



SLSA Bulletin

Surf Sports Manual Update

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Audience: State Associations, Branches, Clubs, Officials, Team Managers, Coaches and Competitors
Summary: This Bulletin advises an update to Section 2, 4, 8 and 12 of the SLSA Surf Sports Manual 34 th Edition. The changes reflect SLSA's ongoing commitment to the continued safe, fair and efficient delivery of competition and have been made following consultation with the SKSA subject matter experts, officials, coaches, other interested parties' and appropriate levels of SLSA membership. The Sport Standing Committee has endorsed all the changes. Changes relating to the wearing of high visibility vests, personal floatation devices (PDFs) and to helmets have been previously advised by way of Bulletins 1/12-13 and 5/12-13 are indicated as such. The (source) electronic Surf Sports Manuals has been updated to reflect these changes and is posted on SLSA's website at www.slsa.asn.au Except where indicated all changes are immediately in effect

Surf Sports Manual Changes

The following are the changes made since introduction of the Surf Sports Manual 34th Edition in January 2012:

SECTION 2. General Competitive Conditions

1. **Section 2.2.3 – Dual Membership:** In November 2012 an agreement was reached with Surf Life Saving New Zealand for Dual membership. A new Clause 2.2.3 (d) has been added to the Surf Sports Manual as follows:

(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. **Section 2.2.4.2 – International Transfers:** As a result of the dual SLSA/SLSNZ Club Membership arrangements (as detailed in Clause 2.2.3 (d)), the "international transfer" clauses required modification. In addition SLSA has removed internal interclub transfer restrictions between SLSA Clubs between Australian and World Championships. The amended section reads as follows:

(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.*

(b) *ILS World Lifesaving Championships and SLSA members:*

- (i) *In the year of the ILS World Lifesaving Championships (1 January to 31 December):*
- (ii) *With the exception of members who have dual SLSA and SLSNZ club membership (refer Dual Membership), a SLSA member must only compete for their SLSA club at the ILS World Lifesaving Championships.*
- (iii) *With the exception of members who have dual SLSA and SLSNZ club membership (refer Dual Membership), any SLSA member who competes for any club or other entity other than their SLSA club at an ILS World Lifesaving Championships will not be eligible to compete in any SLSA event for 12 months from the date of the conclusion of the relevant ILS World Lifesaving Championships. This includes Australian Surf Life Saving, Pool Rescue, IRB and Masters Championships, all State and Branch Championships and any other SLSA, State Centre or Branch sanctioned event or competition.*

3. **Section 2.3.4 (a) – Participation in Individual events:** The SLSA Board has determined that an U/15 age competitor (14 years of age as at 30 September (each year)) shall not be permitted to compete in Open individual events (or an older age individual event – which already applies) even if they turn 15 years of age during the season and gain their Bronze Medallion/Cert II. As a result the Clause (a) Table has been amended as follows:

<i>Age</i>	<i>Compete as</i>
<i>14</i>	<i>U/15</i>

4. **Section 2.3.5 (a) – Participation in Team Events:** As per individual events an U/15 age competitor (14 years of age as at 30 September (each year)) shall not be permitted to compete in any older age team event even if they turn 15 years of age during the season and gain their Bronze Medallion/Cert II. As a result a new Clause (v) has been added and the old Clause (v) (now (vi)) has been amended as follows:

2.3.5 Participation in Team Events

(a) *For participation in team events the following conditions apply:*

- (i) *In the U/8 to U/13 age categories inclusive members may compete in their own (individual) age group in team events plus the next immediately older age group, only in team events.*

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).

- (ii) Proficient U/13 competitors with the relevant age award may compete in their own (individual) age group plus the U/14 age category in team events.*
- (iii) Proficient U/13 SLSA Surf Rescue Certificate holders may compete in their own (individual) age group plus the U/14 and U/15 age team categories.*
- (iv) Proficient U/14 SLSA Surf Rescue Certificate holders may compete in their own (individual) age group and the U/15 age team category.*
- (v) 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.*
- (vi) With the exception of U/15 age competitors (see above), proficient SLSA Bronze Medallion/Cert II holders may compete in their own (individual) age group in team events plus any other older team age group up to and including the open age category.*
- (vii) For the specific conditions pertaining to participation in First Aid, 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).*

5. **Section 2.3.6 – Under 8 to Under 14 Years:** A clarifying note has been made that the appropriate age award for 13 year old (U/14) members is the Surf Rescue Certificate. The Section now reads as follows:

2.3.6 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.*

6. **Section 2.3.8 – Under 17 Years:** As per Sections 2.3.4 and 2.3.5 an U/15 age competitor (as at 30 September (each year) shall not be permitted to compete in U/17 (or older age) team events even if they turn 15 years of age during the season and gain their Bronze Medallion/Cert II. The Section has been amended to read:

2.3.8 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.*



7. **Section 2.3.13 – Open:** As per Sections 2.3.4, 2.3.5 and 2.3.8 an U/15 age competitor (as at 30 September (each year) shall not be permitted to compete in Open individual or team events even if they turn 15 years of age during the season and gain their Bronze Medallion/Cert II. The Section has been amended to read:

2.3.13 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.*

8. **Section 2.5.1 – Dress of Competitors – Costumes Dress and Style:** As per SLSA Bulletin 1/12–13 the preamble has been updated to mandate the wearing of distinctive high visibility vests by competitors and handlers entering the water beyond knee depth. The wearing of these vests becomes compulsory in SLSA competition from 1 October 2013. The new wording is as follows:

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. These vests must be worn over the top of existing swim wear and, if appropriate, any protective clothing and/or wetsuits and/or R&R costumes that are worn. 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.

Note: *Refer to Bulletin 1/2012–13 for information regarding the implementation period.*

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. board riding, beach sprint/relay events, IRB, etc.) these will be supplied by SLSA for the event.

9. **Section 2.5.1 (j) – Dress of Competitors – Wearing of PFDs:** As per SLSA Bulletin 1/12–13 this section has been updated to clarify the optional wearing of personal floatation devices (PFDs) except for swimmers in events. The new wording is as follows:

(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 floatation devices – AS:4758.

Note: *In cases where the PDF 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 dislodged in surf conditions, and restrict movement and breathing.

10. **Section 2.5.1 (k) – Dress of Competitors – Beach Events:** A new Sub-Clause (vi) has been added to clarify that competitors in beach events may wear tights or calf stockings in beach events. This decision has also meant removal of the words “beach events” in parenthesis in Section 2.5.1 (c). Section 2.5.1 (k) will now read as follows:

- (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.*

11. **Section 2.5.2 – Caps:** The note at the bottom of the section has been amended to provide advice not to remove caps at the conclusion of a race until placings have been taken. This is to assist officials conducting events from an event management perspective. The amended section reads as follows:

2.5.2 Caps

- (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.*
- (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.*



12. **Section 2.5.2 (d) and (e) – Dress of Competitors – Wearing of Helmets:** As per SLSA Bulletin 1/12–13 and 5/12–13 (IRB Patient specific – which comes into effect from 1 October 2013) this section has been updated to clarify the wearing of helmets in events. The new wording is as follows:

(d) *The wearing of helmets is optional for individuals competing in surf boat, craft, board riding and the craft legs of team multi discipline events. If helmets are worn they may replace the competition cap. The wearing of helmets must conform to SLSA rules regarding the wearing of caps. Helmets may also be worn in the craft legs of Ironman and Ironwoman events provided that the helmet is worn over the top of the competitor's competition cap. Where a competitor chooses to wear a helmet, it is highly recommended that the helmet meets the European Standard for canoeing and white water sports – EN:1385.*

Note: *In cases where the helmet 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 helmets meet EN:1385 and thus their effectiveness in preventing head injury during participation in an aquatic activity is unproven. Additionally, non-compliance with the European Standard may mean that these helmets present with other potential risks e.g. poor fit, easily dislodged in surf conditions, and restrict movement and breathing.*

- (e) *The wearing of helmets is compulsory for patients as they may assist in reducing the possible risk of head injury caused by a possible collision between the patient and an IRB in the water. IRB patients are to wear helmets in both training and in competition. Helmets must meet the following guidelines:*
- (i) *Helmets are to be approved by and meet the 'European Standard EN 1385 (2012): Helmets for canoeing and white water sports'. Please note the EN 1385 stamp must be shown on the helmet.*
 - (ii) *The predominate colour of the helmet is to be SLSA approved high visibility, which includes: Fluorescent Pink (PMS #16–2130), Fluorescent Yellow (PMS #13–0630), Fluorescent Green (PMS #13–0340), Fluorescent Orange (PMS #15–1360) or Fluorescent Red (PMS #485C). Please note that these colours are a guide to manufacturers, and colours should be matched as closely as possible. Alternatively, the helmet may be painted in accordance with the club competition cap.*
 - (iii) *The structural integrity of the helmet must be intact. It must not be broken, cracked or damaged in any way. The securing clip under the chin must be fully functional and able to be adjusted to be securely fitted on the patient's head.*
 - (iv) *Face guards/shields are not required as part of the helmet. 5. Ear coverings on the helmet are optional.*

Refer to Bulletin 5/2012–13 for information regarding the IRB patient implementation period.

13. **Sections 2.7.2 to 2.7.5 Inclusive – Use of Communication and Video Devices:** As per SLSA Bulletin 3/12–13 the Surf Sports Manual has been updated to include new clauses detailing the use of communication and video devices in competition. The new clauses are as follows:

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.*



1. **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 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 approximately midway between the hand grips closest to the nose and the nose of the craft.
- (d) Installation on single and double skis shall be 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.

2.7.4 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 tank opposite the stroke's seat (No.4) and 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.

2.7.5 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 cowling 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.



14. **Section 2.22 (d) – Finish of Events – Video Playback and Electronic Recording:** A clarifying note has been added to clarify who shall determine a judging result if Video Playback or other Electronic recordings and that such decisions shall not be subject to protest. The Section now reads as follows:

(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.*

15. **Section 2.24 (a) – Dead Heats:** The process for placing's in the event of a dead heat has been added to Clause (a). The Section now reads as follows:

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, placing's 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.

SECTION 4. Swimming Events

1. **Section 4.4.3 (i) – Belt Race – Procedure:** It has been clarified that the reelman may use, as appropriate, the reel brake, drum and or their hands to assist control the flow of line to the Beltman a Belt race event. The updated wording is as follows:

(i) The reels are then carried by the four Reel Handlers directly to and not more than five metres beyond the starting line. When placed, any part of the reel must be on or over the starting line. The three Linemen may leave the reel individually and proceed to their payout positions.

The Reelman shall, as appropriate, control the flow of line by using the reel brake, drum and/or their hands.

Note 1: *To arrive at their payout positions (to perform a line payout procedure the Linemen may proceed through deep water provided they maintain control of the line.*



Note 2: Linesman may pay out using either an overhead or underarm procedure.

SECTION 6. Craft Events

1. **Section 6.1 (d) – General Conditions – U/15 Age Competitors:** As per Section 2 an U/15 age competitor (as at 30 September (each year) shall not be permitted to compete in older age events even if they turn 15 years of age during the season and gain their Bronze Medallion/Cert II. The clarifying note is as follows:

6.1 GENERAL CONDITIONS

- (a) *Racing rules contained in this section shall apply to the Single Surf Ski, Double Surf Ski and Surf Board Races.*
- (b) *No artificial means of propulsion may be used in board races i.e. hand webs, wetsuit sleeves, arm boards etc.*
- (c) *Board and ski competitors may pass through the swimming buoys not related to their course on their craft. Should impediment occur as a result the onus is on the competitor that chose that direction.*
- (d) *No member is permitted to compete in single ski events (including Ski Relays) until reaching the age of 15 years and in double ski events or competing in Iron Person events containing the ski legs until reaching the age of 16 years.*

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

SECTION 8. Multi-Discipline Events

1. **Section 8.2.1 (c) and 8.2.3 (f) – Ironman and Ironwoman – General – Handlers:** For clarity because Clause 8.2.3 (f) was a practical duplicate of Clause 8.2.1 (c) , Clause (f) has been deleted and the Handler wording combined in Clause 8.2.1 (c). The clause reads as follows:

- (c) *Handlers, Replacing of skis, paddles and boards. A Handler shall not be considered to be a competitor but shall be required to:*
 - (i) *Be a member of the same club or team as the competitors and be entered at the competition (exemption may be given by the Referee for a member of another club or team to be a Handler provided that the Handler is entered at the competition).*
 - (ii) *Wear a competition cap.*
 - (iii) *Comply with all instructions of the officials.*
 - (iv) *Make every effort to ensure that they, or the equipment that they are handling, does not impede another competitor, otherwise both their competitor and the Handler may be subject to disqualification.*
 - (v) *Hold the ski/paddle in a floating position as per the diagram or as directed by the relevant official.*
 - (vi) *Place the board flat on the beach (i.e. no mounds underneath the board) at 90 degrees with the nose of the board on the shoreward side of the SCO line or as directed by the relevant official.*
 - (vii) *With respect to replacement of equipment, a Handler or club members shall be permitted to assist in replacing equipment during an event, but only to the extent of*



placing the nose of the replacement ski or paddle at the water's edge and adjacent to the start line or board on or behind the start line.

SECTION 12. Competition Administration

1. **Section 12.1 (d) (xii) – Supplementary Rules:** For clarity and to remove ambiguity this point (xii) relating to postponement, abandonment or cancelation of competition has been rewritten. Point (xii) now reads as follows:

(xii) Provisions regarding postponement, abandonment and/or cancellation of the competition and/or the capacity to alter any, or all of the events.

2. **Section 12.3.2 – Competition Committee:** For clarity and to remove ambiguity this Section has been rewritten to more clearly detail the authority of the Committee. The Section now reads as follows:

12.3.2 Competition Committee

(a) A Competition Committee shall be appointed which shall direct all matters relating to the actual delivery of the event and conduct of the competition. This Committee may, subject to the rules in this Manual, postpone and/or cancel and/or alter any or all events, and/or to alter the venue of the competition. This Committee shall seek advice from the Referee, Safety and Emergency Committee and the Safety and Emergency Services Coordinator on safety issues. The Competition Committee shall also consult the Referee, appropriate officials, recognised subject matter experts and the Organising Committee when required on any matter relating to the organisation and conduct of the competition.

Further Information:

Please contact SLSA for further information.