

Brief to Board of Surf Sports

| |
|--|
| Title: Competition Eligibility |
| Reference: |
| Department: Surf Sports |
| Responsible Person/s: Director of Surf Sports |
| Summary: Requirements for competition |
| Date: 9 September 2024 |

Summary

This memo provides information to assist members, clubs, and branches with the administration of SLSA Policy 5.04 Competition Eligibility in SLSA competitions.

ELIGIBILITY TO COMPETE

To be eligible to compete in any SLSQ, SLSA competition or to receive endorsement to enter ILS or ILS member competitions, an SLSNSW member must:

- Be a registered and current financial member of SLSQ.
- **Be the holder of the appropriate SLSA award relevant to the age category as detailed in the latest version of the Surf Sports Manual** or hold the equivalent overseas ILS member country award.
- **Is SLSA proficient as prescribed for the relevant SLSA Award required for competition eligibility.**
- **Be eligible under the necessary age category.**
- **In relation to championship competition, have met their patrol and or service commitments as detailed in the guidelines and met all their Club, Branch and State Centre requirements.**
 - Not be in default with their Club, Branch, State Centre or SLSA (or overseas ILS member associations) in relation to their service, financial or discipline obligations.
- Have met any other competition eligibility qualification requirements for specific events e.g., IRB, Surf Boat (sweep), Patrol Competition, First Aid.

To be eligible to compete in SLS Junior Activity (U8 to U14 age) competition members must:

- Be a registered and current financial member of a club affiliated with SLSA.
- Complete a Junior Competition Evaluation prior to being eligible to participate at interclub competitions.
- **Complete the appropriate SLSA Age award and Junior Competition Evaluation relevant to the member’s age category by the normal closing date of entry in any Championship competition.**
- Be eligible under the applicable age category.

Note: 1 Junior Activities* members (i.e. members comprising Under 14 and below) are not required to perform patrol hours to compete in Junior Activities competitions (i.e. Under 14 and below age categories.) However, if they wish to compete in Under 15 competition they must fulfill their patrol hour and/or service obligations as set out in this document. *Note: Junior Activity Members who hold the Surf Rescue Certificate are exempt from having to perform patrol hours.

Note 2: Under 8 members shall not be permitted to compete in water events other than the Wade Relay (the Junior Competition Evaluation does not form part of the Junior Preliminary Skills Assessment for Under 8 members).

All COMPETITORS MUST BE PROFICIENT

All Award holding members must be proficient to participate in competition events and to undertake lifesaving duties.

Continuing members from Under 15 up to and including Masters age categories wanting to participate at any SLSA competition must successfully complete the SLSA Proficiency Requalification Test relative to their Award.

Members who gain their Surf Rescue Certificate or Bronze Medallion in the period from 1 June of the preceding year will be considered as satisfying the proficiency requirements for entry to competition

Award Members who are not proficient as at 31 December must complete their proficiency prior to participating in further competition events (and patrol activity).

The Proficiency requalification must be completed by close of “normal” entries to be eligible to participate in a SLS Championship or other event i.e. late entries will not be accepted for members who have not completed their proficiency requalification by the normal close of entries.

Proficient age group members, who gain their Surf Rescue Certificate or proficient Surf Rescue Certificate members who gain their Bronze Medallion after the close of entries of a championship, are considered as continuing members, not new members, and therefore may be entered as a late entry into competition.

Junior Activity members must have completed the relevant Junior Competition Evaluation (as detailed in the Education Section of the SLSA Members Portal) prior to being eligible to participate at interclub (non-championship) competitions.

PATROL AND SERVICE HOUR REQUIREMENTS FOR CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION ELIGIBILITY

SLS Clubs are required to enter into a Patrol Contract/Lifesaving Service Agreement with their Branch/State Centre. It is the SLS Club’s responsibility to ensure it complies with the Patrol Contract/Lifesaving Service Agreement and to oversee that its members are undertaking their obligations as required by the State Centre and the club (as per the club’s constitution, regulations and/or rules).

Patrol obligations include all voluntary rostered, substitute, voluntary, Duty Officer, Water Safety at club and intra club activities and special events.

The range of alternative voluntary service in lieu of patrol hours and other circumstances that may be approved by the Club or State/Branch (as appropriate) includes:

- Club Board and Executive Committee positions.
- Accredited volunteer Club Coaching/Officiating.
- Qualified volunteer club training officers and assessors.
- Club members contributing in a significant volunteer club activity other than competition.
- Members undertaking lifesaving duties in other areas such as offshore rescue boat, aerial services, support services, operational support and similar areas of active surf lifesaving.
- A member granted leave of absence and returning from overseas who maintained membership but because of their continued absence abroad could not undertake patrols duties.
- Members of the armed services on special deployment.
- Members, who in the view of the club committee have undertaken ongoing service to the club which they believe is of benefit to their own club’s delivery of lifesaving service.

Award members who wish to participate in any SLS Championship competition conducted by North Queensland Branch must fulfill their patrol and /or service hour requirements relevant to their category of membership. Under no circumstances shall any member be granted an exemption from patrol obligations solely for competition reasons.

To compete at the North Queensland Branch Championships, new award members and re-joining who gained them. award or regained their proficiency that year, require a minimum of four patrol hours plus proportionate additional patrol and service hours, up to the minimum hours detailed in Table 1. – Defer to BoLS

| Due date^ | Month Award gained | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|--------------------|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|---|-----|---|--|--|
| | Apr | | May | | Jun | | Jul | | Aug | | Sep | | | |
| 26-Sep | 25 | | 24 | | 20 | | 16 | | 12 | | 8 | | | |
| Patrol-Other | 10 | 15 | 10 | 14 | 8 | 12 | 6 | 10 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 5 | | |

Table 1

AUTOMATIC EXEMPTION FROM PATROL AND SERVICE REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPETITION

SLSA recognises the following members for automatic Competition Eligibility without Patrol and/or other club service:

- Club, Branch State and National Life Members.
- Club Long Service Members.
- Members holding Executive office at Branch, State or National level.

Any exemptions listed above must be constituted by the members club and the individuals who meet the criteria should be noted in the club minutes and endorsed by respective branch state centre each year.

If you have further questions, please contact the NQ Branch – Board of Surf sports at nqbsports@lifesaving.com