

Circular 3491

Released February 2017



2017 NSW IRB Premiership Series | 2017 NSW IRB Championships

Attention: Club Presidents, Club Secretaries, Club Competition Officers, Team Managers, Coaches, Competitors, Branch Directors of Surf Sports, Branch Presidents and Branch CEO/Secretaries

Actioned by: Persons responsible for completing club entries

Date: 21 February 2017

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Summary:	This circular provides information for clubs regarding the 2017 NSW IRB Premiership Series and NSW IRB Championships.
Key Strategic Goal:	To increase grassroots participation in sport and recreational activities at all levels of the movement
Strategic Plan:	8.1 - Increase participation in our sport and recreational activities at a grassroots level through structured and appropriately tiered programs 8.3 - Establish best practice event management for the delivery of surf sports events 8.5 - Deliver surf sports events to our members which appeal to a broad participation base 8.6 - Strengthen development and high performance opportunities in surf sport events and activities
Action:	Clubs are asked to complete and submit entries no later than the dates outlined in this circular. Clubs are also required to understand all information stipulated within this document.

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1. Entry Closing Dates and Times:

Clubs are advised of the entry closing dates and times as per below. **Note: there are no late entries.**

EVENT	VENUE	EVENT DATES	ENTRIES CLOSE
Round 1	Caves Beach	29 & 30 April 2017	Sunday 23 April, 11pm
Round 2	Mollymook	20 & 21 May 2017	Sunday 14 May, 11pm
Round 3	Ocean Beach	3 & 4 June 2017	Sunday 28 May, 11pm
Round 4	Cape Hawke	17 & 18 June 2017	Monday 12 June, 11pm
State IRB Championships	South West Rocks	1 & 2 July 2017	Sunday 25 June, 11pm

2. Team Manager Communication:

Team Managers are required to register their contact details to receive Event Memos and event SMS updates for the IRB Premiership and Championships. Only 2 Team Managers contacts per club will be accepted. Register using the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2017IRBTeamManagers>

Final event memos will be distributed with the first round draws at least 2 days prior to competition with updates as necessary.

Information will be posted on the SLSNSW website:

<https://www.surflifesaving.com.au/members/surfsports/events/2017-irb-season>

3. Safety:

The purpose of this section of the circular is to provide awareness of the various safety components related to IRB competition. To be clear, competitors & team management shall refer to the appropriate sections of the current Surf Sports Manual for full reference.

3.1. Safety Essentials

WARNING: IRB competition can be inherently dangerous. IRB competition participants acknowledge that they are exposed to certain risks during IRB competition including but not limited to leg, spinal and neck injuries, physical exertion, contact with the IRB, temperature, weather and water conditions and even drowning. IRB competition participants acknowledge that accidents can and often do happen which may result in IRB competition participants being injured or even killed. All members through their participation in IRB events agree with, acknowledge and understand this warning and accept and assume the inherent risks in IRB competition.

3.2. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Note: In all training and competition it is compulsory for competitors to wear high visibility (conspicuous colour) SLSA approved level 50 Australian Standard (AS4758) lifejackets or Type 2 (AS1499-1996) lifejackets. (Level 50S lifejackets unless listed on the SLSA Approved Gear and Equipment List are not approved.) It is not required for high visibility safety vests to be worn over the top of lifejackets. See also Section 2 of the Surf Sports Manual.

SLSNSW will not be issuing lifejackets – this is the responsibility of the individual/club.

3.3. High Visibility Garments

Due to lifejackets being required, pink high visibility vests are not required if wearing a lifejacket as stated above.

Handlers are required to wear a competition cap and shall be required to wear a distinctive high visibility pink coloured vest if entering the water beyond knee depth. Alternatively, handlers may wear a high visibility (conspicuous colour) SLSA approved level 50 Australian Standard (AS4758) lifejacket or Type 2 (AS1499-1996) lifejackets. (Level 50S lifejackets unless listed on the

SLSA Approved Gear and Equipment List are not approved.) It is not required for high visibility safety vests to be worn over the top of lifejackets.

SLSNSW will not be supplying High Visibility Garments – this is the responsibility of the individual/club.

To assist with judging, as per 2016 IRB competition, coloured rash shirt sleeves for each lane will be worn under the lifejacket. This will apply to the IRB Driver only. SLSNSW will be providing these garmets.

3.4. Helmets

The wearing of approved helmets is compulsory for patients in all events (other than the Rescue Tube Race). IRB patients are to wear helmets in both training and in competition. See also Section 2 of the Surf Sports Manual.

SLSNSW will not be issuing helmets – this is the responsibility of the individual/club.

3.5. Safety Infringements

(a) A strong emphasis will be placed on safe driving, crewing, patient and handlers' safety practices. All competitors shall compete in each event in a safe manner with controlled speed and may face disciplinary action which can consist of immediate disqualification from the event, and/or issue of a safety infringement and consideration for further penalties.

(b) A safety infringement shall be issued to any competitor deemed to have committed an unsafe practice. This may result in immediate disqualification of the competitor and their entire team (i.e. crew and patient/s) from the event in which the infringement occurred. The name of the competitor and the details of the infringement shall be logged through the safety infringement register of the relevant State and National Office.

(c) If a competitor receives more than one safety infringement in any one competition they shall be disqualified from the entire competition.

(d) Should a history of safety infringements be identified by an SLSA office or official in a twelve month period, the matter shall be referred to the relevant state or national officer/s for consideration of further penalties or disciplinary action.

3.6. Warm Up Areas

Competitors who enter the competition area and 'warm up' will be deemed to have committed an unsafe practice in terms of section 3.5 above. A designated 'warm up' area will be communicated closer to each event.

3.7. Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) and Drones

SLSNSW prohibits the use of drones or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) at IRB competition by members and/or public unless approved by SLSNSW, 7 days prior to the event. The operator must supply an operations manual (including risk management plan), provide public liability insurance and comply with all Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) requirements.

4. Approved Gear and Equipment:

4.1. IRB Surf Rescue Registrations:

All IRBs taking part in the NSW IRB Premiership and NSW IRB Championships must be registered with SLSNSW and carry the appropriate 'SR' number. If you have any questions regarding registering of IRBs with SLSNSW please contact SLSNSW on 9471 8000.

4.2. Scrutineering:

IRB Premiership: Round 1

Team Managers MUST complete Scrutineering forms for Motors/Hulls/Fuel/Propellers with all the required information and submit the forms to the scrutineering registrar prior to entering the competition area.

Round 1 will require all crews IRB equipment (including IRB patient helmets) to be presented for scrutineering from 7.30am at the Caves Beach SLSC. SLSNSW would appreciate full cooperation from Clubs to complete scrutineering as soon as possible and to be prepared for random and/or post event technical scrutineering Saturday and Sunday. Some clubs may be selected to present all their equipment to the scrutineering team for a detailed technical examination at the end of the day.

Please ensure the following:

- a) Hulls are to be inflated with floor in position (where applicable)
- b) Fuel cell to be clipped in
- c) IRB Motors to have restrictor plates and air boxes fitted
- d) Propellers must be removed from IRB Motors and clearly engraved with Club ID
- e) All scrutineering forms completely filled out (documentation available online)
- f) Logs for drivers, crew and patients

Prior to Round 1 all Clubs will be required to submit the SR numbers of the vessels which will be used throughout the Premiership and Championships. Please [complete the SR Number Survey](#).

IRB Premiership: Rounds 2/3/4

Any equipment that is to be used at these rounds and was not registered at round 1 or any new clubs entering the Premiership MUST have scrutineering form/s completed and submitted to the registrar prior to entering the competition area. During competition, (on Saturday & Sunday) random scrutineering will take place in the competition area and some clubs may be selected to present all their equipment to the scrutineering team for a detailed technical examination at the end of the day.

State IRB Championships

There will be NO scrutineering on Friday 30 June. Scrutineering will take place on Saturday 1 July from 7am and during competition as required. More information will be provided in the Final Event Memo in due course.

Any clubs found to be using equipment in the 2017 Premiership rounds or 2017 State championships that does not meet manufacturers or SLSA specification as set out in the current SLSA Bulletin Surf Sport IRB Competition - Gear and Equipment Regulations could be excluded from the event and may face disciplinary action.

4.3. Training Logs:

At the close of entries for each round, please submit copies of training logs for each competitor to surfsports@surflifesaving.com.au. These will be checked against entries for that round and/or the State IRB Championships.

4.4. One Hull Policy

From January 1, 2023, SLSA sport will implement the one hull policy in IRB sport racing. NSW IRB competition Clubs are now notified of this 5 year transition whereby all hulls in competition shall be as per the one hull policy applicable to the IRB competition season of 2023. Approved technical specifications are available online in the Members Portal <http://portal.sls.com.au> - Library >Lifesaving > Equipment >SLSA

5. Event List:

The following events will be conducted at each round of the Premiership:

DIVISION	RESCUE TUBE	MASS RESCUE	TEAMS	RESCUE	RELAY*
Open Male	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Open Female	✓	✓	✓	✓	
U23 Mixed	✓	✓	✓	✓	
35+ Mixed	✓	✓	✓	✓	
45+ Mixed	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Rookie		✓		✓	
Open					✓

Note: Relay does not contribute to Overall Club Premiership Point score. Relay may only be run if time/conditions permit.

The following events will be conducted at the State IRB Championships:

DIVISION	RESCUE TUBE	MASS RESCUE	TEAMS	RESCUE	RELAY*
Open Female	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Open Male	✓	✓	✓	✓	
U23 Mixed	✓	✓	✓	✓	
35+ Mixed	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Rookie		✓		✓	
Open					✓

Note: Unlike the Premiership, the Relay contributes to Overall Club Premiership Point score. Relay may only be run if time/conditions permits.

6. Entry Conditions:

Team Managers are responsible to ensure that competitors comply with the pre-requisites and entry requirements at the completion of close of entries. The club will be notified of any non-compliant competitors and those competitors may be excluded from the event.

Quick Reference for Determining Minimum Age:

Refer to the SSM for the full descriptions, provided here as a quick reference only.

POSITION:	SSM:	DESCRIPTION:
Driver	3.3.2.4, a, (i)	Be minimum age of 17 years of age as at the date of competition (each round/State)
Crewperson	3.3.2.4, b, (i)	Be minimum age of 16 years of age as at the date of competition (each round/State)
Patient	3.3.2.4, c, (i)	Be a minimum age of 15 years of age before October 01 in the (16/17) season. (30/10/16)
Handler	3.3.2.4, d, (i)	Be a minimum age of 15 years of age before October 01 in the (16/17) season(30/10/16)

Quick Reference for Determining Age Groups:

DIVISION	SSM:	DESCRIPTION:
... all competitors must have a common birthday calculated as at midnight on 30 th September .. in that competition season (16/17)		
U23	2.3.10	Members shall be eligible to contest the U23 division after attaining the minimum ages - refer to 3.3.2.4, a (i, ii). Members shall be no older than 22 years of age as at the 30 th September 2016.
35+	2.3.14 a	Note 2: In Masters Team events, Masters may compete in only one Masters Team age category in each event discipline conducted at a competition. Further, Masters Teams are permitted to compete only in their own Masters Team/crew age category in which their team/crew qualify by way of ages unless there are insufficient starters. In such cases the team may compete in the next youngest Masters Team age category. Where a Masters Team event consisting of two competitors is conducted (e.g. double surf ski), the age of the younger competitor shall determine the age category; additionally where an event with three or more competitors is conducted the combined ages of the team members shall apply
45+	2.3.14 a	

6.1. Competitor Audits

All competitors will be audited after the close of entries to all rounds and the State IRB Championships to ensure the compliance with relevant rules set out in the Surf Sports Manual (SSM) and SLSA Policies (see appendix for a list of the most relevant).

Team Managers shall refer specifically to the following sections of the SSM:

- 3.3.2.4 Competitor Pre-Requisites (a-e)
- 3.3.2.5 Entry Limitations (a-g)

All entrants must meet SLSNSW award and proficiency requirements as detailed in the 2016/17 Proficiency Requirements. **It is a Clubs responsibility to check and ensure that all members comply.**

6.2. Rookie Division

Note: Formally known as the novice division. It has been renamed in 2017 to better reflect the developing skills for IRB competition

6.2.1. The Rookie Division events are restricted to entry by IRB Drivers in their first 2 seasons of IRB competition.

6.2.2. Rookie IRB Drivers are encouraged to utilise an experienced crewperson, however a Rookie crewperson is also permissible.

6.2.3. Rookie events will not contribute to the overall point score at any round/event.

6.2.4. If you compete in Rookie Division as a **Driver** you cannot compete in any other category in these events

6.2.5. If you compete in the Rookie Division as a **Crewperson** or **Patient** you can compete in any other division in the same events as long as it complies with 3.3.2.5 Entry Limitations (a-g)

6.3. Composite Teams:

Refer to SSM Section 12.1 (d) (vii).

In the interest in fostering and developing IRB competition, SLSNSW will allow composite teams in the 2017 IRB Premiership and 2017 State IRB Championships under the arrangements as outlined in this Circular. Please note that composite team arrangements are intended to be temporary to allow for developing and/or emerging Clubs to participate in IRB competition with the longer term view of becoming a standalone club team.

Application process for a Composite IRB Team:

Members considering entering a composite team must advise SLSNSW in writing of the following and be endorsed by the Club (of each composite team member) and Branch:

- a. Full names of all competitors and their Clubs
- b. Full name and contact details of the Team Manager
- c. Events to be entered into
- d. Premiership round(s) attending
- e. Organisation to represent (i.e.; Club or Branch competition cap)
- f. Organisation to receive entry invoice and responsible for payment of entries (e.g. Club or Branch)
- g. Overview of the development plan to transition from a composite team to a standalone club team

SLSNSW requests that applications to enter a composite team(s) are received a minimum 2 weeks prior to the close of entries for the appropriate Premiership round please email lstigter@surflifesaving.com.au

Composite teams **are eligible** for Premiership Points, prizes and medals but are not permitted to contribute to a Club Overall Point Score at any round.

Composite teams **are not eligible** for points or medals or prizes at the NSW State IRB Championships. Composite teams **are not** permitted to contribute to a Club Overall Point Score.

7. Entry Process:

7.1. Carnival Manager System

Club entries to the 2017 IRB Premiership and State Championships must be submitted using the [SLSA Carnival Manager System](#).

For Carnival Manager Login Usernames, Passwords or entry assistance, **contact SLSNSW on 9471 8000 or contact the SLSA Helpdesk on 1300 724 006**

Entries may be altered by clubs at any time up to the closing date of each round listed in this Circular.

Clubs are reminded to use the **'force surfguard update'** function prior to starting entries for each event, to ensure the most current data from SurfGuard is transferred to Carnival Manager.

Pro-forma Invoice

Club administrators are reminded that it is good practice to generate a 'pro forma invoice' and archive a copy for future reference if required.

7.2. Team Names

Clubs that have more than one team in any event should consider **giving each team a name** rather than a letter or number **for the duration of the Premiership**. TEAM NAMES MUST BE ALPHA CHARACTERS ONLY **AND MUST NOT** CONTAIN NUMBERS OR NON ALPHANUMERIC CHARACTERS SUCH AS EXCLAMATION MARKS OR COMMAS. This affects the reports generated from Carnival Manager and impacts on the calculation of the point score. Any team names deemed offensive will be required to be amended prior to the first round draws.

If a team composition is changed from round to round, it is asked that clubs use the same team names as the previous round. If a new team is created and that team would like to accumulate points from a previously named team, a new team name must be created and entered.

8. Finance:

8.1. Competitor Entry Fee

The cost of entry per competitor is \$37.60 (incl. GST) per Premiership round and per State IRB Championships.

LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR TEAMS AND CREWS AFTER THE CLOSING DATES OUTLINED IN THIS ENTRY CIRCULAR DUE TO THE IMPACT ON THE FIRST ROUND DRAWS.

The only entries accepted after the closing date will be for athletes replacing other athletes that have already been entered at that round.

8.2. Additional entries

Additional entries will incur a fee of \$19.40 per competitor. Entry fees are **not** refundable if members do not take part in these events. Entry fees are not refundable if the events are transferred to a contingency date and/or location.

8.3. Invoicing

SLSNSW will forward an invoice to each club after the close of entries. Clubs will be able to view a summary of the fees that are due within the SLSA Carnival Manager System via pro forma invoice report.

8.4. Team Substitutions/Changes

The replacement of a team member who is already entered into the competition is provided for under the General Competitive Conditions in the current edition of the Surf Sports Manual. Notification of any team member replacement **MUST** be made by notifying the event administration officer by filling out the substitution form no later than 1 hour prior to the competition commencement.

9. Event Cancellation/Suspension

In the event that any Premiership Round and/or the State IRB Championships is cancelled or suspended for any reason, there are no refunds on entry fees after the close of entries.

SLSNSW will endeavor to activate contingency locations or transfer the event to the back of an existing round.

10. Point Scores:

10.1. Premiership Point Score

The first eight place getters in each event final will be awarded points towards the event point score i.e. 1st = 10 points; 2nd = 8 points; 3rd = 6 points; 4th = 5 points; 5th = 4 points; 6th = 3 points, 7th = 2 points and 8th = 1 point.

In each Premiership, the finals of each event carries points towards the overall club point score of that Round. Therefore, the club with the highest point score at the end of the Round will receive 10 points towards the Club Premiership.

For Example;

Carnival ABCD

1 st	Club A	154 points	Premiership Points gained	10
2 nd	Club B	97 points	Premiership points gained	9

The winner of the club point score will be determined after the final round at the IRB Premiership. This will be the club with the highest point score.

The top placed crew from each club in the final will only receive points towards the overall point score. i.e. If Forster A finish 1st, Forster B finish 2nd and Windang A finish 3rd, only Forster A will receive points towards the overall point score, Forster B will not and Windang will get points for 3rd. The next highest placed club will be awarded the points for the consecutive places.

If a team is disqualified or fails to finish an event then that team fails to gain points for the event and club point score. Where a dead heat (as defined in Section 2 of the SSM Manual) occurs in the final of an event the teams will share the placing points. The club of the next teams to finish will receive the relative placing points based on the number of teams finishing ahead of them. E.g. a tie for 4th will see both teams awarded 5 points each.

The overall point scoring winner for each event in the **Premiership** will be the team who accrues the greatest number of points in all the carnivals. In the event of a tied overall point score, a 'count back system' will be enforced where the club with the greater number of first or higher placing positions will determine the winner.

10.2. State IRB Championships Point Score

Points will be awarded from 1st to 6th in each final:

(1st place = 6 points | 2nd place = 5 points | 3rd place = 4 points | 4th place = 3 points | 5th place = 2 points | 6th place = 1 point).

Where a dead heat (as defined in Section 2 of the SSM Manual) occurs in the final of an event the teams will share the placing points. The club of the next teams to finish will receive the relative placing points based on the number of teams finishing ahead of them. E.g. a tie for 1st will see both teams awarded 6 points each.

Unlike the IRB Premiership, if 2 crews from the same club earn points from a final, both teams **will be** eligible for points towards the club point score. If a team is disqualified or fails to finish an event then that team fails to gain points for the event and club point score. The Club with the highest accumulated total at the completion of all finals will be deemed the Overall Champion Club.

11. Prizes:

SLSNSW is again providing fantastic prizes throughout the 2017 IRB Competition Season, giving clubs a terrific incentive and reward to all competing in the 2017 IRB season with Clubs in the running to win vouchers to the value of \$150. The overall club point score winners for the Premiership or the State Championships will receive 1x IRB Motor with the support of Lakeside Marine.

11.1. Premiership Prizes

Overall Premiership point score medals will be presented at the completion of Round 4 in each event

In addition, the overall champion club at the conclusion of the Premiership will receive a new IRB Motor that they will be able to pick up from Lakeside Marine.

	1st	2nd	3rd	Random Draw
Round 1	\$150 Voucher	\$100 Voucher	\$50 Voucher	N/A
Round 2	\$150 Voucher	\$100 Voucher	\$50 Voucher	N/A
Round 3	\$150 Voucher	\$100 Voucher	\$50 Voucher	N/A
Round 4	\$150 Voucher	\$100 Voucher	\$50 Voucher	N/A
Final Point Score	IRB Motor*	N/A	N/A	\$150 Voucher

(* Note: The same club cannot win both the Premiership Motor and State Championships Motor).

11.2. State IRB Championships Prizes

Championship Medals will be awarded at the State Championships for each event at the conclusion of competition.

	1st	2nd	3rd	Random Draw
State IRB Championships	IRB Motor* Or \$200 Voucher*	\$150 Voucher	\$100 Voucher	\$50 Voucher

*(**Note:** The same club cannot win both the Premiership Motor and State Championships Motor. If the State Champion club is also the Premiership Club, then a \$200 voucher will be the prize and the IRB Motor will be awarded to the second placed Club at the State IRB Championships).

12. SLSA Rules and Policies Index:

Reference is made to the following circulars and bulletins issued by SLSA and SLSNSW. This is not an exhaustive list and SLSA circulars and updates are available on the Members Portal. It will be up to the individual to review the SLSA Member's Portal for any updates that may affect IRB competition.

12.1. 35th Edition Surf Sports Manual (SSM):

<http://portal.sls.com.au> - Library > Sport > Manuals and Technical Rules > SLSA > Surf Sports Manual > SSM Section 3: Lifesaving and IRB Events Updated DEC 2015

12.2. SLSA – Gear & Equipment Regulations:

<http://portal.sls.com.au> - Library > Sport > Manuals and Technical Rules > SLSA > IRB

- Fuel Safety and Compliance Record Check
- Hull Compliance Check Record
- IRB Competition – Gear and Equipment Guidelines
- IRB Competition Judging Guide
- Outboard Motor and Propeller Guard and Compliance Check Record
- Propeller Safety and Compliance Check Record

12.3. SLSA – Approved Gear & Equipment List:

<http://portal.sls.com.au> - Library > Lifesaving > Equipment > SLSA

12.4. SLSA Policy 5.04 - Eligibility to Compete in SLSA Competitions:

<http://www.surflifesaving.com.au/members/surfsports/sport-documents/competition-proficiency-slsa-policy-54.pdf>

12.5. SLSA - IRB Motor Sealing Requirements:

<http://portal.sls.com.au> Library > Sport > Manuals and Technical Rules > SLSA > IRB

12.6. SLSA Bulletin 3 – 13-14 Mandatory Wearing of Certified Lifejackets in IRBs – Lifesaving & Competition:

<http://sls.com.au/sites/sls.com.au/files/downloads/Sport/Surf%20Sports%20Manual%20Bulletins/Bulletin%2003%2013-14%20Mandatory%20life%20jackets%20in%20IRBs.pdf>

12.7. SLSA Circular 85 13-14 Approved surf helmets for surf sports competition – update:

<http://portal.sls.com.au> - Library > Bulletins, Circulars and Publications > Circulars > SLSA > 2013-14