

## ASRL Statement in conjunction with SLSA

### Introduction of new Rowing Divisions

ASRL approached SLSA to introduce separate Male and Female Reserve Grade and U19 divisions of surfboat rowing at the 2017 Australian Surf Life Saving Championships.

Concurrent with this SLSA agreeing to this they also introduced separate male and female divisions of rowing in all ages of the Australian Masters Surf Life Saving Championships

As a result of these changes there will be no provision for mixed gender surfboat racing at the 2017 Australian Surf Lifesaving Championships.

Irrespective of the argument of whether females would or would not create an advantage rowing in a Men's division, SLSA must and does follow gender equity in its competition rules. The ASRL supports this position. The SSM reference has remained unchanged for some time and states in Section 2.3.15 that:

#### ***“2.3.15 Female/Male Only Events***

- a) *Female/Male Only Events may be conducted in designated competition categories. Female/male members shall be eligible to contest such events as per current SLSA rules.*
- b) *However, no event shall be conducted at a competition which excludes a gender, i.e. if only one event is to be conducted it shall be designated as open to both male and female competitors.*

**Note 1:** *Boat sweep oarsmen, IRB patients, Belt Race Reel and other handlers are to be considered as gender neutral with respect to their participation in male and female events.*

**Note 2:** *Some SLSA events may be designated as open to both male and female competitors in each event.*

**Note 3:** *Some SLSA team events (e.g. Open Mixed R&R) may be designated as Mixed and may contain a specified or non-specified number(s) of male and female competitors in each team.*

**Note 4:** *The criteria for the above competition categories*

*and provisos may vary from time to time. These variations will be notified by way of SLSA bulletins and circulars.”*

State and Branches may still conduct mixed gender division surfboat rowing provided that they observe the above principles and conduct races in “mixed gender” divisions. This is detailed in Section 5.1c) of the Surf Sports Manual (with the changes highlighted in yellow).

*“(c) Boat races may be conducted in the following events:*

- *Under 19 Men*
- *Under 19 Women*
- *Under 23 Men*
- *Under 23 Women*
- *Under 23*
- *Reserve Men*
- *Reserve Women*
- *Open Men*
- *Open Women*
- *Open*
- *Senior Men*
- *Senior Women*
- *Senior*
- *Masters Men*
- *Masters Women*
- *Masters*

**Note 1:** *With the exception of the Sweep (refer Section 2 of this Manual) no crew or Individual shall contest more than one of the following categories at the same competition: Open, Open Men or Open Women and Reserve, Reserve Men or Reserve Women categories. The Sweep may compete in different grades, but can only compete in a particular grade once irrespective of whether they are sweeping or rowing.*

**Note 2:** *When a Women’s Boat Race is conducted in an age category, the corresponding age race becomes a male only event (Refer Section 2).*

**Note 3:** *With the exception of Masters competitors, an age division crew or individual may compete in their age division plus older age divisions and Open or Reserve Grade. Masters*

*crews/individuals may compete in their age division plus Open or Reserve Grade.*

**Note 4:** *In Master's events, boat sweeps do not need to be eligible Masters Competitors, but must be SLSA Bronze Medallion/Cert II proficient and hold the necessary SLSA sweep qualifications.*

**Note 5:** *The sweep can compete in any of the age/gender Master's boat events as the sweep, but can only compete once as either the sweep or rower in a particular age/gender event. In other words a competitor cannot be the sweep of the "A" crew in the 140 years men's Master's boat and then row as a member of the "B" crew in the 140 years men's Master's boat.*

**Note 6:** *No member is permitted to compete in SLSA surf boat competition until reaching the age of 16 years."*