



Australian Life Saving Team - Circular

Title:	2025/26 ALT Selection Guidelines towards the 2026 Lifesaving World Championships
Document ID:	Circular 50/24-25
Audience:	ALT athletes, ALT development athletes, ALT pathway athletes, coaches, State/Territory Surf Sport Managers and Directors
From:	High Performance and Pathways
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Summary:	This Circular contains the relevant information to inform and support team selection in the Australian Life Saving Team. 2025-26 Selection Guidelines

SUMMARY

The Australian Life Saving Team is currently in the preparation phase as we begin to finalise the 2025 international racing and development calendar. The calendar is designed to provide meaningful developmental opportunities and competitive racing experiences, all aimed at positioning the team for success at the 2026 World Lifesaving Championships.

It is important to note that the Australian Life Saving Team strives to build capacity across Ocean, Beach, Pool, Surf Boat and when competition permits, IRB disciplines. The World Lifesaving Championships format offers the opportunity for each nation to select 12 youth and 12 open athletes (with the inclusion of an IRB team when possible) to represent their country on the world stage.

Athletes selected on the Australian Team will be required to deliver world-class performances across pool, ocean and beach disciplines, contributing to a collective point score aimed at securing the highest possible placing for Australia.

ELIGIBILITY

Detailed Team eligibility is outlined in the [2025-26 Selection Guidelines](#).

In addition to other listed eligibility requirements, age requirements are as follows.

Youth Team: Competitors who turn 15,16,17 or 18 years of age on or before 31/12/2026. (i.e. born between 01/01/2008 – 31/12/2011).

Open Team: Competitors who turn 16 years of age on or before 31/12/2026. There is no maximum age. (i.e. born in 2010 or later).

Pathways Team: Competitors turning 18 years old on or before 31/12/2026 are eligible for selection for the Battle of the Tasman event (i.e. born in 2008 or later).

TOURS

The following ALT tours have been endorsed for 2025.

Tour	Discipline	Competition Dates	Location	Team Size (athletes)	Tour Target
RLSS Commonwealth Lifesaving Championships*	Pool	10 – 13 July	Swansea, Wales	20	Royal Life Saving Australia Tour
World Games	Pool	8 th – 9 th Aug	Chengdu, China	10	Open Performance
Battle of the Tasman	Pool/Ocean/Beach	August	Gold Coast	Youth 12 Pathways 12	Youth Pathways
NZ Pool Championships	Pool	26 th – 28 th Sept	Auckland, NZ	20	Development
German Cup	Pool	20 th – 22 nd Nov	Warendorf, Germany	10	Open Performance
ISRC	Ocean/Beach	27 th , 28 th & 30 th Nov	Mt Maunganui, NZ	12 12	Open Performance Youth Performance

* This tour is delivered by Royal Life Saving Australia, not Surf Life Saving Australia.

The World Games

The World Games is a multi-sport event taking place in Chengdu, China, from 7-17 August 2025. Lifesaving events, specifically Pool Lifesaving will be held on 8th and 9th August.

Qualification for entry to the World Games is based on results achieved during the qualification period from August 2023 to January 2025. These results have been submitted to the International Life Saving Federation as part of the selection process.

Battle of the Tasman

Battle of the Tasman is a new event, first held in 2023 on the Gold Coast, designed to provide developmental racing opportunities for pool, ocean and beach athletes. The event facilitates international racing experience for developing youth and pathway athletes.

A Pathways and Youth team will be selected to represent team Australia at the event in August.

2025 New Zealand Pool Rescue Championships

The ALT will be sending a development team to compete at the New Zealand National Pool Rescue Championships in Auckland. This tour aims to offer athletes international racing experience, an opportunity to post late-season times, and the experience of travelling with a team.

20 developing athletes will be selected for this tour in September.

2025 German Cup

The German Cup is a premier event on the International Pool Lifesaving calendar, offering high-quality racing opportunities for the ALT. This is a capped Australian tour targets Australia's best pool athletes and is a key component in the World Lifesaving Championships preparation.

10 of Australia's finest pool athletes will be selected to attend the German Cup in November.

International Surf Rescue Challenge (ISRC)

The ISRC offers valuable international touring and racing opportunities for our ocean and beach athletes. With strong participation from lifesaving nations, it delivers some fierce racing.

The ALT will select the finest Youth and Open athletes to represent Australia in November.



KEY SELECTION EVENTS

Selection event details will be provided in the relevant tour Circular, which will be released well in advance of the tour selection and include specific information relevant to each tour.

Note: Results from the Australian Surf Life Saving/Pool Rescue Championships, State Championships and RLSSA Australian Pool Life Saving Championships will be key selection events for ocean, beach and pool tours respectively, among others listed in the Selection Guidelines.

NOMINATIONS

Athletes wishing to be considered for ALT tours in 2025/26 will be required to nominate for the tour to ensure that selectors are aware of which athletes are available for teams.

TEAM LEVIES

Some tours during the 2026 Campaign may incur a levy. Where applicable, SLSA will provide subsidies where possible. All information relating to levies will be included on the relevant tour/team Circular.