

SECTION 2

GENERAL COMPETITIVE CONDITIONS

Amendments:

- | | | |
|---------------|--------|---|
| October 2015 | 2.3.14 | Note 2 has the word "Masters" added throughout to further clarify this note |
| December 2015 | 2.5.2 | (g) Wording changed to delete October 2015 date for exemption of surf helmets - must now be in club competition cap colours |

2.1 SLSA COMPETITIONS

- (a) Competitions are conducted by SLSA across a wide range of ages commencing from under eight years to seventy years and over, and may include competitions with single or multiple areas involving pool, ocean, lifesaving, boat, craft, swimming, and beach events or multiple discipline events.
- (b) All SLSA competition, carnivals and any other competitions authorised or controlled by SLSA, must be conducted by duly accredited SLSA officials or other persons recognised by SLSA.
- (c) Competition effectively commences for a competition or carnival upon the issue of a bulletin or circular calling for entries.
- (d) Only members of SLSA or other persons duly recognised by SLSA may compete or participate in SLSA competitions, activities or displays.
- (e) No member of SLSA shall compete or take part, nor shall an affiliated club or Branch or State Centre be involved in any way, in any lifesaving competition, event and/or related display involving SLSA owned equipment or intellectual property, unless that competition, event or display is licensed or sanctioned by SLSA and prior written permission to compete or take part has been obtained from SLSA.
- (f) All SLSA members are subject to the SLSA Anti-Doping policy and the penalties prescribed in that policy.
- (g) This summary highlights the most important competition qualifications but in no way purports to cover every item pertaining to competition requirements regulated or controlled by SLSA.

2.2 COMPETITION ELIGIBILITY

2.2.1 Competition Qualification

- (a) To be eligible to compete in any SLSA competition or to receive endorsement to enter ILS or ILS member competition a SLSA member must:
 - (i) Be the holder of the appropriate SLSA Award (as detailed in the Competition Categories and Provisos section), or the equivalent overseas ILS member country award.
 - (ii) Be SLSA proficient as prescribed for the relevant SLSA Award required for competition eligibility.
 - (iii) Be eligible under the necessary age category.
 - (iv) Have met their patrol commitments as required by their club, Branch, State Centre and/or SLSA.
 - (v) 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.
 - (vi) Have met any other competition eligibility qualification requirements for specific events e.g. IRB, Surf Boat (sweep), Patrol Competition.

2.2.2 Patrol Exemption

All members of SLSA from 13 years of age (as at 30 September) and competing in U/15 and above age competition are bound by the SLSA Patrol Exemption/Obligation Policy which is set out in the SLSA Regulations. Under no circumstance shall any competitor be granted patrol or club duty exemptions solely upon or for competition reasons.

2.2.3 Dual Membership

In relation to dual or multi-club membership SLSA regulations shall apply:

- (a) Any member of a club may be admitted as a member of another club or clubs, providing such member has a clearance as provided for in the SLSA regulations and all membership requirements are met.
- (b) Any competing member shall not participate in any inter-club competition as a representative of more than one club during any one competition season unless and until their “competitive rights” have been transferred as provided for in the SLSA regulations.
- (c) Any competing member who is a member of more than one club shall be entitled to compete in intra-club events of all such clubs.
- (d) Notwithstanding the International Transfer Provisions detailed in this Manual, members may belong to a Surf Life Saving Club in both Australia and New Zealand (SLSNZ) and choose to compete for both clubs (except at the same competition) provided they meet the award, proficiency, patrol and membership requirements and all other obligations relevant to the country and club for which they wish to compete.

Note: Members with dual SLSA/SLSNZ membership may, as a matter of protocol, advise their Branch/State/National authority before competing for their alternate club.

2.2.4 Competitive Transfers

2.2.4.1 Domestic Competitive Transfers

A member of an Affiliated Club who desires to transfer competitive rights to another Affiliated Club during the currency of a calendar year (1 January to 31 December) may do so under the following conditions:

- (a) A member is permitted one competitive rights transfer per calendar year (i.e. 1 January to 31 December of that year). Any further transfer in that year will be processed but will only take effect (if approved) in the next calendar year. An exception to this will be bona fide relocation because of employment, study or family commitments. Such competitive rights transfers will be subject to consideration and approval by the relevant controlling authority of the member’s “losing” club.
- (b) Any International Life Saving (ILS) rulings in respect of competition transfers, international transfers and World Championship events will be complied with.
- (c) A member desiring a competitive rights transfer shall initiate the transfer process at either the “gaining” or “losing” club (refer SLSA Policy 6.24) and, after the details are entered into Surfguard ensure the Transfer function in Surfguard has been initiated. A member or club may use the transfer form as proof that a transfer has been initiated.

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- (d) Where a State does not use the Surfguard Transfer function or continues to use the paper based form (SLSA Form F004) the form shall be lodged with the “gaining” club, “losing” club and Controlling Authority (i.e. Branch or State).
- (e) The "losing" club or its executive shall, within fourteen (14) days of receiving the original, endorse or reject the application (in Surfguard or on the Form). The club shall record its decision regarding the transfer application in club minutes, and if using the form immediately forward the copy with the club's decision to the controlling authority. The club shall advise the member of its decision.
- (f) If the "losing" club approves the application the controlling authority shall advise the member or if using the form record the approval on the original and return the same to the member. The controlling authority shall minute the decision and if using the form shall notate the form with the decision and retain the duplicate.
- (g) If the "losing" club rejects the application and indicates this in Surfguard, the application shall be considered at the next meeting of the controlling authority for a decision and such decision shall be final. The decision shall be advised to the member and if using the form recorded on the original and returned to the member. The controlling authority shall minute the decision and if using the form shall notate it and retain the duplicate.
- (h) If the controlling authority does not receive a decision or the form from the "losing" club within twenty-one (21) days of Surfguard Transfer request being initiated or the receipt of the duplicate form, the application shall be considered at the next meeting of the controlling authority for a decision. Any decision made at the meeting shall be final. The "losing" club and the member shall be advised of such decision in writing.
- (i) Subject to Rule 2.2.4.1 (a), transfers of competitive rights shall take effect from the date the application is approved by the controlling authority.

2.2.4.2 International Competitive Transfers and Competition

- (a) International transfers:
 - (i) With the exception of members who have dual SLSA and SLSNZ club membership (refer Dual Membership) and competing in these countries only, competitors must apply to transfer to a foreign club.
 - (ii) For this transfer to succeed, competitors require approval from their club/Branch/Province/State and National Organisations.

Note 1: The arrangements for transfers are as per the Domestic Competitive Transfer section of this Manual.

Note 2: Should a SLSA member not seek this international competitive transfer and compete for an overseas club in an ILS event or ILS member event they shall be deemed by SLSA to have transferred their competitive rights to that overseas ILS member club.

2.3 COMPETITION SEASON, AGES, CATEGORIES AND PROVISOS

2.3.1. Competition Season

- (a) The Competition Season shall run from the 1st October in one year to the 30th September in the following year.

2.3.2 Determining Age Groups

- (a) For the purpose of determining an age group, all competitors must have a common birth date calculated as at midnight on 30th September each year, i.e. age at midnight on 30th September determines the competitor's age category (for individual events) in that competition season.

2.3.3 Age Groups/Gender

- (a) SLSA competition events shall be conducted in the following age group/gender categories:

Under 8 – Under 15 years (one year categories)

Under 17 years

Under 19 years

Under 21 years

Under 23 years

Over 24 years

Open

Senior

Masters (30 years plus)

Female only

Male only

Mixed (specified or non-specified numbers of male and female competitors up to and including all males/females)

2.3.4 Participation in Individual and Team Events

(a) For participation in individual and team events the competitor’s age as at midnight on 30 September (each year) shall be:

	Participation in Individual Events	Participation in Team Events
Age	Compete as	Compete as
7 years (proficient)	U/8	U/8 and/or U/9 (Note: U/8 members shall not be permitted to compete in water events other than the Wade Relay (because the competition evaluation does not form part of the U/8 Age Award/Proficiency).
8 years (proficient)	U/9	U/9 and/or U/10
9 years (proficient)	U/10	U/10 and/or U/11
10 years (proficient)	U/11	U/11 and/or U/12
11 years (proficient)	U/12	U/12 and/or U/13
12 years (proficient)	U/13 (and/or U/15 upon reaching the age of 13 during the season and gaining the Surf Rescue Certificate)	U/13 and/or U/14 (and/or U/15 upon reaching the age of 13 during the season and gaining the Surf Rescue Certificate)
13 years (proficient)	U/14 and/or U/15	U/14 and/or U/15
14 years (proficient)	U/15 (U/15 age competitors must remain in the U/15 age category and shall not be permitted to compete in any older age division even if they obtain the SLSA Bronze Medallion/Cert II).	U/15 (With the exception of March Past (refer Section 10) U/15 age competitors must remain in the U/15 age category and shall not be permitted to compete in any older age division even if they obtain the SLSA Bronze Medallion/Cert II)
15 years	U/17 and/or Open (refer also Section 6 for Surf Ski events and Section 8 for Iron Person events *)	U/17 and/or U/19 and/or U23 and/or Open (refer also Section 6 for Surf Ski events and Section 8 for Iron Person events *)
16 years	U/17 and/or Open	U/17 and/or U/19 and/or U21 and/or U/23 and/or Open (refer also Section 5 for Surf Boat events)
17 years	U/19 and/or Open	U/19 and/or U21 and/or U/23 and/or Open
18 years	U/19 and/or Open	U/19 and/or U/21 and/or U/23 and/or Open
19 years	U/21 and/or Open and/or Senior	U/21 and/or U/23 and/or Open and/or Senior

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	Participation in Individual Events	Participation in Team Events
Age	Compete as	Compete as
20 years	U/21 and/or Open and/or Senior	U/21 and/or U/23 and/or Open and/or Senior
21 years	U/23 and/or Open and/or Senior	U/23 and/or Open and/or Senior
22 years	U/23 and/or Open and/or Senior	U/23 and/or Open and/or Senior
23 years	Open and/or Senior	Open and/or Senior
24-29 years	Over 24 Years and/or Open and/or Senior	Over 24 Years and/or Open and/or Senior
30 years plus	Masters, Over 24 Years and/or Open and/or Senior	Masters, Over 24 Years and/or Open and/or Senior

***Note:** No member is permitted to compete in Iron Person events containing the ski leg until reaching the age of 16 years

- (b) In addition to the above, for the specific conditions pertaining to participation in First Aid, Patrol Competition, Surf Boat, Surf Ski and March Past events refer also to Sections 3 (Lifesaving), Section 5 (Surf Boat), Section 6 (Surf Ski) and Section 10 (March Past).
- (c) Where specified (e.g. Lifesaver Relay, All Age Relay, etc) competitors of different ages may compete together as specified in the event rules provided that each competitor is of the correct age as outlined in the rules for that event and is currently proficient in the appropriate award for their age group.
- (d) No member is permitted to compete in surf boat competition until reaching the age of 16 years.
- (e) No member is permitted to compete in double ski competition until reaching the age of 16 years.
- (f) Event Minimum Age Requirements:

Discipline	Minimum Age	
Single Ski, Single Ski Relay	15 years as at September 30	
Double Ski	Attaining 16 years during season	
Ironman, Taplin	Attaining 16 years during season	
Surf Boat	Attaining 16 years during season	
March Past	Refer Section 10.1	

2.3.5 Under 8 to Under 14 Years

Members shall be eligible to contest a relevant U/8 to U/14 age category after attaining the relevant age as described in Rule 2.3.3 (as at 30 September – refer Rule 2.3.2). Members must also complete the relevant age requirements (i.e. Junior Preliminary Skills Evaluation, Junior Competition Evaluation and Junior Education Award) within required time frames to be eligible to enter into intra-club and inter-club competition.

Note: For 13 year old (U/14) members the relevant Junior Education Award is the Surf Rescue Certificate.

2.3.6 Under 15 Years

Members shall be eligible to contest the U/15 age category after attaining the age of 13 years (as at 30 September – refer Rule 2.3.2) provided they are proficient SLSA Surf Rescue Certificate awardees. For participation in March Past events refer Section 10.

2.3.7 Under 17 Years

Members shall be eligible to contest the U/17 age category after attaining the age of 15 years (as at 30 September – refer Rule 2.3.2) provided they are proficient SLSA Bronze Medallion/Cert II awardees.

Note 1: U/15 age competitors must remain in the U/15 age category and shall not be permitted to compete in any older age division in individual or team events even if they obtain the SLSA Bronze Medallion/Cert II.

Note 2: For participation in First Aid Competition refer to Section 3. No member is permitted to compete in surf boat competition until reaching the age of 16 years. For participation in boat events refer Section 5. For participation in Surf Ski events refer Section 6 and Ironman/Ironwoman events refer to Section 8. For participation in March Past events refer Section 10.

2.3.8 Under 19 Years

Members shall be eligible to contest the U/19 age category after attaining the age of 17 years (as at 30 September – refer Rule 2.3.2) and providing they are proficient SLSA Bronze Medallion/Cert II awardees.

Note: For participation in First Aid Competition refer to Section 3. For participation in boat events refer Section 5. For participation in March Past events refer Section 10.

2.3.9 Under 21 Years

Members shall be eligible to contest the U/21 age category events after attaining the age of 19 years (as at 30 September – refer Rule 2.3.2) and providing they are proficient SLSA Bronze Medallion/Cert II awardees.

Note: For participation in First Aid Competition refer to Section 3. For participation in Boat events refer Section 5. For participation in the March Past events refer Section 10.

2.3.10 Under 23 Years

Members shall be eligible to contest the U/23 age category events after attaining the age of 21 years (as at 30 September – refer Rule 2.3.2) and providing they are proficient SLSA Bronze Medallion/Cert II awardees.

Note: For participation in First Aid Competition refer to Section 3. For participation in boat events refer Section 5. For participation in March Past events refer Section 10.

2.3.11 Over 24 Years

Members shall be eligible to contest the Over 24 Years age category after attaining the age of 24 years (as at 30 September – refer Rule 2.3.2) and providing they are proficient SLSA Bronze Medallion/Cert II awardees.

2.3.12 Open

Members of SLSA who are proficient SLSA Bronze Medallion/Cert II awardees may contest open age events. For participation in Boat events refer Section 5. For participation in Surf Ski events refer Section 6. For participation in March Past events refer to Section 10.

Note 1: U/15 age competitors must remain in the U/15 age category and shall not be permitted to compete in any older age division in individual or team events even if they obtain the SLSA Bronze Medallion/Cert II.

Note 2: No member is permitted to compete in surf boat competition until reaching the age of 16 years.

Note 3: For participation in First Aid Competition refer to Section 3.

2.3.13 Senior

Where such an event is considered desirable, SLSA may conduct Senior Events in which only proficient SLSA Bronze Medallion/Cert II awardees over the age of 19 years shall compete i.e. U/19 and/or U/17 and/or U/15 year old members shall not be allowed to compete in such events.

2.3.14 Masters (30 years plus)

- (a) Members shall be eligible to contest Over 30 years events provided they have attained the age of 30 years (as at 30 September – refer Rule 2.3.2) and are proficient SLSA Bronze Medallion/Cert II awardees and have met the patrol requirements for their membership category.
- (b) In Masters Events, boat sweep oarsmen do not need to be Masters Competitors, but must be proficient SLSA Bronze Medallion/Cert II members and may compete in multiple Masters Age categories as the sweep oarsman.

Note 1: In individual events, Masters may only compete in their own Masters age group or the next youngest age category in a particular event if there are insufficient starters to conduct the event in their own age group and without prejudice to their age category in other events.

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. In Master surf boat categories the combined age category is determined by the ages of the four rowers.

Note 3: In Masters team events where a combined age is stated it is the age of each individual, as at the 30th September prior to the season (1st October to 30th September) in which the competition is held, added together – i.e. if a competitor turns 40 years of age during the competition season, 39 is the age used to reach combined age total.

Note 4: Refer also to the SLSA Masters Competition Policy 5.09.

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.

2.4 COMPETITORS WITH DISABILITIES

- (a) Upon application to the Competition Committee at an event, an allowance may be considered for a competitor with a permanent limiting disability, but only if there is no disadvantage to other competitors in the event.
- (b) The decision of the Competition Committee shall be final and shall not be subject to protest.

Note: This section is not to assist competitors who have suffered an injury. The section is intended to assist members with a permanent limiting disability to participate in SLSA competition.

2.5 DRESS OF COMPETITORS

2.5.1 Costumes, Dress and Style

To promote competitor safety and assist with competitor identification, competitors and handlers entering the water beyond knee depth shall be required to wear distinctive high visibility pink, orange, yellow, green or red coloured vests as determined by SLSA (or relevant SLS event organiser) for an event.

Competitors may be permitted to wear their own vest, or event organisers may supply vests. If SLSA supplies vests, competitors may wear their own vests only if the colour is the same colour as prescribed by the organisers and the vests meet the requirements of the SLSA Competition Sponsorship Policy 5.8 and are approved by the Competition Committee for the event.

These vests must be worn over the top of existing swimwear and, if appropriate, any personal flotation devices (with the exception of IRB Competitors - refer Section 3), protective clothing and/or wetsuits and/or R&R costumes that are worn.


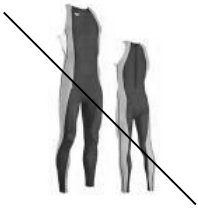




Hi visibility vests worn by swimmers in events are to be sleeveless type singlets and, when worn, should extend from the neck to the midriff region. Participants in other events (including handlers) are permitted to wear different style high visibility vests (e.g. sleeved rash shirts).

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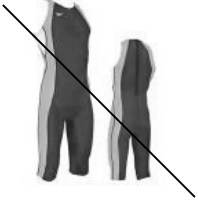



Should event organisers prescribe different coloured vests and/or caps to be worn in particular events, areas or genders, to assist with safety, identification and/or judging purposes (e.g. IRB, board riding, beach sprint/relay events) these will be supplied by SLSA for the event. In such circumstances club or team caps and/or hi visibility vests do not need to be worn under the prescribed cap or coloured vests.

- (a) Competitors shall wear costumes, clothing or dress as approved by SLSA.
- (b) A competitor shall be not be permitted to take part in any competition if, in the opinion of the Referee, the competitor is not properly dressed.
- (c) Swimwear to be worn in all SLSA competition (including special events) must comply with the following standards:
 - (i) Swimwear worn by males shall not extend above the navel or below the knee.
 - (ii) Swimwear worn by females shall not cover the neck, shoulders or arms nor extend below the knees. Two piece swimsuits that conform to this standard may also be worn.

MALE SWIMSUITS

Full Length	Long	Long Legs
Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed
		
Knee Length	Square Leg	Briefs
Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
		

FEMALE SWIMSUITS

Full Length	Zippered Back	Two Piece
Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Allowed
		
Knee Length, Open Back	Short, Open Back	
Allowed	Allowed	
		

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- (d) The material and construction used in swimwear to be worn in all SLSA beach competition swim legs and pool rescue events swim legs shall be:
 - (i) Only textile woven fabric(s) shall be permitted.
 - (ii) Non-woven and/or non-permeable (e.g. wetsuit type) materials shall not be permitted.
 - (iii) The material used shall have a maximum thickness of 0.8mm.
 - (iv) Other than string ties for the tops of men's swimwear or the bottom of female two piece swimwear no zippers or other fastening systems shall be permitted.
 - (v) Swimwear that provides flotation, pain reduction, chemical/medical stimulation or other external stimulation or influence of any type shall be prohibited.
 - (vi) No outside application on the material shall be permitted. (Note: manufacturer brandings, club names or similar are permitted).
- (e) SLSA will allow both male and female competitors to wear "modesty" swimwear made of a textile woven fabric under their swimsuit, provided that no competitive advantage is gained. Further, any modesty swimwear shall be restricted to the short style for men and the two piece style top and/or bottom for women.
- (f) Upon application for religious and/or cultural diversity reasons, SLSA will consider the wearing of (non-body shaping) textile swimwear that covers a greater part of the body provided that such swimwear does not provide a competitive advantage.
- (g) The Referee may authorise the wearing of wetsuits or "marine stinger suits" dependent upon weather, water or other marine conditions.
- (h) Wetsuits shall be permitted in events when the water temperature is 16 degrees Celsius or less, or when the Referee determines wind chill is a factor. Water temperature measurements should be taken approximately 30 cm below the surface.
- (i) The only wetsuits approved for use in events involving swimming shall have a maximum thickness of 3.3 mm at any location on the wetsuit. Wetsuits cannot contain additional material to provide the wearer with flotation or buoyancy assistance. It is not permitted to wear more than one wetsuit (i.e. one upon the other) but one modesty textile swimsuit is permitted.
- (j) Except for swimmers in events, the wearing of other protective clothing (including personal flotation devices (PFDs), shorts, Lycra tops, t-shirts etc.) may be worn by individual competitors in both individual and team events, unless otherwise prescribed by these rules or the event organising authority. Where a competitor chooses to wear a PFD, it is highly recommended that the PFD meets the Australian Standard for personal flotation devices - AS: 4758.

Note 1: In cases where the device does not meet this standard, we encourage the user to complete a risk assessment and read all relevant safety warnings and operational instructions on the product. Members should be aware that not all PFDs meet AS: 4758 and thus their effectiveness in preventing drowning is unproven. Additionally, non-compliance with the Australian Standard may mean that these devices present other potential risks e.g. poor fit, easily dislodge in surf conditions, and restrict movement and breathing.

Note 2: In all IRB training and competition it is compulsory for drivers, crew and patients 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 3 of the Surf Sports Manual.

- (k) In addition, the following exceptions apply to particular events:
- (i) In surf boat events, the sweep oarsman may wear apparel (including wetsuits and booties) as the conditions warrant. The specifications for wetsuits shall not apply.
 - (ii) In IRB events competitors may wear apparel (including wetsuits, booties, gloves and hoods) in all events. The specifications for wetsuits shall not apply.
 - (iii) In March Past events dress shall be of consistent style and colour. Competitors may wear costumes or uniform casual wear, provided that such dress will enable teams to demonstrate to Judges the marching and technical skills prescribed for the event. The wearing of protective sun creams shall also be permitted. A Panama style hat may be worn over the top of a fastened club cap, or alternatively, a peaked cap underneath or over a fastened club cap.
 - (iv) In R&R events, both male and female competitors shall wear uniform dress. “Traditional” style costumes shall be permitted provided that the material (which must conform to the requirements specified in this Section) does not cover the neck or extend below the knees. In addition, other than string ties for the tops of men’s swimwear or the bottom of female two piece swimwear no zippers or other fastening systems shall be permitted. Teams are to wear numbered caps.
 - (v) In Board Riding events competitors may wear apparel (including wetsuits, booties, handwebs and hoods) as the conditions warrant. The specifications for wetsuits shall not apply.
 - (vi) SLSA will allow competitors in beach events to wear long tights or calf stockings.
 - (vii) Unless otherwise required by event organisers competitors in pool rescue competitions are exempt from wearing high visibility vests.
- (l) Sunglasses or optical glasses may be worn in all events provided that any eye protection or optical glasses worn must be suitably designed for that event.
- (m) The wearing of footwear shall not be permitted in beach sprint or beach flag events unless specifically allowed by the Referee due to the prevailing beach surface conditions.

2.5.2 Caps and Helmets

- (a) Competition caps, colours and designs, must be approved and registered with the relevant State Centre and SLSA. Only registered colours and caps shall be permitted to be worn. In team events competitors must wear matching caps.
- (b) Caps, securely fastened under the chin, must be worn on the head at the start (including the start of each leg in team events) of all events. The wearing of rubber or silicone type swim caps is permitted under competition caps.

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- (c) A competitor/team shall not be disqualified if a cap is inadvertently displaced or lost after the start of an event, provided that officials can identify that the competitor correctly completed the course/race.
- Note:** It is not advisable for caps to be removed from the head of a competitor until placing's have been recorded for that race and the official in charge of the finish of the event gives permission.
- (d) All boat rowers and sweeps must wear an SLSA certified surf helmet as defined in the SLSA Approved Gear and Equipment Manual during training and competition except when an accredited boat sweep (during non-competition training) or the Competition Committee (in competition) has issued a dispensation for the wearing of surf helmets. Such a decision is subject to the completion of a documented and approved SLSA risk assessment that has determined an acceptably low risk level to allow helmets not to be worn.
- Note 1:** A nominal wave height of 1m is considered as the maximum wave height threshold where surf helmets may be considered for optional use. Wave height is only one consideration in assessing surf zone hazards (examples of others could include: a heavy shore break, littoral drift, shorter wave periods, wind strength and direction, etc.).
- Note 2:** Should conditions alter during the course of an event the Referee may reverse the initial decision for the optional wearing of helmets and mandate that all boat rowers and sweeps must wear an SLSA certified surf helmet in competition.
- (e) The wearing of SLSA approved surf helmet as defined in the SLSA Approved Gear and Equipment Manual is compulsory for IRB Patients in both training and competition.
- Note:** The exception to this rule is the Rescue Tube Race, where patients are exempt from the compulsory wearing of helmets because the IRB is stationary at the commencement of the patient pickup.
- (f) The wearing of SLSA approved surf helmets is optional in all craft events unless otherwise noted i.e. mandated wear for Surf Boats and IRB Patients.
- (g) Surf helmets worn in competition must display club competition cap colours or be covered in material in accordance with the club competition cap (i.e. a club coloured lycra cover over a helmet).
- Note:** If helmets are to be painted, check with manufacturers for advice on retrospectively painting surf helmets.
- (h) The wearing of registered competition caps or rubber or silicone type swim caps is permitted in Pool Rescue Events and the Simulated Emergency Response Competition provided that matching swim caps are worn in team events.

2.5.3 Colours

State, Branch and club colours are considered to be those registered as their cap colours.

2.5.4 Identification

- (a) Caps, rash shirts/vests and/or arm markings identify an individual competitor and/or team and provide a starting point should the necessity arise to identify an individual.

- (b) Where a club enters more than one team in an event the competitors in each team shall either:
- (i) All wear caps with distinguishing numbers or letters; or
 - (ii) All wear distinguishing numbers or letters marked on their upper arms; or
 - (iii) All wear rash shirts/vests with distinguishing colours or distinguishing numbers or letters.
- (c) Also refer Section 3 for Lifesaving events.

Note 1: In events such as surf boat races, double ski races or board rescue races, Rule 2.5.4 (b) shall not apply if the individuals in each team can be identified because of the craft they are using.

Note 2: If competitors are required to wear distinctive coloured vests (as detailed in Section 2.5.1) Rule 2.5.4 (b) (iii) shall not be an option for team identification.

2.6 SPONSOR IDENTIFICATION

- (a) SLSA shall, in accordance with its constitutions, promulgate from time to time regulations or other guidelines which shall apply to sponsorship identification in relation to general display, dress, SLSA equipment, etc.
- (b) The Competition Committee, Referee, Sectional Referee or Chief Scrutineer may order the removal or covering of any sign writing, logos, or corporate identification on either clothing or equipment which is deemed not in “good taste”, or is in conflict with SLSA’s Competition Sponsorship Policy.
- (c) Refusal to comply with any direction for removal or the covering of such items shall result in the equipment or clothing being banned from the competition arena.

Note: “Not in good taste” means: portrays, or has the potential of portraying SLSA in a detrimental, prejudicial or unfavourable manner or in a manner which degrades or has the potential to degrade the reputation, values or the fundamental integrity and identity of SLSA and surf lifesaving.

2.7 GEAR SPECIFICATIONS AND USAGE

2.7.1 Gear and Equipment Must Conform to Current Specifications

- (a) To be eligible for competition all boards, skis, boats, reels, belts, rescue tubes, fins, IRBs/motors and other equipment must conform to current specifications or variations approved by SLSA. All equipment used in SLSA competitions shall be subject to scrutineering and must comply with SLSA specifications.
- (b) Refer to the various SLSA policies for equipment specification and member usage.

2.7.2 Use of Communication Devices in SLSA Competition

- (a) Competitors are not permitted to use any electronic communication devices (either attached to a craft or to their person) from the commencement of, to the completion of a race.

Note: Surf Boat Sweep Coach Mentors, Assessors and Level 3 Coaches may, with the support of the appointed Boat Panel, make application to the Referee to utilise electronic communication devices at non-championship competitions to further mentor

boat sweeps to gain competency in surf conditions, provided that such mentoring does not extend to "competing unfairly".

2.7.3 Use of Video Camera Devices Attached to Competitors

- (a) With the exception of Boat Sweeps and IRB Drivers, the use of a video camera attached to any part of a competitor is not permitted from the commencement of, to the completion of a race.

2.7.4 Use of Video Camera on Surf Boards and Surf Skis

- (a) The use of video cameras is not permitted on any Nipper Craft.
- (b) The use of one video camera only is permitted on all other craft (except Nipper Craft) provided it is installed on a mounting device and toggle strap supplied or recommended by the manufacturer of the device.
- (c) Installation on 3.2m racing surf boards shall be placed anywhere between the hand grips closest to the nose and the nose of the craft.
- (d) Installation on single and double skis shall be placed anywhere in front of the foot well.
- (e) The weight of any plugs permanently installed into the craft to attach the video camera shall be included in the overall weight of the craft.
- (f) The weight of other (non-permanently installed) mount and camera are not to be included in the overall weight of the craft.
- (g) Installation on board riding short and long boards shall up to the discretion of the rider, provided that the video camera is installed on a mounting device and toggle strap supplied or recommended by the manufacturer of the device.

2.7.5 Use of Video Cameras on Surf Boats

- (a) The use of video cameras on Surf Boats is permitted provided they are installed on a mounting device and toggle strap supplied or recommended by the manufacturer of the device.
- (b) Installation shall be permitted on the splash board (front deck), on the tanks opposite the rowers' seats and the rear deck.
- (c) The weight of any plugs permanently installed into the boat to attach the video camera shall be included in the overall "bare weight" of the boat.
- (d) The weight of other (non-permanently installed) mounts and camera are not to be included in the overall "racing weight" of the craft.
- (e) A Surf Boat Sweep (only) is also permitted to have a video camera on a helmet, worn by them, provided that the camera is installed on a mounting device and toggle strap supplied or recommended by the manufacturer of the device.

2.7.6 Use of Video Camera on Inshore Rescue Boats (IRB)

- (a) The use of one video camera attached to an IRB is permitted provided it is installed on a mounting device and toggle strap supplied or recommended by the manufacturer of the device.
- (b) Installation shall be permitted only on the transom or cowl of the motor.

- (c) The IRB Driver (only) is also permitted to have a video camera on a helmet, worn by them, provided that the camera is installed on a mounting device and toggle strap supplied or recommended by the manufacturer of the device.

2.8 SCRUTINEERING

- (a) Scrutineering of surf craft and/or equipment may be conducted at any time before, during and after use in SLSA competitions. Scrutineering is to ensure that all surf craft and/or equipment used in an SLSA competition complies with and is operating, and otherwise, in accordance with the current specifications approved by SLSA.
- (b) Penalties for surf craft and/or equipment not meeting SLSA/specifications may include removal of the craft and/or equipment from the competition, disqualification from the event, and/or other penalties deemed appropriate by SLSA.
- (c) A competitor may protest the decision in the manner prescribed in Section 14.

2.9 COMPETITION ARENA/AREA

The Referee shall specify the arena and area in which competition is conducted.

2.10 COMPETITION DEFINITIONS

2.10.1 Individual Events

- (a) An individual event shall be contested by a single competitor. An individual may be assisted by handlers (e.g. Ironman, Belt Races etc.) There can be no substitution of individuals in an event or between rounds. If a competitor is disqualified for breach of the rules etc. they lose all standing in the event.

2.10.2 Team Events

- (a) A team event is contested by more than one competitor from the same club or lifesaving unit who may either complete an event or race together as a discrete unit (e.g. boat race, IRB race, surf teams, R&R etc.) or separately (e.g. relay events, board rescue etc.). Team or crew members may be substituted between rounds (as per Rule 2.18) but there shall be no substitution of competitors while a race is being conducted. If one or more competitors are disqualified for a breach of the rules etc. the entire team shall lose all standing in the event being contested.

Note: For the purposes of SLSA's Anti-Doping Policy (refer Policy 5.2) and for the avoidance of doubt the above definitions for "individual events" and "team events" are the same as the definitions of "Individual Sport" and "Team Sport" contained in the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority Act and the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority Regulations. Further to this the term "crew" has the same meaning and effect as "team" in relation to SLSA competition.

- (b) In all events designated as team or crew events the "team" shall consist of members of the same Surf Life Saving Authority (i.e. club, Branch or State) who must fulfil all SLSA entry requirements.

Note: Members are reminded that they must compete under their own name and are not permitted to compete in the same event in different teams.

2.10.3 General

- (a) To facilitate the conduct of competitions, the various sections, disciplines and events may be considered to be related.
- “Sections” are areas in which competition events are conducted e.g. Ski Section, Boat Section, Swim Section, Age Group Section, Gender Sections, etc.
 - “Disciplines” are types of events and/or equipment used in SLSA competition e.g. Ski Paddling, Board Paddling, Board Riding, Boat Rowing, Swim, Wade, Beach Sprinting, Beach Flags, R&R, First Aid, Patrol Competition, Champion Lifesaver, March Past, IRB, Taplin Relay, Ironperson, Cameron Relay, Board Rescue, Lifesaver Relay
 - “Events” are the disciplines conducted in different age and/or grades and/or gender categories e.g. Open Male Ski Race, U/15 Female Beach Flags, Reserve Grade Boat Race etc.
 - A “Race” is a round of an event and includes heats, rounds, quarter and semi-finals or final of an event.

2.11 BEACH POSITIONS

- (a) The No. 1 position shall be on the left (facing the water) for Swimming, Craft, Surf Boat, IRBs, Multi-discipline and IRB events, and nearest to the water for Beach events and the first team onto the competition arena in R&R and March Past events.
- (b) When Beach Flags events are conducted from the seaward side up the beach the No. 1 position shall be on the left (facing away from the water).
- (c) When Beach Flags are conducted from the shoreward side down the beach the No. 1 position shall also be on the left (facing the water).

2.12 SETTING OF COMPETITION COURSES

- (a) When setting courses, consideration must be given to ensure that, as far as possible, all competitors have fair and equal conditions.
- (b) All distances for both beach and water events should be measured.
- (c) Buoy distances shall normally be measured from the end of knee depth water at the low tide mark (taking into account varying conditions such as sandbars, exclusion of holes and rips, surf conditions, prevailing winds and safety factors).
- (d) The setting of beach positions, start lines, turning and finish flags and judging stands shall take into account sand, surf and water conditions and prevailing winds to ensure that, as far as possible, a fair and equal course for all competitors is established.
- (e) Courses may be adjusted at any time during competition to address safety, account for significant tidal, sea and beach condition changes and maintain compliance and course fairness.
- (f) Prior to commencement of each race the Referee or Sectional Referee shall check courses to ensure compliance with the rules of the event and this section.

Note: Protests may only be accepted on a competition course prior to the start of an event or a race.

2.13 DRAWS

- (a) The number of entries received for events shall determine the necessity to conduct heats and further rounds prior to conducting a final.
- (b) The seeding of competitors should occur at all competitions conducted by SLSA to ensure the fairness of competition.
- (c) The initial draw for heats and beach positions including seeding of competitors may be conducted as directed by SLSA or nominated officials and supplied to clubs. The method used shall be approved by the Competition Committee or Referee.
- (d) The draw for subsequent rounds, seeding and beach positions shall be conducted as directed by SLSA or nominated officials and supplied to clubs. The methods used shall be approved by the Competition Committee or the Referee.
- (e) Should there be insufficient nominations for heats, draws for beach positions in semi-finals or finals may be conducted by SLSA or nominated officials and supplied to clubs.
- (f) To assist with the fair conduct of competition if there is an even number of competitors in a heat, wherever practicable, at least half the competitors who correctly complete the course should progress to the next round of the event (e.g. if there are 16 starters in a race at least 8 who correctly compete the course should qualify for the next round of the event). If there is an uneven number of competitors in a heat, wherever practicable, at least half the competitors less one who correctly complete the course should progress to the next round of the event (e.g. if there are 9 starters in a race at least 4 who correctly compete the course should qualify for the next round of the event). For Beach Flag events please refer to Section 9.

Note: Officials should be mindful of confirmed entries when determining the number of rounds required to conduct an event through to a final and also to, as far as practicable, have an equal number of competitors in each heat.

- (g) Vacancies created by the disqualification of a competitor or team shall only be filled by the next placegetter participating in the same race.
- (h) Vacancies created in qualifying to further rounds of an event due to the withdrawal of a competitor or team shall only be filled by the next placegetter who participated in the same race.
- (i) In the events up until a final, should a competitor be disadvantaged due to performing a rescue during that event, and have their chances of qualifying through to the next round disadvantaged, the person may be allowed to proceed through to the next round, providing it can be accommodated. However, should the rescue take place in a final, it will be subject to the Referee's discretion, but generally unless the race is stopped, the race results shall stand.

2.14 COMPETITOR LIMITATIONS

The Referee or Sectional Referee shall decide whether events shall be conducted in heats, rounds, quarter-finals, semi-finals or straight out finals. Unless directly approved by the Competition Committee or the Referee, the numbers in any individual or team event shall not generally exceed the following, taking into account safety aspects and the conditions:

- Belt Races 9 individuals

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- Rescue Tube Races 9 individuals
- Rescue Tube Rescue Races 9 teams
- Surf Race 32 individuals
- Surf Teams Races 10 teams
- Run Swim Run 32 individuals
- Wading Race or any variations 16 individuals or teams
- Surf Boat Races 7 crews
- Surf Boat Relay Races 9 crews
- Board Races, Ski Races 16 individuals or teams
- Board Rescue 9 teams
- Surf Board Riding 6 individuals or teams
- Iron Man, Taplin Relay 16 individuals or teams
- Cameron Relay 16 teams
- Lifesaver Relay 9 teams
- Beach Sprints, Beach Relay 10 individuals or teams
- Beach Flags 16 individuals
- IRB Events 9 teams
- Pool Events Refer Section 11

2.15 STARTING TIMES

- (a) Each competitor is responsible for determining the reporting and starting times and to have knowledge of the conditions governing their particular event(s).
- (b) Competitors shall be prompt in reporting to the Marshall before the start of each event.

2.16 REPORTING

- (a) Competitors or Team Managers shall advise their intention to start or withdraw by reporting to the Marshall prior to the start of the competition.
- (b) Competitors or teams qualifying for subsequent rounds, who wish to withdraw, must advise the Marshall prior to the next draw being made.

2.17 MARSHALLING

- (a) The Marshall shall assemble the competitors for events, check their names against event entries, and position the competitors into heats (and any subsequent rounds) according to the draw.
- (b) It is the obligation of competitors to be ready to compete, and to present themselves with their equipment and competition attire when called by the Marshall. Failure to comply with directions of the Marshall may render competitors liable for disqualification.
- (c) Any competitors warming up after the start of the first heat must not interfere in any way with the conduct of any aspect of the competition.

2.18 SUBSTITUTION OF COMPETITORS

- (a) In individual events there can be no substitution. Members shall compete in heats as drawn.
- (b) For Patrol Competition substitution provisions, see Rule 3.5.6.

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- (c) Belt events are regarded as individual events (assisted by handlers) and there shall be no substitution of the Beltman.
- (d) In Boat events the participation restriction rules as defined in Sections 2 and 5 shall apply in addition to the substitution rules.
- (f) In events where two or more persons comprise a team, substitution of up to and including all team members is permitted providing:
 - (i) Members to be substituted in each team must be suitably qualified members of the same club.
 - (ii) Such club members' names shall be entered on the program, or if not on the program, their late entry must be verified by the production, by a responsible club official, of the relevant record of registration or in such manner as is acceptable to the Referee and all entry conditions satisfied.
 - (iii) A competitor may be entered for more than one team in the same event provided that if the competitor competes in a round for one of the teams then that competitor is precluded from participating in any other team in that event at the same competition (except Handlers).
 - (iv) Any members of a team may be substituted into or out of any rounds of that event. In the event of a substitution the Marshall shall make a record of the names of all competing team members.
 - (v) Any competitor who competes in one team in an event or is disqualified in that event cannot compete or be substituted into another team in the same event at the same competition. Refer also Section 5 for Boat events

Note: Members are reminded that they must compete under their own name and are not permitted to compete in the same event in different Teams.

2.19 STARTING OF EVENTS

- (a) The process of starting events should commence with a signal or command that indicates "Take Your Mark" followed by a signal or command that indicates "Set" and then followed by a start signal or command that indicates "Go". If, for any reason, the Starter has to speak to any competitor after either command, the start process shall be recommenced.
- (b) Start lines may be established in the following manner and competitors must cross the start line to commence their race:
 - (i) A designated line marked by a cord between two poles and/or with flags.
 - (ii) A designated line drawn on the sand between two poles.
 - (iii) A line of sight between two poles or straight line in the water (e.g. ski start), or as determined by the Starter or the Check Starter.
- (c) In events where a cord is used competitors' toes shall be on or behind the line but parts of the body may overhang the line.
- (d) In events where a line is drawn (e.g. Beach Sprint), toes and fingers shall be on or behind the line except where an upright starting position is adopted. In such

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circumstance the competitors' toes shall be on or behind the line but parts of the body may overhang the line.

- (e) In Board events where a cord is used, and the board is held by the competitor, a part of the craft may be over the line but must be at right angles to the line or at an angle to accommodate prevailing conditions. In events where a Board is placed on the beach it shall be placed flat on the beach (i.e. no mounds underneath the Board) at 90 degrees and with the nose of the Board on the shoreward side of the start or change-over line.
- (f) In Boat and/or Ski events, where a line of sight is used, the bow of the craft shall be on or behind the line, and at 90 degrees to the line or at an angle to accommodate the prevailing conditions.
- (g) Whilst every endeavour should be made by the Starter to effect an even start the decision to "go" on the start signal rests with the competitor or team. If there is no recall by the Starter or the Check Starter(s) or the Referee, no protest shall be allowed on the start.
- (h) The first competitor to leave their position on the starting line mark after the command "Take Your Mark" and before the signal to commence shall be considered to have made a starting break infringement and a false start declared.
- (i) With the exception of competition up to and including the U/14 age category the first competitor who breaks shall be disqualified except in beach flag events where that competitor shall be eliminated. If one competitor false starts, others may follow. Any competitor who follows is not deemed to have false started.
- (j) In competition up to and including the age of U/14 one false start per race shall be allowed. The first competitor who breaks after the first false start has been declared shall be disqualified except in beach flags events where that competitor shall be eliminated. If one competitor false starts, others may follow. Any competitor who follows is not deemed to have false started.

Note: Irrespective of whether a false start occurred, if in the opinion of the Starter or the Check Starter, the start was not fair because of a technical defect or other matter not caused by competitors the Starter must recall the competitors and recommence the starting process.

- (k) Competitors entering the water in swim, craft and multi-discipline events may do so at their own discretion providing there is no interference to other competitors. The competitor entering the water in second or subsequent legs shall be deemed to be at fault if the progress of a competitor coming from the water is impeded.

2.20 COMPLETION OF COURSES

- (a) Competitors/teams must compete fairly and adhere to the courses and the rules as detailed in this Manual or Entry Conditions Bulletin or as directed by the relevant official for the conduct of various events. Where available, electronic equipment (including video) may be utilised to assist the judging process.
- (b) If a competitor/team misses a turning buoy or turning flag they may, without penalty, alter their direction and return by their most direct route to correct the course error and continue to the finish of the event.

- (c) In events where it is required to cross a line to finish, should a competitor or team not correctly cross the finish line as prescribed in the relevant Section for that event, they may recover and correctly re-cross the finish line to record their placing.
- (d) Once a competitor has been judged to have correctly crossed the finish line, they will be deemed to have completed that race. As such, a competitor will then not be permitted to then re-enter the course to correct any previous race errors.
- (e) Where a competitor fails to correctly complete the prescribed course, compete fairly or in any other way breaches or fails to follow a rule in this Manual they may be penalised or disqualified by the Referee or Sectional Referee at their discretion.

2.21 CHANGE-OVER (TAGGING) IN RELAY EVENTS

- (a) Unless otherwise provided (e.g. IRB Teams, Surf Boat Relay, Life Saver Relay (boat to other legs only) and Beach Relay), relay event changeovers shall be effected by a competitor “tagging” the next team.
- (b) Tagging is defined as the incoming competitor, after completing the course, using either hand visibly to touch the ongoing or outgoing competitor either on the hand or any other part of the body.
- (c) The ongoing or outgoing competitor shall be positioned with toes on or behind the shoreward side of the changeover line but parts of the body may overhang the line.
- (d) Competitors in Taplin and Cameron Relay events must commence their leg of the event from the (correct) position as allotted by the Marshall. If the competitor does not comply with this, the team risks being disqualified.

2.22 FINISH OF EVENTS

- (a) All events shall be judged and placings decided by Finish Judges.
- (b) Where available, electronic equipment (including video) may be utilised in the judging process. The finish position placings as decided by the Finish Judge(s) shall be regarded as final, and no protest or appeal shall be permitted.
- (c) Where decals indicating the allocated finish positions are issued to competitors, it is the competitor’s responsibility to return the decal to the Recording Official to have their name and finish placing recorded.
- (d) Video playback and electronic recording is for use only by appointed SLSA officials. Only at the Referee’s discretion will the viewing of video playback or other electronic recordings made by a competitor or a team manager be permitted.

Note: Should video or other electronic judging tools be deemed necessary to properly determine the result of a race, the initial judging result shall not be declared as final and the Referee and Chief Judge shall determine the final finish result of the event. Such decision shall not be subject to protest.

- (e) In events where competitors run to and across a finish line, the finish of the race is judged when the competitor crosses the line on their feet. The finish is judged on the chest of the competitor when crossing the finish line.

Note: Falling across the line is not deemed to have finished the event.

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- (f) In events such as Skis and Boats (wet finishes), the finish placing is judged when any part of the competitor/team's craft correctly crosses the finish line.
 - (g) In events where competitors finish or finish a leg of a team event at a swim buoy:
 - (i) The competitor on reaching the allotted buoy shall place their forearm over the top of the buoy and then signal their arrival by raising their other arm to a vertical position whilst remaining in contact with the buoy.
 - (ii) The said signal, subject to all conditions being fulfilled, shall be the determining factor in judging the competitor's arrival at the buoy.
 - (iii) Should a competitor swim to an incorrect buoy and signal they shall be disqualified.
 - (iv) In Belt Races and R&R events the competitor, if requested, shall indicate to the Course Judge-in-Boat that their line and belt are intact, by displaying the equipment to the Judge.
 - (v) On returning to the beach placegetters should be informed of their finish position.
- Note:** The swimming buoy is described as the buoy only and does not include any attaching ropes or straps.
- (h) It is further added that the Referee may authorise the wearing of electronic finish tags to aid the judging and recording of races:
 - (i) Competitors must place tags as directed (e.g. around a specified ankle or wrist or placed on a designated part of their craft/boat).
 - (ii) The result of such races shall then be determined by the order of the finish of the tags across the finish line.
 - (iii) In the event of failure of the electronic tags, all placings in a race shall be visually judged as per traditional methods.

2.23 TIME LIMITS

- (a) When warranted, the Referee or Sectional Referee shall fix a time limit for races. Such a time limit shall be advised to competitors prior to the commencement of the event.
- (b) Where practicable, disqualifications due to the time limit being exceeded shall be advised to the competitor by the Referee or Sectional Referee or the Course Judge-in-Boat.

2.24 DEAD HEATS

In the event of a dead heat the following shall apply:

- (a) In finals, unless otherwise provided, a dead heat shall be declared as such, placings and any medals shall be awarded as follows: Equal first will result in no second place being awarded with the next placed competitor or team being awarded third place etc. In the event of a three way dead heat for first the next placed competitor or team shall be awarded fourth place and so on.
Any other point score and/or trophy allocation etc. shall be as decided by the Competition Committee.

- (b) Qualifying dead heat competitors in preliminary heats, rounds, quarter-finals or semi-finals shall be entitled to compete in the next round or final unless otherwise provided.
- (c) Should two or more teams be allotted equal points in Surf Teams events, the team whose full complement of members first completes the course shall be awarded the higher placing.
- (d) For Beach Flags, March Past, Champion Lifesaver, Patrol Competition, First Aid and Board Riding events refer to the respective Sections of this Manual. For R&R events, refer to the Rescue & Resuscitation Competition Manual.

2.25 PARTICIPANTS, MEDALS, TROPHIES AND POINTSCORES

- (a) The Surf Lifesaving Authority shall decide on medals, trophies and pointscores and shall provide details in entry circulars etc. as detailed in Section 12 of this Manual.
- (b) Unless otherwise determined by the Authority a minimum of one activity participant is required for any event to be contested. For all events, placings (and medals) will be awarded as follows:
 - Three (3) or more activity participants – three placing's (and medals) may be awarded.
 - Two (2) activity participants – two placing's (and medals) may be awarded.
 - One (1) activity participants (providing the competitor/team correctly completes the course) –one placing (and medal) awarded.
- (c) The Surf Life Saving Authority conducting the event shall determine points for a pointscore. Where a dead heat (as defined in Section 2 of the Manual) occurs in the final of an event the individuals/teams will share the placing points. The club of the next individuals/teams to finish will receive the relative placing points based on the number of individuals/teams finishing ahead of them. For example, if a pointscore was to be 6 points for 1st place, down to 1 point for 6th place and, if two individuals/teams finish equal 1st, both individuals/teams shall receive 6 points each. The next placing individual/team shall be awarded the 4 points and the bronze medal for coming 3rd.
- (d) Further to this when the event has concluded and if there is a tied pointscore, the Club or team with the most 1st placings shall be declared the winner. Failing this, the Club or team with the most 2nd placings to the last placing points awarded respectively (in the example above this would be 6thplace or one point) will be taken into account to determine a winner. If, after this procedure there is no single winner, then the pointscore will be declared a tie and dual trophies will be presented.

2.26 BREACH OF RULES

- (a) The rules in this Manual are made in the best interests of surf lifesaving, competition and competitors. The purpose of the rules is to establish and maintain a safe and fair system in which competition can be conducted.
- (b) Competitors must adhere to the courses and the rules detailed in this Manual, the Entry Conditions Bulletin and as directed by the relevant official for the conduct of various events. Where a competitor fails to adhere to the prescribed course or breaches or fails to follow a rule in this Manual, they may be penalised or disqualified by the Referee or Sectional Referee at their discretion.

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- (c) Any alleged breach of any rule in this Manual shall be reported in the first instance by an official to the Referee or Sectional Referee or the Starter (relating to the starting of events only) who shall investigate the circumstances and make a decision. In the event of a Rule infringement a competitor or team may be disqualified by the Referee or Sectional Referee or the Starter (relating to the starting of events only) or otherwise penalised as determined by the Referee, Appeals Committee and/or the Competition Committee (e.g. reversal of placings, time penalties etc.).
- (d) Competitors who consider they have been disadvantaged or have been subjected to a breach of the rules may (subject to these rules) protest to the Referee or Sectional Referee in the manner prescribed in Section 14.
- (e) Appeals arriving from decisions of an official under these rules will be determined in the manner provided for in Section 14.
- (f) SLSA may also, in its absolute discretion, investigate and take action on any matter of “competing unfairly” prior to, during or following of the completion of competition.

2.27 SLSA CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

2.27.1 General

- (a) SLSA expects all members involved in competition to co-operate to ensure a positive public image and to participate in a spirit of goodwill and sportsmanship. Any incidents or behaviour likely to cause embarrassment or damage to the reputation and/or image of SLSA or lifesaving competition will be initially managed by the Referee and, as appropriate, referred to a SLSA Disciplinary Committee. Penalties may include censure, expulsion of individuals, teams and/or clubs from competition and/or the competition venue and/or other penalties deemed appropriate.
- (b) SLSA expects the highest standard of behaviour of its competitors, officials, and members. These expectations are reflected in SLSA’s constitution and in this Manual.
- (c) For the purpose of applying the code of behaviour, the definition of a "team" includes the actual competitors competing in an individual and/or team event, coaches, assistants, supporters, spectators, etc.
- (d) Clubs and their team members are required to abide by SLSA rules and/or constitution. Any breaches will be reported to the Referee who may initiate action.
- (e) Team and individual members represent themselves, their club, their sponsors, and SLSA. As such, they shall at all times behave themselves in a proper manner travelling to and from competitions, during competitions and related activities including social functions.
- (f) Unbecoming behaviour by a club and/or its team members is a serious offence and will be dealt with as such.
- (g) Any action by an individual or team during the course of a race or competition or which attempts to disrupt or interfere with another individual or team is a serious offence and will be dealt with as such.
- (h) The general behaviour of all participants will be measured by the following SLSA code of fair play:

2.27.2 Code of Fair Play

2.27.2.1 SLSA will:

- Promote and encourage fair play by and through its members.
- Impress upon competitors, coaches, officials, and administrators the need to maintain the highest standards of sportsmanship in lifesaving sport.
- Ensure that its rules are fair, clearly understood by competitors, coaches, officials, and administrators, and properly enforced.
- Make every effort to ensure that its rules are applied consistently and impartially.
- Treat all members equally, regardless of gender, race, age, or physical characteristics.

2.27.2.2 SLSA Officials will:

- Abide by the rules and the spirit of the competition.
- Be honest, fair, and ethical in dealing with others.
- Be professional in appearance, action, and language.
- Resolve conflicts fairly and promptly through established procedures.
- Maintain strict impartiality.
- Maintain a safe environment for others.
- Be respectful and considerate of others.
- Be a positive role model.

2.27.2.3 Competitors will:

- Abide by the rules and the spirit of the competition.
- Accept the decisions of referees and judges without question or complaint.
- Never consider cheating and in particular, not attempt to improve their individual performance by the use of drugs.
- Exercise reasonable self-control at all times.
- Accept success and failure, victory and defeat, with grace and magnanimity.
- Treat their fellow competitors and team members with respect, both in and outside the competition arena.

2.27.2.4 Team Managers and Coaches will:

- Insist that competitors understand and abide by the principles of fair play.
- Never countenance the use of drugs by competitors.
- Never employ methods of practices that could involve risks, however slight, to the long term health or physical development of their competitors.
- Not attempt to manipulate the rules in order to take advantage of their competitors or their opponents.
- Respect the regulations and authority of SLSA and not attempt to avoid or circumvent these regulations.
- Recognise the special role that they have to play in the establishment of standards by setting a good example of sportsmanship at all times.
- Respect the rights of other teams and never deliberately act in a manner intended to be to the detriment of another team.
- Respect the rights of competitors, coaches, officials and not exploit or deliberately act in a manner detrimental to them.

- Not endeavour to influence the result of a competition by any action not strictly within the rules and regulations, or within the fundamental precepts of fair play.

2.27.2.5 Supporters and Spectators will:

- Respect the regulations and authority of SLSA and not attempt to avoid or circumvent these regulations.
- Accept the authority of referees and judges to make decisions.
- Abide by the spirit of the competition.
- Exercise reasonable self-control at all times.
- Be respectful and considerate in interactions with others.
- Acknowledge the performance of all involved in the competition with grace and magnanimity.

2.28 ABUSE/INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR

- (a) In addition to the SLSA Code of Behaviour, any SLSA member who abuses an official, a competitor, SLSA member or member of the public at an SLSA competition, carnival or event may be excluded or disqualified from that competition, carnival or an event at the discretion of the Referee.
- (b) The Competition Disciplinary Committee may also impose additional penalties. For the purposes of this rule “abuse” includes making direct or implied threats or behaving in an inappropriate manner as determined by the Referee and/or the relevant official(s) in their absolute discretion.

2.29 COMPETING UNFAIRLY

- (a) A competitor or team may be disqualified if a competitor, team or handler is deemed to have competed unfairly.
- (b) For the purpose of this rule “competing unfairly” or whether a competitor or team has “competed unfairly” will be determined by SLSA, the Referee and/or the relevant officials(s) in their absolute discretion. Examples of “competing unfairly” include:
- Competing without entry or for another club without clearance or transfer.
 - Competing without membership, award, or proficiency or patrol hour obligation eligibility.
 - Impersonating another competitor.
 - Attempting to defeat the ballot or draw for events or positions.
 - Competing twice in the same individual event.
 - Competing twice in the same event in different teams.
 - Using equipment in competition not meeting SLSA specifications.
 - Purposely interfering with a course to gain an advantage
 - Jostling or obstructing another competitor or handler so as to impede their progress.
 - Receiving physical or other outside assistance (other than verbal or other direction except where specifically excluded by the rules of the event).
 - Competing contrary to the specific direction of the Referee or designated official.
- (c) SLSA may, in their absolute discretion, investigate and take action on any matter of “competing unfairly” prior to, during or following completion of competition. This

includes, but is not limited to, referral to the Competition Disciplinary Committee or other judicial processes.

2.30 LUCK OF PREVAILING CONDITIONS

Competitors acknowledge and agree:

- That surf lifesaving competitions and the conduct of, and participation in, such competitions can and will be affected by the surf conditions.
- That there is often an element of the “luck of the prevailing conditions” in entering and competing in surf lifesaving competitions.
- A protest or appeal on an incident is not available to them when the incident is caused by the conditions of the surf.
- That the Referee and/or relevant official(s) have absolute discretion as to whether an incident has been caused by the luck of the competition or the prevailing conditions.

2.31 START AND COMPLETION OF COMPETITION

- (a) The official start of a competition is when a bulletin or circular is issued calling for entries to a competition.
- (b) The official completion of time of competition is twenty (20) minutes after the completion of the final event at the competition. However, matters currently in train (i.e. protest or appeal) or matters of “competing unfairly” shall continue to final resolution, the result of which shall be considered as being within the official completion time.