

## Surf Official Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

Phone Meeting

Tuesday 4th July 2018, 7.00pm

<b>Attendees:</b>	Harley McLaughlin (HM)	Central Region
	Bernie Limbrick (BL)	Appointed
	Debbie Hutchings (DH)	Eastern Region
	Dennis Trembath (DT)	Southern Region
	Greg Rieger (GR)	Eastern Region (departed at 7:47pm)
	Kathryn Stewart	Appointed
	Todd Cations-Velvin (TCV)	NSC Representative
	Glenn Phipps (GP)	Northern Region
	Ross Merrett (RM)	SLSNZ

**Apologies:** Nil

**Meeting commenced:** 7:04 pm

1. Meeting opened. Welcome – HM – Special welcome to new appointed member Kathryn Stewart and NSC rep Todd Cations-Velvin.
2. Minutes of last meeting – 25 April 2018 – Confirmed as a correct record – **Moved** BL/DH – Agreed. Matters arising to be covered in current meeting agenda HM.
3. Kathryn Stewart provided a brief self-introduction.
4. Introduction from Todd – Update on NSC matters. Exciting times for NSC – review of Sport at a high level from nippers through to high performance. NSC wish to create a “great experience for athletes, officials, supporters”. So ideas such as max 8 hrs on the beach, meaning that not all events may be completed, changing what and how we run events etc. NSC has liaised with Alex Cheit from Sport NZ on where sport is headed, particularly junior sport. DH questioned do the options include more time for nationals. TCV advised that the NSCs discussions are high level only at this stage. BL questioned whether capping the number of entries has been considered. TCV responded that additional arenas and other potential solutions considered. NSC has been discussing some things with coaches, though the NSC expect to liaise with all coaches about ideas hopefully within the next 8 weeks. GP questioned if the focus is on athletes or officials. VCV responded that we need to create an experience that is less focused on competing alone. The solution is potentially complex with things like budget restraints, official numbers, availability, competency etc. all of which will inform the final decision.

NSC looking at continuous improvement in all areas of what SLSNZ sport does particularly in regards to junior surf for now.

NSC looking at ensuring that the SOAG, IRB SAG and Boat AG are all on the same page in regards creating great experience for athletes, officials, supporters.

NSC wish a draft programme of events be released by 30 August to inform clubs, coaches and managers of what SLSNZ’s intension are including back up venues for all major events.

5. Prospective rule changes.

- 5.1 Canoes – proposed that competitors in the short course canoe event are required to drop their paddles before crossing through the finishing gate. Note that the Regional Sports Managers agree with the proposed change as per their meeting on SOAG recommendation – unanimous – proceed with the proposed rule change.  
**Action** - RM to include changes to the online version of the Surf Sports Competition Manual and also include these changes in the annual amendments/update for the printed version of the Surf Sports Competition Manual.  
**Action** – RM to include information/questions regarding this rule change in the proposed Oct 2018 Officials refresher.
- 5.2 Securing of fuel bladder in IRB events. Question raised as to the need or not to connect all 4 fuel bladder clips? Note that the IRB SAG unanimously agreed that for the purposes of racing, the correct assembly should be as per the Equipment Specifications Manual i.e. section 20.3 (b) refer to Figure 2, which requires 4 attachments.  
**Action** – RM to include reference to the Equipment Specifications Manual in the General Competition Conditions section to the online version of the Surf Sports Competition Manual and also include these changes in the annual amendments/update for the printed version of the Surf Sports Competition Manual.  
**Action** – IRB event officials are to be advised/reminded of this requirement by the event referees prior to the commencement of racing at IRB events.  
**Action** – RM to include information/questions regarding this rule change in the proposed Oct 2018 Officials refresher.
- 5.3 Amend 8.1.2(j) of the Surf Sports Competition Manual from – *“If a Competitor moves or leaves their mark **with hand or foot** after the word ‘set’, but before the start is given, it shall be considered a starting break infringement and a false start declared”*, to – *“If a Competitor moves or leaves their mark after the word ‘set’, but before the start is given, it shall be considered a starting break infringement and a false start declared”*, i.e. delete **with hand or foot**. The SOAG unanimously agrees.  
**Action** - RM to include changes to the online version of the Surf Sports Competition Manual and also include these changes in the annual amendments/update for the printed version of the Surf Sports Competition Manual.  
**Action** – RM to include information/questions regarding this rule change in the proposed Oct 2018 Officials refresher.
- 5.4 Amend 9.1.5 (j) of the Surf Sports Competition Manual from “Prior to leaving the IRB, the driver will complete engine close down procedures (switch off the engine **and place it in neutral gear**) etc.” to. “Prior to leaving the IRB, the driver will complete engine close down procedures (switch off the engine) etc.” i.e. delete **and place it in neutral gear**. This would then align with the ILS rules. Once the engine is switched off it is electrically dead, so there is no danger of the prop turning, which removes the necessity for officials to check for prop rotation. If this amendment is adopted then clause 9.1.5 (n) (ii) DQ if *“The driver crosses the finish line and the engine is not in neutral gear.”* would need to be deleted. Note - this proposed amendment was unanimously rejected by IRB SAG on the grounds that the current rule reflects standard Life Guarding standards/practices. However, TCV correctly identified that adoption of this amendment would remove the need for officials to manually check the prop for rotation, thus removing the risk of potential injury of officials whom are required to manually check props for rotation, which is a valid H&S consideration. RM suggested if this amendment is adopted then officials could use pigs tails or other similar implements to check for prop rotation. BL advised that officials have enough to hold/carry and that additional items would be problematic.  
**Action** – RM to refer this proposed amendment, along with IRB SAG and SOAG comments to SLSNZ personnel for a final decision. If this amendment is adopted, RM to include changes to the online version of the Surf Sports Competition Manual and also include these changes in the annual amendments/update for the printed version of the Surf Sports Competition

Manual. RM to convey final decision to IRB SAG and SOAG for consideration of any further actions, if any, to ensure safety of officials.

- 5.5 Amend 9.1.5 (j) of the Sports Competition Manual which includes in part "...*The driver to exit the IRB from either a seated or standing position*" to "...*The driver to exit the IRB from a seated position*", i.e. delete standing position which would align this rule with the ILS rule. Note - only one crew was observed leaving from a standing position at the 2018 BP IRB Champs and they fell flat on their face. The IRB SAG agree with this change. Additionally, the RIB SAG recommend that the driver must exit the port (left) side of the IRB at all times regardless of which way the IRB may slew upon beaching. If this is additional amendment is adopted this clause will read "...*The driver to exit the IRB from a seated position from the port (left) side only*". SOAG agree unanimously with these proposed amendments.

**Action** - RM to include changes to the online version of the Surf Sports Competition Manual and also include these changes in the annual amendments/update for the printed version of the Surf Sports Competition Manual.

**Action** – RM to include information/questions regarding this rule change in the proposed Oct 2018 Officials refresher.

- 5.6 Proposed amendment to 9.6.4 (d) (iv) of the Sports Competition Manual to replace "*The crew person must enter the water before crossing over the line marking the IRB turning buoys*" with, "*the crew must leave the IRB on the shoreward side of the line*". Rationale – it is very hard to judge the crews in the middle lanes when all IRBs arrive at virtually the same time. Easier to see if the IRB is on the shore side but hard to tell when the crew enters the water. Note - the IRB SAG agrees in principle with this change, however the IRB SAG believe this rule should now read "*the crew is only permitted to leave the IRB once the entire IRB is on the shoreward side of the line*", which is far easy to judge, but would allow the crew to dive from the shoreward side of the line, over the line. SOAG unanimously agree with the IRB SAGs recommendation.

**Action** - RM to include changes to the online version of the Surf Sports Competition Manual and also include these changes in the annual amendments/update for the printed version of the Surf Sports Competition Manual.

**Action** – RM to include information/questions regarding this rule change in the proposed Oct 2018 Officials refresher.

- 5.7 Inconsistencies between the 'General' and 'Event' rules within the Surf Sports Competition Manual were experienced/identified during some events e.g. IRB BP Championships. Rule 9.6.4 (o) was used to disqualify a crew, which states "*the patient shall remain in the IRB until the finish judge has inspected the tube*". This rule is at odds with rule 9.1.5 (k) which states "*once the driver has left the IRB and has their feet on the ground, the crew person and patients(s) may exit the IRB and either secure the IRB or move away*". The crew on this occasion argued that they left the IRB to secure their craft, and also due to the depth of water, so chose to return their craft to the lane judge for inspection, as the water depth would have required the lane judge to wade out to mid-thigh depth, i.e. the IRB finished in shallow water, which is when the driver left, but then several swells surged in resulting in the crewman's and patient's actions.

There is no rule within the Surf Sports Competition Manual, or any other SLSNZ sport documentation that gives priority of 'Event' specific rules over 'General' rules, therefore any inconsistencies must be remedied as discovered. If any doubt or contradiction exists during competition, then the benefit of doubt should be given to the athlete(s), and the rule/s subsequently amended to correct or remove any such inconsistencies.

Note – in this example, the IRB SAG propose that 9.6.4 (o) "*the patient shall remain in the IRB until the finish judge has inspected the tube*" be changed to read "*the patient shall retain the tube around their body until the finish judge has inspected the tube*". While supporting the IRB SAG's proposed amendment in

principal, the SOAG recommend that "*body*" be changed to "*waist*" for greater clarity. If adopted in this manner, the SOAG agree unanimously with these proposed amendments.

**Action** - RM to include changes to the online version of the Surf Sports Competition Manual and also include these changes in the annual amendments/update for the printed version of the Surf Sports Competition Manual.

**Action** - RM to include information/questions regarding this rule change in the proposed Oct 2018 Officials refresher.

- 5.8 Amend 1.1.3 of the Surf Sports Competition Manual which currently reads "SLSNZ will detail specific Entry requirements, responsibilities and accountabilities within Event Circular. These specific Entry requirements are deemed to be incorporated into this Manual" to read "Athletes must meet all the required event eligibility criteria by the close of registrations", and or, amend 2.2.1 (h) to read "Have met any other eligibility qualification requirements for specific Events as set out in the Circular, *by the registration closing date for the Competition*".

The SOAG agree with these amendments. However, the SOAG also identify that on occasion there are 'exceptional circumstances' that require attention, and request that this be considered. RM advised that 'exceptional circumstances' had been included in SLSNZ documentation - refer to section 8 of SPS008 which reads as follows;

#### **8. Exceptional Circumstances:**

*The Sport Manager (SM) [Regional or National depending on event type] at their sole discretion, may take into consideration any 'exceptional circumstances' that may have adversely affected an athletes registration into a single event, provided that:*

**a.** *the athlete, or their delegate e.g. club coach, advised the Sport Manager in writing (email will suffice) of the 'exceptional circumstance/s' prior to the close of registrations, so long as any evidence in support of the claim for 'exceptional circumstance/s,' is provided to the SM prior to the close of registrations. The SM alone may decide whether the evidence provided supports the claim or not for 'exceptional circumstances', and their decision shall be final without any right of appeal, or*

**b.** *in the unlikely event that SLSNZ personnel have failed to progress an athletes awards or other eligibility criteria in the final 10 working days immediately preceding the close of registrations for an event, the SM may at their sole discretion allow an athlete entry, so long as the SM alone is satisfied that sufficient evidence exists, or*

**c.** *in the unlikely event that a club administrator has inadvertently genuinely failed to process a general or specific eligibility award e.g. Life Guard refresher at least 10 working days prior to an event, the SM may alone decide to allow an athlete entry so long as the SM alone is satisfied that sufficient evidence exists. In this example, a high threshold of written evidence must be supplied to the SM immediately upon the SM request.*

**NB:** *Athletes, and or their delegate, who **falsely** claim exceptional circumstances, particularly once granted, will be excluded from the event and may face further disciplinary action by SLSNZ. Furthermore, any approval for an athlete to register under exceptional circumstances, if found to be false after completion of the event, will result in all points, medals and trophies being returned to SLSNZ, for allocation to the rightful athlete and/or club. Additionally, those responsible for the false claim/s for exceptional circumstances may face disciplinary action by SLSNZ, which may result in forfeiture of all individual and club points, medals and awards for the entire event.*

**Action** - RM to include changes to the online version of the Surf Sports Competition Manual and also include these changes in the annual amendments/update for the printed version of the Surf Sports Competition Manual.



**Action** – RM to include information/questions regarding this rule change in the proposed Oct 2018 Officials refresher.

- 5.9 Amend 2.17.13 of the Surf Sports Competition Manual which currently reads “*The team shall not be disqualified if a Competitor crosses the start line and then returns to the correct position to correctly await the arrival signal or tag from their team or starting instructions from an Official.*” The blue text should be removed as this allows an athlete who breaks to return without penalty!! The SOAG unanimously agree with this proposed amendment.

**Action** - RM to include changes to the online version of the Surf Sports Competition Manual and also include these changes in the annual amendments/update for the printed version of the Surf Sports Competition Manual.

**Action** – RM to include information/questions regarding this rule change in the proposed Oct 2018 Officials refresher.

- 5.10 The IRB SAG – request that the SOAG/SLSNZ consider the re-introduction of the old ‘rule 15’, i.e. Was it wilful? Did they gain an advantage or disadvantage another competitor/team? Did it affect the outcome of the race? If the answers to all three questions is NO, then they should not be disqualified.

SOAG do not support the reintroduction of rule 15.

**Action** - RM to advise IRB SAG that the SOAG does not support the reintroduction of ‘rule 15’.

- 5.11 In keeping with the introduction of a Patrol Support award/status in Life Guard Patrols, a request has been received to consider introducing an option to allow Patrol Support personnel to compete in beach only events. This has many and varied implications.

**Action** – All SOAG members to consider the Pros and Cons of including Patrol Support awardees to competitions. By July Friday 20 July.

6. Referees Appointment Process - BL provide an update – looking for longevity, need to look at mentoring and succession before finalising appointments. Progress being made within time frames.
7. Succession Planning for Officials - HM highlighted the need to work towards identifying and encouraging officials to consider taking on positions traditionally held by more experienced officials e.g. competitor liaison, CAC etc. This was a reoccurring theme identified by the NSC and RSP.
8. RM and DH advise that two tentative dates for a Level 2 Officials course have been set, i.e. Sat. 1 or Sat 8 Sept. Belinda Slement (BS) is reviewing SLSNZ past data to target officials that are motivated to taking on level 2 roles to ensure effective investment of everybody’s time, energy and resources.  
**Action** – BL to confirm date and attendees in due course.
9. Waves training update – RM advised that changes to Waves for the 2018/19 season are close to completion. RM and Mark Inglis are scheduled to develop an online Waves tutorial for officials in Aug/Sept 2018 ready for use by officials in Oct. 2018.
10. CRM update – RM meeting with SMT on 26 July regarding the possible introduction of a H&S software service that may lead to other possibilities.  
**Action** – RM to investigate what options are available going forward and report back to SOAG at next meeting.
11. Other Business.  
DH – We need to do more in terms of EMC debriefs within 14 days of national events in order to capture good information.  
**Action** - Proposed that the SOAG submit draft questions to RM for consolidation and distribution to SOAG for further consideration at next meeting.



**Action** – RM to ensure that EMC debriefs are a schedule item for all future National events.

DT – Suggested that we need more information from officials prior to the 2018/19 season to help SLSNZ/EMCs/SOAG manage expectations and needs of officials.

**Actions** – RM to email SOAG members seeking draft pre-season questions be submitted by 12 noon Friday 6 July. Completed.

HM – invited SOAG members to comment on whether one or more face to face meetings of the SOA would be worthwhile. Responses – yes one or more face to face meetings would likely be useful depending on time of year, agendas etc.

**Action** – RM to investigate feasibility of budget allocation and potential timing i.e. June/July annually?

Discussion had regarding what the SOAG considers unnecessary influence to side-line older key officials from some roles e.g. CAC. SOAG unhappy that the side-lining of some individuals potentially undervalues their ongoing ability to contribute to SLSNZ and also limits access to these individuals to gain knowledge and information necessary for the succession of these individuals.

**Action** – HM in collaboration with the NSC and RSP to discuss the issue of a succession plan/s and implementation.

**Action** – HM to contact CEO of SLSNZ to discuss SOAG concerns.

12. Next Meeting – 7 pm Wednesday 8 August 2018.

**Meeting closed:** 9:11 pm