



Date: 5 November 2025

To: All Clubs and Members

From: Mike Lord – Sport Development Manager

Subject: Competition Manual Updates

Over the past two seasons, SLSNZ has consulted with the membership regarding updates to the Sport Competition Manual.

The purpose of updating the manual is to ensure it continues to provide a safe and fair framework that assists the membership to participate in Lifesaving Sport. Members were invited to suggest the addition, removal or change of any rules with a focus on the principles of safety, equity, fairness, enjoyment and using easy to understand language.

The full process can be found [here](#)

As per the process, member suggestions were [notified](#) and a group of subject matter experts (SME's) were assembled to assess the suggested changes and determine recommendations to the National Sport Committee for endorsement.

The SME group included: Scott Bicknell, Richie Whinham, Greg Rieger, Bruce Matheson, Craig Todd, Wayne Franich, John Hook and Connor Mitchell (as a representative of the National Powercraft Committee)

The following is a summary of changes to the Competition Manual, which also includes changes that have already notified to the membership ([see here](#))

The manual has been divided into separate booklets:

- Beach, Swim & Craft
- Boats, Canoes & IRBs
- Pool Rescue
- Equipment specifications

Minor changes such as spelling, grammar and formatting have not been identified while significant changes have been identified in **red** in the marked-up copy of the manual.

All Manuals

- 2.2: Event eligibility
- 2.5: Composite teams
- 2.8: Medals & points
- 2.10: Wetsuits
- 2.13: High visibility vests
- 2.31: Communication, photography & videography devices

Beach, Swim & Craft Manual

- 7.1: Beach Sprints
- 7.3: Beach Flags
- 8.4: Protests & Appeals

Boat, Canoe & IRB Manual

- 3.3: Surf Boats - Round Robin racing
- 4.3: Surf Canoe - Round Robin racing
- 4.5: Surf Canoe Relay
- 5.1.5(d): IRB - *At all times, the driver must maintain control of the throttle arm tiller whilst the motor is running and in gear*
- 5.1.7(b): IRB - *Prior to leaving the IRB, the driver will complete the engine shutdown procedure. This is switching the Kill Switch to the off position.*
- 5.8 IRB – Round Robin Racing
- 6.4: Protests & Appeals
- 6.8 IRB - Disqualifications

'Marked up' and updated 'clean' final versions of the Competition Manuals can be found at <https://www.surflifesaving.org.nz/sport/sport-resources> (visuals below) and hard-copy version will be available shortly.

Competition Manuals



Competition Manual Updates and Marked Changes

- Competition Manual - Beach, Swim, Craft - Marked Changes
- Competition Manual - Boat, Canoe, IRB - Marked Changes
- Pool Rescue Competition Manual (May 2025)
- Competition Manual 10th Edition - Full Copy
- Member Notification of Suggested Competition Manual Changes - (Jun 2025)
- Competition Manual - Member consultation

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