



Surf Life Saving Australia – Circular (63/24-25)

Title:	Surf Life Saving Australia Officials Scholarship – Australian IRB Championships
Document ID:	Circular 63/24-25
From:	Sport Development & High Performance and Pathways
Date:	29/04/2025

Officials play a vital role in Surf Life Saving Sport. The Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA) Officials Scholarship Program aligns with the SLSA Participant Development Pathway, ensuring officials are trained and supported to continue their officiating progression. The Scholarship Program will increase opportunities and create a progressive pathway for our aspiring officials.

This will be achieved by providing the recipients with the opportunity to gain officiating experience at The Sharkskin Australian IRB Surf Life Saving Championships.

Officials Scholarship Program Criteria

1. **Experience:** Applicants must have a record of good performance and commitment to officiating at branch and/or state level events.
2. **Qualifications:** Applicants must have a valid Technical Official or Senior Official accreditation.
3. **Support from Branch or State:** A statement of support must be provided by a senior member of the applicant's Branch or State Surf Sports Committee or equivalent.
4. **Ongoing Participation:** The Officials Scholarship Program runs for a two-year duration. The applicants must be committed to the two-year program*.
5. **Eligibility:** You will be deemed ineligible if you have already officiated more than once at the National Championship in which you are applying for i.e Aussies, IRB or Pool. Please note however, that each Australian Championship is recognised as having its own scholarship program, so therefore if you have officiated at more than one Australian IRB Championships in the past, you will be ineligible to apply for the scholarship for the Australian IRB Championships, however you *WILL* be eligible to apply for Aussies or Pool Championships. Please also note that anyone who has been unsuccessful in the past is still eligible to apply.

What is included in the Officials Scholarship?

SLSA will create a schedule for two (2) scholarship recipients to maximise learning and development opportunities through appointed mentors, exposure to carnival set up, carnival meetings and meal with the selectors panel and senior carnival officials

SLSA will cover reasonable expenses for the two (2) successful scholarship recipients as outlined below;

First Year: Reimbursement of travel/accommodation related expenses for the event to the value of up to \$600 each.

Second Year: Reimbursement of travel/accommodation related expenses to the event to the value of up to \$300 each.



Any other costs associated with officiating will be the responsibility of the scholarship recipient.

Expectations of Scholarship recipients

Scholarship recipients must be available to officiate and nominate for a role for the duration of the Championships.

[The Sharkskin Australian IRB Championships](#) (South West Rocks, NSW) 17 – 20 July 2025.

Recipients are required to officiate to the best of their ability in their allocated events and prepare appropriately to carry out their allocated duties.

How to apply for the Officials Scholarship Program?

Applications can be submitted via the online application form:

[Officials Scholarship Online Application Form](#)

Applications close on Friday 30th May 2025. All applicants must nominate for a role through The Sharkskin IRB Championships officials nomination process.

How will Scholarship recipients be selected?

The Officials Scholarship Panel comprising of SLSA representatives (including Senior Officials), will perform an objective evaluation of valid applications.

Applicants may be required to provide additional information or take part in an interview if required by the panel.

If successful, all applicants must (*if not nominated already*) nominate for a role through the appointment process. Officials who have already nominated for a role, are most welcome to nominate for the scholarship program, providing eligibility is met.

Successful applicants will be notified by Friday 6th June 2025.

More information

For more information about the Officials Scholarship Program, please contact

Tracey Bloxsom tracey.bloxsom@sls.com.au or Narelle Duggan – narelle.duggan@sls.com.au