
- 273. U17 Female 50m Manikin Carry
- 274. U17 Male 100m Swim with Obstacles
- 275. U17 Male 100m Manikin Tow with Fins
- 276. U17 Male 100m Manikin Carry with Fins
- 277. U17 Male 50m Manikin Carry
- 278. U15&U17 Female 4 x 50m Medley Relay
- 279. Open Male 200m Swim with Obstacles
- 280. Open Male 100m Manikin Tow with Fins
- 281. Open Male 100m Manikin Carry with Fins
- 282. Open Male 50m Manikin Carry
- 283. Open Male 4 x 50m Medley Relay
- 284. Open Female 200m Swim with Obstacles
- 285. Open Female 100m Manikin Tow with Fins
- 286. Open Female 50m Manikin Carry with Fins
- 287. Open Female 50m Manikin Carry
- 288. Open Female 4 x 50m Medley Relay
- 289. 30-39Yrs Female 100m Swim with Obstacles
- 290. 30-39Yrs Female 100m Manikin Tow with Fins
- 291. 30-39Yrs Female 50m Manikin Carry
- 292. 30-39Yrs Male 100m Swim with Obstacles
- 293. 30-39Yrs Male 100m Manikin Tow with fins
- 294. 30-39Yrs Male 50m Manikin Carry
- 295. 40-49Yrs Female 100m Swim with Obstacles
- 296. 40-49Yrs Female 100m Manikin Tow with Fins
- 297. 40-49Yrs Female 50m Manikin Carry
- 298. 40-49Yrs Male 100m Swim with Obstacles
- 299. 40-49Yrs Male 100m Manikin Tow with fins
- 300. 40-49Yrs Male 50m Manikin Carry
- 301. 50+ Yrs. Female 100m Swim with Obstacles
- 302. 50+ Yrs. Female 100m Manikin Tow with Fins
- 303. 50+ Yrs. Female 50m Manikin Carry
- 304. 50-59Yrs Male 100m Swim with Obstacles
- 305. 50-59Yrs Male 100m Manikin Tow with Fins
- 306. 50-59Yrs Male 50m Manikin Carry
- 307. 60-69 Yrs Male 100m Obstacles
- 308. 60-69 Yrs Male 100m Manikin Tow with fins
- 309. 60-69 Yrs Male 50m Manikin Carry
- 310. 70+ Yrs. Male 100m Obstacles
- 311. 70+ Yrs. Male 100m Manikin Tow with fins
- 312. 70+ Yrs. Male 50m Manikin Carry
- 313. Masters Female 4 x 50m Medley Relay
- 314. Masters Male/Mixed 4 x 50m Medley Relay

Surf Boat Events –

- 315. U19 Surf Boat
- 316. U23 Female Surf Boat
- 317. U23 Male Surf Boat
- 318. Open Female Surf Boat
- 319. Open Male Surf Boat
- 320. Reserve Grade Surf Boat
- 321. Masters (Over 120 years) Surf Boat

R&R Events –

- 322. U15 5 Person
- 323. U14/U15 2 Person
- 324. U13/U14 2 Person
- 325. U10/U11/U12 2 Person
- 326. Open 2 Person
- 327. Open 5 Person

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NOTES ON EVENTS

Timetable of Events

The DRAFT Timetable of Events for the 2026 NAC will be released as the event draws closer. The FINAL Timetable of Events will be issued with the Final Carnival Bulletin. There are, however, some key programming points to be aware of, which are subject to change at any time, including:

- Pool Rescue Competition Events – Friday afternoon 30th October 2026 – 10am start
- March Past – Saturday morning 1st November 2026 – 7.15am start
- Surf Boat Championship – Saturday afternoon 1st November 2026 – 1.00pm start
- Lifesaver Relay – Saturday afternoon 1st November 2026 – Time TBC
- 1km and 2km Beach Runs – Sunday morning 2nd November 2026 – 7.00am start (TBC)

Masters' Team Events

Age limits of 3-person team races will again this year be restricted to only one age category – 110 Years Minimum Male and 110 Years Minimum Female (ocean events), 140 Years Minimum Male and 140 Years Minimum Female (beach events), and 120 Years Minimum (surf boat events).

Under 11 to Under 14 Events

All U11, U12, U13 and U14 Team events, excluding the Board Rescue events, will be 'Open' events – i.e. teams may be comprised of male and/or female competitors. The only events that will be 'gender-based' events are the Board Rescue events (Patient Tows and pool rescue medley relays)

Under 15, Under 17 Team Events

All U15 and U17 Team events, excluding the Board Rescue events, will be 'Open' events – i.e. teams may be comprised of male and/or female competitors. The only events that will be 'gender-based' events are the Board Rescue events (and pool rescue medley relays).

Competitors Competing 'Up' in Team Events

Competitors are permitted to compete 'up' in another age group in TEAM events as per the SLSA rules and regulations that relate to this (please seek clarification from the SLSA Surf Sports Manual and/or subsequent Bulletins if you are unsure). HOWEVER, please note that events will NOT be held up for this to occur.

Similarly, events will not be held up whilst competitors are waiting for gear and equipment to arrive from other areas or events.

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 2026 NAC.

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!

POOL RESCUE COMPETITION

Pool Rescue Events will be conducted on Friday 30th October from 10am to 6.00pm at the Mackay Aquatics Recreation Centre, 193 Boundary Road, Ooralea.

NOMINATIONS for the Pool Rescue Competition are to be completed via Live Heats before the close of late entries. Draws will be finalised the following morning and NO FURTHER ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

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All Clubs competing in the NAC Pool Rescue Competition will be required to provide a MINIMUM of one (1) TIMEKEEPER for the duration of the competition – this quota will be based on your total number of competitors entered for each session as follows:

- 1 to 15 competitors entered = 1 Timekeeper to be supplied
- 15+ competitors entered = 2 Timekeepers to be supplied

NB: Officials are not to be allocated as Timekeepers, please ensure that you have met both the Official and Timekeeper requirements for this event.

NAC Pool Rescue Competition Notes:

- The 100m Patient Tow with Rescue Tube & Fins Event is a TEAM EVENT and as such two (2) members MUST be nominated per team AND these members can only compete ONCE in each age in which they are competing.
- Under 11 to Under 13 competitors are only permitted to wear 'rubber' type fins that meet SLSA specifications.
- Under 14 to Masters competitors are permitted to wear any fins that meet SLSA/ILS specifications.
- Clubs/Competitors MUST supply their own Rescue Tubes for the Patient Tow, Manikin Tow & Medley Relay events.
- Competitors in Manikin Tow events MUST have a handler.
- Swimwear worn by competitors (pool and ocean) at the NAC MUST be approved competition dress as detailed in Section 2.5 'Dress of Competitors' in the current edition of the Surf Sports Manual.
- All competitors from the same Club should be wearing the same Competition Cap or Swim Cap.

SURF BOAT COMPETITION

The North Australian Championships' Surf Boat events will be conducted on Saturday afternoon 31st October 2026 in the Open Men, Open Women, Under 23 Men, Under 23 Women, Under 19, Reserve Grade and Masters (120 Years Minimum) categories.

BEACH RUNS

The 1km and 2km Beach Runs will be conducted on Sunday morning 1st November 2026, from 7.00am (TBC).

QUEENSLAND COUNTRY JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE TEAM

A Queensland Country representative team will be selected based on performances and results from the 2026 North Australian Championships, and any other applicable events. The team will be made up of U13, U14, U15 and U17 competitors (male and female) – with 6 male and 6 female competitors per age group.

A selection panel of four (4) people – including one (1) selector from each Branch, plus an independent Chairman – will be on hand at the Championships to select the Queensland Country Team. The Team will be announced at the conclusion of the Championships on Sunday 1st November 2026.

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.

VOLUNTEER (OFFICIAL/WATER SAFETY/IRB) REQUIREMENTS

To conduct the NAC successfully and to ensure the safety of all competitors, a MINIMUM of ten (10) operational IRB's are required for use over the duration of the Championships. Personnel for these IRBs (drivers & crew) are also needed.

Clubs are therefore requested to consider supplying at least one (1) operational IRB – including motor – for use during the Championships. Any Club that supplies a fully operational and equipped IRB and motor for use during the entire Carnival will be awarded 50 points towards the Champion Club Overall Pointscore (can only be used for 1 boat).

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If your Club is able to assist, could you please complete the attached form and return to the Event Manager **by no later than Friday the 9th of October, 2026.**

All IRB's are to be delivered to the Carnival on Friday the 30th of October (by no later than 5.00pm), where they are to be inspected by the IRB Coordinator and a checklist completed and signed off by both parties. The same process will be adhered to at the completion of the Carnival on Sunday the 1st November, when the vessels will be available to be collected by the respective Clubs.

Should the vessels be damaged during the course of the Carnival, Surf Life Saving Queensland will consider providing compensation to the Club/s involved after all quotations and repairs are verified.

Club nomination numbers will dictate your IRB requirements. We will confirm the requirements after entries close but for clubs with a large representation of athletes competing, please plan for supplying IRB water safety.

PLEASE NOTE: IF THERE ARE INSUFFICIENT IRB's, DRIVERS & CREW SUPPLIED BY CLUBS, THE NAC COMPETITION COMMITTEE MAY IMPOSE A RESTRICTION ON CLUB NOMINATIONS OR ENFORCE MANDATORY SUPPLY BY CLUBS ACCORDING TO NUMBERS OF NOMINATIONS (i.e. The top 10 Clubs based on nominations may be forced to supply an IRB and Crew). NO POINTS WILL BE AWARDED IF THIS IS THE CASE.

ALL Clubs that have competitors in the U11 to U14 age groups MUST supply one (1) Water Safety Officer – with approved Water Safety Uniform – per every ten (10) competitors (i.e. 1 to 10 competitors = 1 water safety officer; 11 to 20 competitors = 2 water safety officers; etc.). This quota will be determined based on entries per Club once nominations have closed and will be enforced throughout the duration of the Championships under the direction of the Carnival Referee and the Water Safety Coordinator.

All Official, Water Safety Personnel and IRB Duty Boat Crews MUST adhere to the SLSQ Screening Policy and possess a valid 'Working with Children Suitability Card'.

DRAFT TIMETABLE

The below timetable is only a draft and is subject to chance. **Please ensure that you read the Final Carnival Bulletin AND attend all Team Manager Meetings/Briefings to check for alterations/changes.**

The Program of Events will go out with the Final Circular.

Pool Rescue Competition (Mackay Aquatic Recreation Centre)

Friday 30 th October 2026	-	Warm-Up:	9.30am
	-	Marshalling:	9.45am
	-	Start:	10.00am

North Australian Championships (Harbour Beach, Mackay)

Saturday 31st October 2026

March Past	-	Marshalling:	7.00am
	-	Start:	7.15am
Carnival	-	Marshalling	7.30am
	-	Start:	8.00am
Surf Boat		Marshalling:	12.30pm
	-	Start:	1.00pm
Lifesaver Relay	-	Marshalling	TBA (afternoon)
		Start	TBA (afternoon)

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Sunday 1st November 2026

1km/2km Beach Runs	Marshalling:	6.45am
-	Start:	7.00am
-		
All Age Relay	Start:	7.45am
Other Events	Marshalling:	8.00am
-	Start:	8.30am

DRESS OF COMPETITORS

In all events, competitors must wear approved competition dress as detailed in the current edition of the Surf Sports Manual and any other subsequent Bulletins or Circulars. To promote competitor safety and assist with competitor identification, competitors and handlers entering the water beyond knee depth are required to wear approved hi vis as their top layer of clothing. Refusal to comply renders the clothing, competition apparel or equipment ineligible for the competition and the competitor and/or team would be ineligible for further participation in the event.

High Visibility Lycra Vests

As per SLSQ High Visibility Clothing Policy, ALL competitors competing in ocean events at the 2026 North Australian Championships will be required to wear a High Visibility Lycra Vest that is Fluro Pink in colour.

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.

Marine Stinger Protective Clothing

In abiding by the information and guidelines contained within the latest SLSQ Marine Stinger Risk Management Guidelines (LS26 – approved 26.10.2022), the following rules and regulations have been put in place for the 2026 North Australian Championships:

- It will be COMPULSORY for all U11, U12, U13 and U14 competitors to wear appropriate and approved Marine Stinger PPE during ALL water (OCEAN) events throughout the duration of the Championships.
- At this stage, according to the Guidelines/Policy, U15, U17, U19, Open and Masters Competitors will NOT be required to wear appropriate and approved Marine Stinger PPE UNLESS weather conditions, stinging treatments, stinger captures, risk assessments or the NAC Carnival Referee and/or Carnival Safety Officer and/or Competition Committee dictate otherwise.

ALL U15, U17, U19, Open and Masters Competitors are strongly advised to bring appropriate and approved Marine Stinger PPE with them to the Championships as the Carnival Referee may at any time during the Championships enforce the wearing of such Protective Clothing by ALL or ANY competitors in ALL water events.

Beach Events

A compulsory long sleeve garment must be worn by U11 – U14 competitors in the beach events (Sprints, Flags and Relays).

EVENT MEDALS, TROPHIES & POINTSCORE

Points and Medal Allocations

The following rules will apply to the 2026 NAC with respect to point's allocation in all 'finals' event:

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

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For the 2026 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 1st November 2026, with the following trophies and prizes announced:

- Age Champions – Overall
- Senior Pointscore
- Junior Pointscore
- Masters Pointscore
- Overall Pointscore
- Overall Handicapped Pointscore
- Queensland Country Team representatives

Another presentation ceremony will occur on Saturday afternoon 31st October 2026 whereby presentations will be made to those Officials that have achieved their 10, 20, 25, or 30-Years' Service Plaques, as well as the Pool Rescue Competition Shield.

OFFICIALS

Expression of Interest is called for those Officials wanting to officiate at the 2026 North Australian Surf Life Saving Championships. (refer to 2026 North Australian Championships – Official Nominations)

If you would like to nominate, please click on the link below:

Officials Nominations - [CLICK HERE](#) – Nominations must be received by COB Friday 2nd October 2026. Any nominations received after this date will not receive an event polo.

As per the Water Safety guidelines, if insufficient numbers of Carnival Officials are received for the NAC, the NAC Competition Committee may need to restrict competitors from Clubs that do not supply adequate numbers of Carnival Officials. In the view of the NAC Competition Committee, an 'adequate' number would be one (1) Carnival Official for every ten (10) competitors from each Club.

For any queries or enquiries about Officials' Appointments, please contact the Sport Team – kdegnian@lifesaving.com.au

OFFICIALS BRIEFING TIMES – DRAFT ONLY

These times are subject to change. Please ensure that you read the Final Carnival Circular AND attend all Team Managers Meetings/Briefings to check for alterations or changes.

Friday 30th October 2026

3.00pm	-	All IRB Duty Boat Personnel
(The venue for the above briefings will be in front of the Mackay SLSC Clubhouse)		
9.30am	-	Pool Rescue Competition Officials
10.00am	-	Pool Rescue Competition Team Managers
2.30pm	-	Championships Referee, Area Referees and Sectional Referees Briefing
4.00pm	-	Championships Team Managers Meeting
(The venue for the above briefings will be the Mackay Aquatic Recreation Centre – 193 Boundary Road, Ooralea)		

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Saturday 31st October 2026

- 6.00am - All IRB Duty Boat personnel
- 7.00am - Championships Officials
- 7.30am - First Aid Personnel

(The venue for the above briefings will be in front of the Mackay SLSC Clubhouse)

Sunday 1st November 2026

- 6.00am - All IRB Duty Boat personnel
- 6.15am - 2km Beach Run Officials
- 6.30am - First Aid Personnel
- 6.30am - 2km Beach Run Marshalling
- 7.00am - Championships Officials

(The venue for the above briefings will be in front of the Mackay SLSC Clubhouse)

TEAM MANAGERS

Team managers are to maintain a high standard of integrity and behaviour from the team. They will adhere to and implement organisational policies and procedures including [Chaperoning and Supervision of Minors POL-SLSQ-021](#) and [SLSQ Code Of Conduct](#)

Each club must have a Team Manager complete the online [TEAM MANAGER DECLARATION LINK](#) before their club is eligible to compete at this event.

Team Managers must ensure they complete the above online Team Managers Declaration for this event before Sunday 18th October 2026. If your Club has more than one Team Manager, please have them complete the online declaration and specify what area/age group they will be managing.

Team Managers, Age Managers and Chaperones MUST adhere to the SLSQ Screening Policy and possess a valid 'Working with Children Suitability Card'.

PLEASE NOTE – the Championships Team Managers Meeting/Briefing will be held on Friday afternoon 30th October, commencing at 4.00pm, at the Mackay Aquatics & Recreation Complex – Ooralea.

It is COMPULSORY that ALL Club Team Managers attend the Team Managers/Briefings as outlined above.

It is compulsory for all Team Managers (in their official roles) to wear clearly identifiable apparel that highlights their club name and the wording 'Team Manager' or 'Assistant Team Manager' OR they are to be otherwise suitable identified (i.e. badge, identification card etc.). Sectional Referees will NOT discuss any matter with a person or persons who do not possess such identification.

FIRST AID PERSONNEL

First Aid Personnel are to meet at the Mackay SLSC First Aid Room at 6.30am on Saturday and Sunday.

ADAPTIVE EVENTS

Surf Life Saving Queensland will be offering dedicated Adaptive Surf Sport events for competitors with a disability. The event program has been designed based on a process of consultation and feedback conducted by SLISA.

This year a selected program will be on offer as participation events. Events will feature adaptations and modifications to maximise participation and ensure an accessible and enjoyable opportunity for all competitors. This will not be a Championships event in 2026 (with no Championship medals or placings awarded). Participation medals will be presented.

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The Adaptive Surf Sport events will be held on Sunday, 1st November 2026. Timings will be confirmed closer to the event.

Competitors may enter their preferred event distance however may only enter one distance per event. All event distances are dependent on conditions and may be further modified as required, based on final Entries.

Events and age groups may be combined to ensure viable events based on number of entries per event/age group.

Event	Distances	Age Groups
Beach Flags	15m	Youth (13-14 years)
	15m	Under 17 (15-16 years)
	15m	Open (17+ years)
	15m	Masters (30+ years)
Beach Sprint	70m	Youth (13-14 years)
	70m or 90m	Under 17 (15-16 years)
	70m or 90m	Open (17+ years)
	70m	Masters (30+ years)
Beach Run	500m or 1km	Youth (13-14 years)
	500m or 1km	Under 17 (15-16 years)
	500m or 1km	Open (17+ years)
	500m or 1km	Masters (30+ years)
Wade Race	Approx. 50m	Youth (13-14 years)
		Under 17 (15-16 years)
		Open (17+ years)
		Masters (30+ years)
Surf Race	200-400m	Youth (13-14 years)
		Under 17 (15-16 years)
		Open (17+ years)
		Masters (30+ years)
Board Race	500-750m	Youth (13-14 years)
		Under 17 (15-16 years)
		Open (17+ years)
		Masters (30+ years)

Note: Athletes with disability may additionally or alternatively enter any other standard (non-Adaptive) divisions if they hold the required awards and meet required proficiencies.

All competitors must be a current financial member of a Surf Life Saving Australia affiliated surf club. There are no service hours requirements for Adaptive Surf Sport Competitors. All competitors must additionally meet the event eligibility requirements below.

BEACH SPRINT/RUN/FLAGS ELIGIBILITY

There are no prerequisite requirements to enter these events however the competitor must be capable of completing the required skills/distance with or without their handler's assistance.

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SURF SWIM/WADE/BOARD ELIGIBILITY

Competitors who hold a proficient Surf Rescue Certificate or proficient Bronze Medallion may enter surf events.

Competitors who do not hold a proficient Surf Rescue Certificate or proficient Bronze Medallion may enter surf events however must have a mandatory water safety handler (minimum 1:1 ratio) and must be capable of completing the required skills/distance with or without handler assistance.

CATEGORISATION

Categorisation is the process of grouping competitors based on their diagnosed health condition and impact of impairment on sport participation. It is designed to ensure fair and meaningful competition for athletes with a disability.

In 2026 competitors will be grouped into a single "Open category" for all Adaptive events. Additional categories may be introduced in subsequent years as participation grows.

To be eligible for the Open category the competitor must have a permanent health condition or impairment which causes activity limitation or participation restriction. Including, but not limited to:

- Intellectual impairment
- Autism
- Down syndrome
- Hearing loss/Deafness
- Vision loss/Blindness
- Muscle power impairment (e.g. spinal cord injury, muscular dystrophy, post-polio syndrome and spina bifida.)
- Passive range of movement impairment (e.g. arthrogyrosis and contracture resulting from chronic joint immobilisation or trauma affecting a joint)
- Limb deficiency/Loss (e.g. amputation, congenital limb deficiency)
- Short stature (e.g. achondroplasia, growth hormone dysfunction, and osteogenesis imperfecta)
- Hypertonia, Ataxia, Athetosis (e.g. cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, stroke, multiple sclerosis)
- Transplant recipient (e.g. organ, blood or stem cell transplant)

SLSQ seek to make the process of Categorisation eligibility as simple as possible and as such athletes will be required to submit the below evidence.

- Diagnosis or medical condition details
- Related impairment type details
- Individual accessibility needs
- Individual support needs
- Other sport specific classification details

Collecting this information will assist SLSQ to:

- Identify individual accessibility and support needs for implementation during competition.
- Identify specific event modifications that may need to be implemented during competition.
- Further refine and develop formal categorisation for future years.

HANDLERS

Any competitor may optionally employ one or more handlers to provide reasonable and necessary assistance during any event.

A handler is mandatory for all competitors entered into surf events who do not hold a proficient Surf Rescue Certificate or proficient Bronze Medallion.

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A handler must be a current financial and active SLSA member and hold a proficient Surf Rescue Certificate or proficient Bronze Medallion.

ACCESSIBILITY AND OTHER SUPPORTS

MOBILITY AIDS

SLSQ will work to ensure competition areas are as accessible as possible and will work to accommodate individuals who use mobility aids. A dedicated mobility aid storage area will be provided in close proximity to the Adaptive event arena. In addition SLSQ will provide on beach transport options should they be required (e.g. beach wheelchair, ATV). Competitors with specific needs related to mobility aids and venue access, please detail this in your eligibility application form.

ASSISTANCE ANIMALS

Assistance animals are welcome in all areas of the event and SLSQ will work to accommodate individuals who are accompanied by an assistance animal. Competitors with specific needs related to assistance animals please detail this in your eligibility application.

CARERS/SUPPORT WORKERS

All competitors are encouraged to engage their own carer/support worker to provide additional individual assistance during competition, if required.

SCRUTINEERING

Random scrutineering and safety checks will take place throughout the duration of the Championships. Of particular interest will be the condition of boards – particularly the condition of fins.

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:

Photos and video may be taken during the event and used for promotional material by SLSQ. Please inform administration if no consent of photography is given.

For the 2026 North Australian Championships each Club will be permitted two (2) accredited Club photographers per Club – one (1) Senior and one (1) Junior – that will be granted limited access within the competition arena (unless stipulated otherwise by the Carnival Referee) to take photographs of their Club competitors. These Club Photographers **MUST** be accredited with an official 2026-2027 SLSQ Club Photographer Pass. Photographers within the carnival area must have a visible photographer's pass as well as their Blue Card.

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.

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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.

Water barrels will be available under the marshalling tents for officials, team managers and competitor use. These barrels are in place for all persons to use and fill up their own water bottles. Please note, no drinking cups will be supplied.

ANTI-DOPING & MATCH FIXING

SLSQ affiliated with SLSA supports the Australian Government, the Australian Sports Commission, and Sport Integrity Australia in their efforts to eradicate the use of drugs in sport.

It is strongly recommended that all Coaches and Team Managers complete the courses offered by Sport integrity Australia including anti-doping and match fixing. These courses are free of charge and provide an opportunity to develop a knowledge and understanding integrity 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 themselves and their Clubs.

Please refer to the Surf Sports Manual sections 2.27 *SLSA Code of Behavior* and 2.28 *Abuse/Inappropriate Behavior* 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 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.

CANCELLATION POLICY

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

- If the 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 the carnival is cancelled, after the first event is conducted, no refund will be given
- If the 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

FURTHER INFORMATION

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

sport@lifesaving.com.au

Surf Life Saving Queensland

PO Box 239

Mermaid Beach, QLD, 4218

Phone: (07) 5566 1006

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2026 NORTH AUSTRALIAN SURF LIFE SAVING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Supply of IRB's, IRB Drivers and IRB Crew

CLUB NAME:

.....

NUMBER OF FULLY EQUIPPED IRB'S TO BE SUPPLIED:

.....

(This includes fully equipped boat AND outboard motor to SLSA/SLSQ standard)

MAKE & MODEL OF IRB: (1)..... (2)

REGISTRATION NUMBER OF IRB: (1)..... (2)

MAKE & MODEL OF MOTOR: (1)..... (2)

CONTACT PERSON:

.....

CONTACT NUMBER:CONTACT EMAIL:

NAME OF PERSON DELIVERING IRB:

.....

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER (AT CARNIVAL):

.....

APPROXIMATE DELIVERY DAY & TIME:

.....

(All IRB's are to be delivered to the IRB Coordinator prior to 5.00pm on Thursday 30th October OR prior to 7.00am on Friday 31st October 2026 unless alternative arrangements have been made with the Event Manager)

NAME OF IRB DRIVER/S:

NAME OF IRB CREWPERSON/S:

(1)..... (1).....

(2)..... (2).....

CLUB ENDORSEMENT:

Name:

Position:

Signature:

Date:

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE SPORT TEAM

EMAIL: kdegnian@lifesaving.com.au

NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 9th OCTOBER 2026

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2026 NORTH AUSTRALIAN SURF LIFE SAVING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Water Safety Personnel

All SLSQ clubs participating in the 2020 North Australian Surf Life Saving Championships are required to provide one (1) Water Safety Officer for every ten (10) competitors in the U11 to U14 age groups – i.e. 1 to 10 competitors = 1 water safety officer, 11 to 20 competitors = 2 water safety officers, etc.

Please submit the names of your financial members with a minimum SLSA qualification of the Surf Rescue Certificate or Bronze Medallion. A reminder that each member must also be a current blue card holder and that all fields within the table are required to be filled in.

CLUB: **# of COMPETITORS:**

Name	Blue Card No.	SRC	Bronze

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE SPORT TEAM

EMAIL: kdegnian@lifesaving.com.au

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