Surf Life Saving Australia - Circular

Title:	2027 Australian Surf Boats National Team Selection Event – Nomination/Entry Circular
Document ID:	Circular 30/26-27
Audience:	State/Territory Surf Sport Managers, Directors, Club Secretaries, Branches, State/Territory CEO's, Sport Standing Committee, Team Managers, Competitors
From:	SLSA & ASRL
Date:	October 1, 2026
Summary:	This Circular contains the relevant details for entering competitors into the Australian Surf Boats National Team Selection for the 2027 Trans-Tasman Surf Boat Test Series

BACKGROUND

Each year Surf Life Saving Australia and Surf Life Saving New Zealand select an Open Male, Open Female, U23 Development Male & U23 Development Female surf boat crews to represent their country in the annual Trans-Tasman Surf Boat Test Series.

The 2027 Trans-Tasman Surf Boat Test Series will be held on Saturday 7th February at Waihi Beach, New Zealand with the 3-test series to be run alongside the New Zealand North Island Championships.

To be considered for selection, crews must enter and attend the Australian Surf Boat Team selection event at Woolgoolga Beach on 11th December 2026. Note, your entry indicates your nomination for selection and deems eligibility for the Trans-Tasman Surf Boat Test Series.

SELECTION

Victorious crews of the selection events must be Australian Citizens, current financial members of SLSA and in good standing with the organisation for their selection to be considered by the selection panel as per TTSB Selection Guideline.

Upon entering this selection event, all crews are agreeing to Australian Lifesaving Team Selection Guidelines. All crew members are also agreeing to attend any media requirements or team functions as outlined below, as well as confirming their availability to attend the 2027 Trans-Tasman Surf Boat Test Series and team camp from 3-9 February 2027 in New Zealand. If any member fails to meet these requirements the selection panel will then consider the results of racing at the selection event and announce a replacement team in accordance with the TTSB Selection Guideline.

Prior to the selection event, all teams and team members must have read and understand the TTSB Selection Guideline.

SELECTION PANEL

The Selection Panel will be responsible for the selection of crews to represent Australia at the 2027 Trans-Tasman Surf Boat Test Series. A Surf Boat panel advisor may be appointed to the Selection Panel to assist with selections but will not have voting rights.

Selection of the Australian Team will be decided following the conclusion of the trial event at Woolgoolga on Friday 11th December. Please allow time for this process to followed.

The 2027 Team Managers will also be present at the selection event.

TEAM COMPOSITION

- Open Male Crew (Australian Capped Team Representative)
- Open Female Crew (Australian Capped Team Representative)
- U23 Male Crew (Australian Development Representative)
- U23 Female Crew (Australian Development Representative)

PLEASE NOTE

- Open Male and Open Female Crews will receive an Australian Life Saving Team (ALT) Cap Number and Blazer.
- All team members are required to complete the ALT Online Induction in order to accept their position on the team and complete all required documentation by the indicated deadline.
- Successful crews are to attend a mandatory initial team meeting immediately after the conclusion of competition.
- As with the majority of Australian Life Saving Team tours, those athletes selected will be required to assist with tour costs (accommodation, outfitting, meals etc.) in form of a levy. The following levies to be paid towards this tour;
    - Selected U23 Male and Female Development Crews will be required to pay a $2000pp levy.
- In nominating for and being selected in the Australian Surf Boat Teams all team members are required to participate in all team activities and stay in team accommodation for the duration of the Trans-Tasman Surf Boat Test Series tour.
- All selected crews will need to be available the afternoon of Wednesday 3rd February for a formal presentation and team meeting at SLSA Head Office at Bondi Beach.
- The team will travel to pre-arranged accommodation for a one-night stay prior to an outbound flight to New Zealand the following morning, at the conclusion of the team presentation at Bondi.
- There will be a formal team dinner between the Australian & New Zealand Teams on Friday 5th February.
- A key component of the Trans-Tasman surf Boat Test Series is for the Australian crew to help promote and support surf boat racing in New Zealand. All Australian crews will also be required to compete in the New Zealand North Island Championships, racing in the NZ event on Sunday and participate in local coaching/training events at the conclusion of the Test Series. The event is run over 2 days; 6th – 7th February.
- Return flights will be booked for Monday 9th February.

SELECTION EVENT FORMAT

ROUNDS

- Point score countback will be determined as per the SSM rulebook.
- All teams will compete in three round robin races
- Following the first three round robins, all division will be cut to the top 8 crews based on point score
- An additional two round robin races for top 8 crews will be seeded by point score. Point score continues from first three rounds.
- Following the last round robin race, three crews will be taken to the final series based on pointscore from all five races
- At the completion of the Round Robin racing any crews on equal points who are in contention to qualify for future racing, or to determine an overall final result (if no finals are planned to be conducted - see notes below), result shall be decided on the following basis:
    a) The crews involved will be compared firstly on head-to-head results, with the winner of the head-to-head qualifying to the next (elimination) round of racing. For example, if Crew A and Crew B only raced each other in heat two of the second round and Crew A beat Crew B in that race, then Crew A will qualify for the next round.

b) If the crews have not raced each other, or are still equal after comparing head-to- head results, the relative places from all round robin racing will be reviewed and the crew with the highest individual placing will proceed over the other crews. For example, if one of the crews on equal points has a first place, they will proceed over other crews who did not receive a first place in the rounds. This comparison will continue for second, third etc., places until there is a clear qualifier.

c) If the crews are still equal after both of these comparisons, then the round robin result will be declared a dead heat between the crews involved (as per Rule 2.24). All crews achieving the dead heat will share the round robin finish result and/or be allowed to progress in the competition.

FINAL SERIES

- There will be a three round final series, with all three crews permitted to race in all three races
- There will be a new point score for the final series
- Crews will move one lane up each race.
- If there is a tie after the 3 round final series there will be a sudden death race off between the tied crews only.
- Irrespective of the results of the first 2 rounds - all 3 rounds are to be run. Failure to do so may result in DQ

POINTS

Points will be allocated as per the Surf Sports Manual for Round Robin Racing:

1st place	10 points
2nd place	9 points
3rd place	8 points
4th place	7 points
5th place	6 points
6th place	5 points
7th place	4 points
Did Not Finish (DNF)	3 points
Did Not Start (DNS)	0 points
Disqualification (DQ)	0 points

ENTRY PROCESS

Club entries to the Australian Surf Boats National Team Selection Event must be submitted via Live Heats.

ELIGIBILITY TO COMPETE

To be eligible to compete, competitors must comply with Policy 5.04 – Competition Eligibility and the Guidelines for Competition Eligibility document (available on the SLSA Members Area). If the requirements of Policy 5.04 are not met for the current season by 31st December, the team member will be withdrawn from the team. All sweeps must hold an accreditation level of S3.

ENTRY FEES

The Australian Surf Boat National Team Selection entry fees are as follows:

Price Level	Entries Open	Entries Close	Price (incl GST)*
Entry Fee	1st October 2026	11:59PM 1st December 2026	$30

***Note 1:** Prices are per competitor.

PAYMENT

Clubs will be sent an invoice after each entry period**. Clubs must include club name and invoice number when paying total amounts.**

CLUBS WITH UNPAID ENTRY FEES WILL BE INELIGIBLE TO COMPETE.

REFUND OF FEES/CANCELLATION FEES

Once an invoice has been generated, **entry fees are non-refundable.**

TEAM CHANGES

Changes to already existing team entries can occur up until Entries close at 11:59pm (AEDT), 1 December 2026 via Live Heats.

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Each competitor must hold the award relevant to their entry and have completed a proficiency test for the award. The details of these requirements are detailed in SLSA's Policy 5.04 – Competition Eligibility and the SLSA Guidelines for Competition Eligibility document via the SLSA Member's Area. As noted under Eligibility to Compete see above for further details.

RESTRICTIONS ON EVENTS AND PROVISOS

The following restrictions shall apply in regard to nominations and competition in the various events:

a) As detailed in Note 1 of Section 5.1(a) of the of Surf Sports Manual only accredited S3 Sweeps will be eligible to sweep surf boats at this event. For further information please refer to the SLSA Sweep Accreditation Document.
b) Please note Section 5.1 (f) of the Surf Sports Manual re the mandatory wearing of helmets in Surf Boats unless an acceptably low-level risk is assessed.
c) Surf Boat Competitors are reminded to refer to the Surf Sports Manual Section 5.1(c) Note 7 that details particular 'double dipping" rules that apply.

COMPETITION MANIPULATION

The SLSA Policy 5.11 – Competition Manipulation and Gambling covers all surf life saving events that are conducted by SLSA, State Centres, Branches and Clubs includes special events, conducted by third parties sanctioned by an SLS entity and any event, competition or series connected with Surf Lifesaving.

ANTI-DOPING & MEMBER PROTECTION

Members participating in the Australian Surf Boat Selection event have responsibilities under SLSA Policies, specifically Policy 5.02 Australian National Anti-Doping Policy and Policy 6.23 Improper Use of Drugs and Medicine in Sport.

It is strongly recommended that all participants including competitors, team managers and sweeps complete the online Sports Integrity Australia training module Anti-doping Fundamentals as a minimum prior to the selection event. https://www.sportintegrity.gov.au/resources/education.

Athletes selected on the Australian Life Saving Team will be required to complete the following Sport Integrity Australia Courses:

- Anti-doping Fundamentals
- 2027 Annual Update. PLEASE NOTE THIS IS RELEASED IN JANUARY EACH YEAR.
- Competition Manipulation and Sport Gambling

In addition to the above Sport Integrity Australia Courses, team members are required to also compete the following SLSA Courses;

- SLS Childsafe Awareness
- SLS Sexual Harassment and Misconduct Awareness