



Bulletin

Title: 35 th Edition Revised September 2016 Surf Sports Manual – Update August 2017
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Department: Sport
Audience: State Surf Sport Managers, Championships Committee Members, Presidents, Secretaries and Officials
Summary: SLSA Undertakes regular review of its resources to enhance its governing rules of its sport. This Bulletin advises the promulgation of further updates and clarifications to its rules.

BACKGROUND

The current 35th Edition Revised September 2016 Surf Sports Manual (SSM) serves SLSA well in the delivery of surf sports. However, continuous improvement is always possible. To this end a small number of changes, corrections and clarifications have been made and reflect SLSA's ongoing commitment to the delivery of safe and fair surf sports for its members.

The changes were made in consultation with states, sports discipline experts, key stakeholders and endorsed by the Combined Consultative and Capacity Forum (CCCF).

The changes detailed in this Bulletin become effective immediately. The source SSM is available for viewing and download from the members portal on the SLSA website. The changes will be included in the new SSM "e-book" when it is released.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Section 2 - General Conditions:

- **Competition Eligibility:** A new note has been added to Clause 2.2.1 (a)(i) to enable the SLSA Chairs of Sport and Lifesaving to approve limited competition eligibility for members with a permanent and limiting disability to participate in non-water events.

Explanation: There are rare medical occurrences where a member is unable to obtain the required award to enable their participation in SLSA sport. An example of this may be someone who suffers a severe neurological condition that means it is unsafe for the member to swim. However such a person is able to do another award and fulfil all other membership requirements. This will enable this person to participate in say a beach sprint or first aid event.

- **Competition Eligibility:** A note to be added to Clause 2.2.1 (a)(ii) to clarify that an approved modified proficiency may enable a member to participate in water based competition.

Explanation: There sometimes situations where a member suffers mobility issues on land but is a competent swimmer. This change reinforces that the member will be able to compete if a modified proficiency (e.g. extended run swim run time) is approved and successfully completed.



- **Dress of Competitors:** Additional wording has been added to Clause 2.5.1 (c) and (j) to clarify that the swim wear provisions in Clause 2.5.1 (c) is for SLSA ocean and pool rescue competition swim events and swim legs and that there are exceptions allowed in other events.

Explanation: This allow for competitors to wear, say, long tights in board races etc. It provides for sun safety and personal preference in non-swim individual events or non-swimming legs of relay events.

- **Dress of Competitors:** A new Clause 2.5.1 (n) has been added to clarify that it is permitted to wear jewellery in all events unless particularly prohibited by entry conditions. However, competitors need to be conscious of the potential for injury in wearing some items.

Explanation: Over the years there have been various interpretations of the wearing of jewellery. This clarification brings SLSA into line with other sports such as Triathlon and Ocean Swimming where it is clarified that participants are free to decide whether they wear e.g. watches or rings etc.

- **Change-Over Tags:** Clause 2.21(a) and (b) has been modified to clarify that either the incoming or outgoing competitor may effect a changeover tag.

Explanation: There has been some discussion on who is tagging whom in relay events. It has been determined that the critical aspect of a changeover is that there is a visible touch between the incoming and outgoing competitor within the correct changeover area. The revised wording in this Clause and in all other Sections of the SSM (Sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9) now reflects this interpretation.

- **Abuse/Inappropriate Behaviour:** A note to Clause 2.28(b) has been added that reads: *“SLSA is committed to ensuring that every person involved in the movement is treated with respect and dignity and protected from discrimination, harassment and abuse. Members are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the SLSA Code of Conduct for people in Positions of Authority when dealing with children and young people. Any concerns a member or the general public may have around the safety and protection of a child should be reported immediately via the Online Complaint and Report form (forms.sls.asn.au) Reports can remain anonymous. For further information please refer to the SLSA Member Protection Policy or contact the SLSA Office.”*

Explanation: SLSA is committed to member protection and wellbeing.

Section 3 - Lifesaving Events:

- **IRB Racing Bonus Time:** A note has been added to Clause 3.3.3.2 (b) to clarify that once IRB crews are in the “set” position for the start no (further) bonus time can be requested before that race. Should IRB equipment be damaged by waves while in the set position and before the start, the Referee may, at their discretion, allow for the damaged equipment to be replaced or quickly repaired before proceeding with the start without the loss of bonus time. In addition, it is clarified that the command (usually by whistle) by the Starter to enter the water as detailed in Clause 3.3.3.2(c) denotes the commencement of the “set” position.



Explanation: This addition clarifies the last opportunity for bonus time to be claimed before an IRB race and also clarifies the status of gear being damaged while the teams are in the set position waiting for the start.

- **IRB Judging:** A clarification has been made to Clause 3.3.3.6 (k) that IRB teams are requested to stand away from the start/finish line when finished until all teams have completed the course. This will assist the finish judging process.

Explanation: This clarification to assist with the fair judging of IRB events. Team members should stay on the shoreward side of the finish line until all crews have finished a race or the officials indicates that its all clear to return to their IRB on the water's edge.

- **Lifesaving Event Reference Manuals:** A note has been made to the Champion Lifesaver, Patrol Competition and First Aid Competition (Clauses 3.4.1, 3.5.1, 3.6.2 respectively) that clarifies that where Manuals or other documents are referenced the written word takes precedence over any photographs or diagrams. In addition, when words, photographs or diagrams are "silent" on process, competitors shall not be penalised for their methodology in completing required actions.

Explanation: This clarification will assist participants preparing for competitions and provide clarity to judges in lifesaving events.

- **Champion Lifesaver and Patrol Competition ECC Count:** Additional wording has been added to Clauses 3.4.7(i), (ii) and 3.5.11(v)(ii) respectively that clarifies that the ECC count shall be given aloud commencing with "1" then "5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30", or "1 to 30" or any other variation starting with "1 and ending with 30", over an approximate 20 second period.

Explanation: This change provides personal CCC counting options for participants in Champion Lifesaver and Patrol Competition events.

- **Patrol Competition Points Allocation:** The points allocation for the scenario task has been increased from 40 to 60 points to allow for more detailed scoring of this section. Total maximum points in Clauses 3.5.2(a) and 3.5.7(a) shall now be 120 points consisting of 20 points for physical skills, 20 for theory, 20 for resuscitation and 60 for the scenario.

Explanation: This change is based on feedback and provides for a fairer comparative points weighting for the most critical element of the Patrol Competition event i.e. the practical scenario.

- **Open Patrol Competition Draw:** The open draw has been reviewed and the positions are now designated in Clause 3.5.5(c) as follows:
 - No.1 – "Manikin" Resuscitation Team (First Role – One person CPR Operator)
 - No.2 – "Manikin" Resuscitation Team (First Role – Two person CPR, ECC Operator)
 - No.3 – "Manikin" AED Operator and Patient Swimmer (Board/Tube Relay)



- No.4 – “Manikin” Resuscitation Team (First Role – Two person CPR, Prepares oxygen equipment and introduces mask)
- No.5 – Live Patient Assessment (First Role – One person CPR Operator) and Tube Rescuer (Board/Tube Relay)
- No.6 – Live Patient Assessment (First Role – Two person CPR, ECC Operator) and Board Rescuer (Board/Tube Relay)

Explanation: This change ensures that all members of the team have a resuscitation role to play in the event.

- **U17 Patrol Competition Draw:** The U17 event draw has also been reviewed and is now a single draw and the positions designated in Clause 3.5.5(d) as follows:
 - No.1 - “Manikin” Resuscitation Team (First Role – One person CPR Operator) and Patient Swimmer
 - No.2 – “Manikin” Tube Rescuer and Resuscitation Team (First Role – Two person CPR, ECC Operator)
 - No.3 – “Manikin” AED Operator and Board Rescuer
 - No.4 – “Manikin” Resuscitation Team (First Role – Two person CPR, Prepares oxygen equipment and introduces mask) and Observer

Explanation: This change simplifies the draw process and also ensures that all members of the team have a resuscitation role to play in the event.

- **Patrol Competition Practical Resuscitation Task:** The scoring for the scenario has been clarified in Clause 3.5.11(b) to reflect draw changes and now reads:

“The open team members that have drawn No’s. 5 and 6 shall complete the 2 person live patient assessment. The Open and U/17 event team members that have drawn No’s. 1, 2, 3 and 4 shall contest this section of the competition. These members shall operate as a resuscitation team rotating after the delivery of each five cycles of CPR (i.e. one cycle is the delivery of 30 ECC and 2 breaths, commencing with ECC).”

Explanation: This change clarifies who does what in the resuscitation task.

- **Patrol Competition Scenario Task:** The scoring for the scenario has been further clarified in Clause 3.5.12 to read:

d) Scoring shall be weighted (this may be done by a spread weighting from a total of 360 points for the Open Team and 240 points for the U/17 Team for the individual parts of the scenario section. These points shall be totalled and divided by the number of team members to give a score out of 60).

(e) The points to be allocated to this section total 60 points maximum.

Explanation: This change relates to a revamp of the scenario task scoring and, as detailed in the previous point reflects a fairer comparative points weighting for the most critical element of the Patrol Competition event i.e. the practical scenario.

- **Appendixes B and C:** It has been clarified that Judges are not to confer on either major or minor points deductions. All judges need to have independently marked the major error for it to be accepted. Further amendments are also in the appendixes to reflect the changes to procedures.



Explanation: This clarifies that judges **must not** confer when judging teams on either minor or major points. Further to emphasise that conferring is not to occur, both judges must have noted a major error for it to be deducted.

Section 5 – Surf Boat Events:

- **Surf Boat Distance:** The Surf Boat Diagram (Figure 18) has been amended to reflect that the standard distance for all surf Boat races (including male, female, age, open and Masters divisions is now a minimum of 350 metres.

Explanation: This was a request from the Surf Boat Panel and states to reduce the distance from 400 metres. All other measurement criteria remain unchanged.

Section 6 - Craft Events:

- **Board and Ski Relay Races:** A clarification has been made to Cause 6.5.3 that the SCO line only is required for a board start in the Board and Ski Relay events i.e. there is no requirement for an outgoing competitor to cross this line after a changeover once a race has commenced.

Explanation: Senior officials requested this change that will eliminate an unnecessary disqualification point without affecting race conduct or outcomes. It also reflects the race rules for Ironman/Ironwomen events.

Section 8 – Multi Discipline Events:

- **Taplin Relay Event Variations:** It has been clarified in a note to Section 8.3.4(b) relating to the 4 Person Taplin Relay variation that:
“Runners are permitted to enter the water to tag the incoming competitor and may wade, porpoise off the bottom with their feet, catch waves and/or run to the turning flags but are not permitted to swim at any time (this includes taking an overarm action to either catch or stay on a wave.”

Explanation: There has been safety and judging concerns about substituting runners with swimmers in events where the last competitor runs to the finish. The concerns relate to team members entering the water and swimming to sea to undertake a changeover tag with swimmers. This change addresses the concerns.

- **Lifesaver Relay:** The Lifesaver Relay event is now to be conducted in the fixed order of Surf Boat, followed by Swim, Board, Ski and Run (Clause 8.1 (a) (iii) and 8.4.1 (c)).

Explanation: A fixed order will eliminate this concern and ski board and swim is arguably the most visually appealing order.

- **Lifesaver Relay:** It has been clarified in a note to Section 8.4.3 (e) that:
“Runners are permitted to enter the water to tag the incoming competitor and may wade, porpoise off the bottom with their feet, catch waves and/or run to the turning flags but are not permitted to swim at any time (this includes taking an overarm action to either catch or stay on a wave.”

Explanation: This change provides rule consistency with the 4 Person Taplin Relay and Cameron Relay events.



- **Cameron Relay:** It has been clarified in a note to Section 8.5.3 (a) that:
“Runners are permitted to enter the water to tag the incoming competitor and may wade, porpoise off the bottom with their feet, catch waves and/or run to the turning flags but are not permitted to swim at any time (this includes taking an overarm action to either catch or stay on a wave.)”

Explanation: There has been safety and judging concerns about substituting runners with swimmers in events either on the first or second leg of the race and particularly for the swim leg. The concerns relate to team members entering the water and swimming to sea to undertake a changeover tag particularly with swimmers. This change addresses the concerns. It also ensures that there are two runners, a board paddler and a ski paddler in each team.

- **Ironman/Ironwoman:** For ease of reading of Clause 8.2.3 the order for the Ironman/Ironwoman race to be changed to read the same as all the other multi discipline races. This event is still to be the subject to a random draw.

Explanation: Self-explanatory. No change of the event conduct.

- **Start/Change Over Lines:** A clarification has been made for the Taplin Lifesaver and Cameron Relay events (reference 8.3.3 (f), 8.4.3 (f), and 8.5.3 (f) respectively) that the SCO line is only is required for the swim or board start and a swim or board changeover (as applicable) i.e. once a race has commenced there is no requirement for an outgoing competitor to cross this line after a changeover but the swimmer or board paddler (as applicable) must be tagged on the shoreward side of the SCO line. The SCO line is not required for a ski changeover.

Explanation: Senior officials requested this change that will eliminate an unnecessary disqualification point without affecting race conduct or outcomes. It reflects the race rules for Ironman/Ironwomen events.

Section 9 – Beach Events:

- **All Age Beach Relay:** A change has been made to Clause 9.3.2(c) for the All Age Beach Relay to clarify that a team must have runners from each individual age group (as determined by each competitor’s age for participation in individual events) to complete each designated leg of the course for that age category.

Explanation: Senior officials requested this clarification that provides more clarity as to age determination and consistency with the wording in the Lifesaver Relay event in respect of participant ages.

Section 13 – Officials and their Duties:

- **Appointment of Officials:** The Judge in Boat and Recorder roles have been added to the list of positions in Section 13.2(e) that personnel without formal judging qualifications can be appointed to assist at competitions.

Explanation: This change overcomes potential judging issues and allows for volunteers to be briefed by senior officials on simple roles for events and then act in such capacity to assist with event conduct.



Section 14 – Protest, Appeals and Discipline:

- **Protest Form:** Amended the form in Section 14.6 to clarify that a Sectional or Area Referee may determine the outcome of a Protest.

Explanation: The change to the Protest Form will ensure that the wording in the form is consistent with the wording in the SSM. There should be no change in procedure.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Should further information be required please contact the events team at:
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