



ADAPTIVE EVENTS

Adaptive Surf Sport Pathways and Competition Framework



ADAPTIVE SURF SPORT PATHWAYS & COMPETITION FRAMEWORK

Purpose

SLSA has committed to establishing competition opportunities for people with disability at all levels of Surf Sport in Australia. Ultimately this Framework outlines the approach and structure for delivering and developing fair and meaningful competition from club programs to the Australian Surf Life Saving Championships.

Working Definitions

The table below provides handy definitions for additional context and to assist with positioning of competitive options proposed in this paper.

TERM	DEFINITION
Surf Lifesaving for people with a disability	Surf Lifesaving for people with a disability is an umbrella term that refers to organised surf life saving activities specifically designed for individuals with disabilities. It encompasses a wide range of activity approaches that are adapted or modified to accommodate the needs and abilities of people with disabilities. The focus is to promote inclusivity, participation, and competition among individuals with various types of disabilities.
Adaptive Surf Sport	Adaptive surf sport is a broad term that refers to organised competitive surf life saving activities that have been adapted or modified to allow individuals with disabilities to participate. These adaptations can include changes to equipment, rules, or environments to ensure that athletes with disabilities can compete on an equal footing with their peers. Adaptive surf sport aims to remove barriers and provide opportunities for athletes with disabilities to compete, progress and excel in surf sports.
Competition Format	Competition Format refers to how Adaptive Surf Sport events are delivered.
Participation Model	Participation Model refers to how competitors participate in Adaptive Surf Sport events or other surf life saving activities for people with disability.
Classification	Classification, also referred to as categorisation, is the process of grouping competitors based on diagnosed medical condition and/or functional impairment for the purpose of fair and meaningful competition for people with disabilities.

Adaptive Surf Sport Pathway

Basic Athlete Pathway

Stage	Focus	Level	Competition	Categorisation
Foundation	Fun & skill development	Club + Branch	No	No
Talent	Skill development & competition	State	Yes	Optional
Elite	Competition & winning	State → National	Yes	Yes
Mastery	Winning consistently	National → International	Yes	Yes

For more information about the FTEM Pathways Model, please visit: www.ais.gov.au/ftem

COMPETITION ELIGIBILITY



Surf Swim/Wade/Board Eligibility

Competitors who hold a proficient Surf Rescue Certificate or proficient Bronze Medallion may enter water events. Competitors who do not hold a proficient Surf Rescue Certificate or proficient Bronze Medallion may enter water 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 (Classification)

SLSA will work towards the development of a categorisation system which provides opportunities for fair and meaningful competition that reflects the needs of members yet is aligned to existing standardised categorisation and classification systems.

Identification, prioritisation and inclusion of specific classes or categories is to be based on demand and availability of established rules and policies that could be adopted by SLSA along with capabilities required for effective administration.

General Eligibility

All competitors must be a current financial member of a Surf Life Saving Australia affiliated surf club. There are no patrol 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.

Competition Program of Events

The following program of events has been approved for implementation at the 2024 Australian Surf Life Saving Championships. The program of events will be reviewed annually after completion of the Australian Surf Life Saving Championships.

EVENT	DISTANCE	AGE GROUPS	SUGGESTED FORMAT
Beach Flags	15m	Youth (13 to 14 years)	Run as an Integrated Model event as part of the standard schedule, utilising standard arena.
	15m	Under 17 (15 to 16 years)	
	15m	Open (17+ years)	
	15m	Masters (30+ years)	
Beach Sprint	70m	Youth (13 to 14 years)	Run as an Integrated Model event as part of the standard schedule, utilising standard arena.
	70m or 90m	Under 17 (15 to 16 years)	
	70m or 90m	Open (17+ years)	
	70m or 90m	Masters (30+ years)	
Beach Run	500m or 1km	Youth (13 to 14 years)	Run as an Integrated Model event as part of the standard schedule utilising, standard arena.
	500m or 1km	Under 17 (15 to 16 years)	
	500m or 1km	Open (17+ years)	
	500m or 1km	Masters (30+ years)	
Surf Wade	Approx. 50m	Youth (13 to 14 years)	Run as a Specialised Model event with 1:1 water safety assistant (BM, unless proficient) completing the race together, utilising a dedicated course.
	Approx. 50m	Under 17 (15 to 16 years)	
	Approx. 50m	Open (17+ years)	
	Approx. 50m	Masters (30+ years)	
Surf Swim	200-400m	Youth (13 to 14 years)	Run as a Specialised Model event with 1:1 water safety assistant (BM, unless proficient) completing the race together, utilising a dedicated course.
	200-400m	Under 17 (15 to 16 years)	
	200-400m	Open (17+ years)	
	200-400m	Masters (30+ years)	
Board Race	500-750m	Youth (13 to 14 years)	Run as a Specialised Model event with 1:1 water safety assistant (BM, unless proficient) completing the race together, utilising a dedicated course.
	500-750m	Under 17 (15 to 16 years)	
	500-750m	Open (17+ years)	
	500-750m	Masters (30+ years)	

SLSA strongly encourages all state, branch and club competitions to adopt the program above to support the development and progression of competitors towards the Australian Championships.

SLSA also encourages competition deliverers to adapt and modify events and provide additional events based on local demands and opportunities.

To provide feedback on this resource, please email us at: diversitycoordinator@sls.com.au