



# NATIONALS 2018

**SURF LIFESAVING CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
Midway Beach, Gisborne, 15–18 March

## Team Manager Memo

**Dates:** Thursday 15 March 2018 - Sunday 18 March 2018  
**Venue:** Midway Beach, Gisborne

Welcome to the 2018 TSB New Zealand Surf Life Saving Championships. 'Nationals' represents the pinnacle event of the season with 1500 athletes anticipated to attend the iconic event. From Masters who have lost track of the number of Nationals they have attended to 15 year olds experiencing the event for the first time, Nationals caters to all levels of participation and almost all aspects of Surf Life Saving. You will see New Zealand representatives, canoes, surf boat crews, surf swimmers, beach sprinters, ski and board paddlers all having a crack at being the next National Champion!

Returning to Midway Beach in Gisborne, we invite you to celebrate the very best of Surf Life Savers as our members compete for their friends and against their fellow athletes.

***“Whāia te iti kahurangi ki te tūohu koe me he maunga teitei”***

***“Seek the treasure you value most dearly: if you bow your head, let it be to a lofty mountain”***

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## Team Manager Memo

This document provides you with all the latest information you need to know as a Team Manager at Nationals.



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## Masters Registrations

Masters registrations will be open from 5:00pm to 7:00pm on Wednesday 14 March 2018.

Individuals or Team Managers may confirm registrations at this point. Competitor wristbands and masters t-shirts will be provided. It will also provide the opportunity for competitors to RSVP to the Master Dinner, confirm any special dietary requirements and purchase additional tickets.

Additional tickets cost \$20.00 per person. Payment is by cash only.

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## Masters Dinner

We invite all Masters to attend the dinner on Thursday 15 March from 5:00pm at Waikanae SLSC for a Beach BBQ. Please RSVP, confirm any special dietary requirements, and purchase additional ticket at the Masters Registrations.

Additional tickets cost \$20.00 per person. Payment is by cash only.

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## Event Programming

### Revised Programme

A revised programme can be found in Appendix Two [here](#). Please note that the Draft Programme continues to be subject to change due to a dependence upon the number of entries and surf/weather conditions.

### Boat and Canoe Registrations

Boat and canoe registrations will now close at 7:00am each morning to allow sufficient time for these to be processed.

Crews may register at the Team Manager meeting on Thursday evening or by texting Michelle Newton on 027 459 8897.

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## Team Manager Meetings

Please note that the venue for the Team Manager Meeting on Thursday night has changed. Please review the Team Manager Meeting times and venues below:

### Masters

#### Thursday 15 March 2018

Time: 7:30am                  Venue: PeppersCafe

### Opens

#### Thursday 15 March 2018

Time: 6:00pm                  Venue: Midway SLSC

#### Saturday 17 March 2018

Time: 7:00am                  Venue: Peppers Cafe

**Sunday 18 March 2018**

Time: 7:00am

Venue: Peppers Cafe

Note: It is very important that only ONE representative from each club attends these meetings.

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## **Radio-Frequency Identification Tags**

SLSNZ began the roll out of RFID tags to U16 – Open division athletes at the ERCs in January 2018 with moderate success. One of the limiting factors experienced to date appears to be the reliability of the heat patches which were employed to attach RFID tags to existing hi-vis vests, with some clubs experiencing higher levels of failure of the heat patch than expected. However, those clubs with the new sewn in shoulder pockets have experienced a higher degree of reliability of the RFID tags. When RFID tags are used regularly by all athletes it significantly improves the marshalling process while also improving the procedures for the health and safety of athletes during large events.

With the introduction of RFID tags, the marshalling procedure will now change slightly. Athletes will need to enter the marshalling tent in single file so that their RFID tags can be scanned upon entry. Athletes without RFID tags will be manually recorded into the marshalling system as they enter the marshalling tent. Once the athletes have been assembled in the marshalling tent, only the names of absent athletes will be called. Any athlete not present at the end of this marshalling call will be likely be excluded from the event. Athletes will then be allocated heats and will again have their RFID tags scanned while assembled on the start line, and possibly again on completion of their race.

Those athletes that were issued RFID tags at the ERCS must ensure that the same tag/vest is worn at this year's TSB SLSNZ Championships. Athletes not present at this year's ERCS will be issued with an RFID tag prior to the event. This tag must be either placed inside the pocket of new vests and sewn closed, or have a material patch sewn around the RFID tag to hold it in place under the left front shoulder strap of vests.

### **Masters Competitors**

RFID Tags are not required to worn by Masters Competitors.

### **Boat and Canoe Competitors**

RFID Tags are not required to worn by Boat and Canoe Competitors.

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## **Clarification of Scrutineering requirements for Nationals**

Following the 2017 SLSNZ National Championships where scrutineering took place for the first time in 12 years, Sport Circular 17-SC02 was distributed on 31 July 2017 to all club administrators and chairpersons for distribution to their club members, advising competitors of the 2018 scrutineering requirements. Subsequent to this circular, between October and December 2017, SLSNZ became aware of a range of non-compliance issues associated with a range of boards and skis across at least five manufacturers.

Consequently, SLSNZ estimated that in excess of 150 noncompliant craft may unknowingly be presented for competition at the TSB 2018 SLSNZ Championships, which might result in unprecedented numbers of disqualifications, if not addressed prior to this event. In order to prevent any surprise disqualifications at this year's TSB 2018 SLSNZ Championships, SLSNZ issued Sport Circular 18-SC01 to all club administrators and chairpersons for distribution to clubs members. This circular advises competitors of SLSNZ's recent discovery of noncompliance issues and the

steps to be taken to manage and remedy these noncompliance issues, up to and including the 2018/19 season.

SLSNZ recognises that individuals and clubs may have purchased new boards and skis in good faith, assuming they meet the SLSNZ specifications, particularly if they have a SLSA approved manufacturers decal/sticker. Additionally, some boards and skis have a range of old scrutineering stickers issued for previous events, adding to expectations that these craft have previously meet the specifications of SLSNZ. However, scrutineering stickers are generally only valid for a single event as modifications, wear and tear, breakages or repairs can quickly render a craft non-compliant, hence past scrutineering stickers are not accepted as evidence of current compliance.

In short, what this means for ski and board competitors is;

- Ensure that all boards and skis are weighed (must be dry and clean prior to weighing) using the competitors weigh station provided in the scrutineering area prior to racing, and if underweight add additional weight in order to bring these craft up to the minimum weight requirement. Snap-lock bags filled with sand will be available to assist individuals and or clubs to bring craft up to the specified weight. Boards and skis found to be underweight as a result of random scrutineering will result in the disqualification of that competitor, and forfeiture of any points or medals to the competitor.
- Boards or skis found to be non-compliant during random or voluntary scrutineering due to known design, length, width or rocker related issues alone, that can only be remedied by the manufacture, will have automatic limited dispensation to compete in SLSNZ events until the end of the 2018/19 season, after which time SLSNZ will confirm its position on the use or not of noncompliant craft for subsequent seasons.
- Prior to any individual race, individuals and clubs are responsible for ensuring that all equipment, including but not limited to paddles, boards, skis, boats and canoes are in safe condition e.g. free from any sharp or jagged edges; incomplete repairs; broken or cracked surfaces that may reduce their structural integrity, or increase the risk to users. SLSNZ appointed scrutineers will also be able to assess your craft if voluntarily presented for scrutineering for safety compliance as part of the comprehensive scrutineering process.

SLSNZ seeks the assistance of all board and ski owners to have all craft scrutineered wherever practicable, so that SLSNZ can develop an accurate register of all noncompliant craft, so that SLSNZ can assist board and ski owners to seek a solution for the various non-compliant issues identified to date.

Please note that most boards that fail scrutineering due to sharp fins or other sharp (worn) surfaces. To reduce time waiting for scrutineering, please ensure that you have checked your board for any such defects and remedy them prior to scrutineering. Likewise, skis commonly fail for similar reason, and or due the absence of, or a non-functioning quick release system for the foot straps. All skis manufactured after Dec 2016 are required to have a functioning quick release system on foot straps. Velcro alone does not meet this requirement. Again, please ensure that your ski is safety compliant prior to scrutineering to avoid unnecessary delays.

Scrutineering will be available during the following times:

**Wednesday 14 March**

3:00pm to 6:00pm

**Thursday 15 March**

7:00am to 6:00pm

**Friday 16 March**

7:00am to 3:00pm

**Saturday 17 March**

7:00am to 8:00am

**Sunday 18 March**

7:00am to 8:00am

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**Media Accreditation**

Thank you to those who have already submitted their club photographer accreditation. For those who are yet to submit one, please see the information below:

There are two levels of accreditation for media and photography at Nationals.

**Media:** Journalists and photographers working directly for, or contracted to, local, national and international media outlets including TV, radio, newspapers, magazines and websites.

**Club Photographers:** Photographers appointed or contracted by a participating club to produce imagery. Only one Club Photographer can be appointed or contracted per club.

Individuals seeking accreditation for Nationals must read and complete the accreditation application form and return it to [media@surflifesaving.org.nz](mailto:media@surflifesaving.org.nz). Numbers are restricted within the arenas so if your club would like to appoint a team photographer, please ensure they apply as soon as possible and prior to the event.

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**Key Contact**

If you have any queries or concerns, please feel free to contact the Event Manager.

Scott Bicknell

Event Manager

M: 027 327 7339

E: [scottybicknell@gmail.com](mailto:scottybicknell@gmail.com)