

Sport Circular

Title: Surf Sport Competition Manual Update
Document ID: 19-SC02
Department: Sport
Audience: Club Surf Sport Managers, Club Coaches, Club Directors, Club Secretaries, Officials, Members and competitors.
Summary: This circular outlines the updates made to the SLSNZ Surf Sport Competition Manual.

OVERVIEW

The SLSNZ Surf Sport Competition Manual has been updated to the 9th Edition (V3). The updates made to the manual are outlined in the circular and the current version of the manual can be found here ([Surf Sports Competition Manual](#))



The Surf Life Saving New Zealand Competition Manual is a combination of International Life Saving Federation (ILSF) rules and Surf Life Saving New Zealand (SLSNZ) rules and events.

The Competition Manual has had a number of rule changes as well as alignment between sections, figures, notes and the inclusion of a number of Surf Sport Policies.

The Surf Sports Competition Manual was reviewed under the Green consultation category in the SLSNZ decision making process. The following groups were consulted with: Surf Officials Advisory Group, Surf Boat Advisory Group, Power Craft Advisory Group, National Sports Committee, SLSNZ Surf Sports Managers and selected technical experts. The manual was also reviewed in conjunction with ILSF changes to International Life Saving Federation Competition Rule Book.

Below are the changes that have been made to the manual.

HIGH LEVEL CHANGES

1. Contents changes:
 - a. *Section 2* is now colored Red.
 - b. *Section 12. - Protests, Disputes, Discipline* is now *Section 10. - Protests and Appeals*.
 - c. *Section 11. – Lifesaving Competitions* is now an overview in the printed manual and will be only available on the SLSNZ website
 - d. *Section 12 – Equipment Specification Manual* has an overview of this manual and is part of the Surf Sport Competition Manual but will be printed separately as it is 82 pages long.
 - e. *Section 13. – Pool Rescue Events Manual* has an overview of this manual and is part of the Surf Sport Competition Manual but will be printed separately as it is 72 pages long.
2. General reference changes throughout the manual as sections have changes and numbering.

SPECIFIC RULE CHANGES AND ADDITIONS

Section 1 – Introduction

1.4. – Defined Terms

"Competent" means having the knowledge, skill, experience and physical ability to perform the identified task.

"DNF" means Did Not Finish the race.

"DNS" means Did Not Start the race.

"DQ" means Disqualification from a race.

1.5. – Competition Safety

1.5.5. Clubs are responsible for entering their members into events. As a condition of entry, Clubs are responsible for ensuring that all entrants are competent to participate in the events in which they are entered.

1.5.6. As part of the entry process Clubs are responsible for declaring any members with pre-existing medical conditions which may have the potential to impact their health or wellbeing during the event, or draw on the emergency resources of the event. SLSNZ reserve the right to restrict, modify or refuse entries, where in the view of SLSNZ alone, pre-existing medical conditions may present unacceptable risk of harm to the entrant, other members, and/or the event.

1.6. – Misconduct

Additional information added around misconduct and abuses during Surf Life Saving activities. This is covered under **1.6.1, 1.6.2 and 1.6.3**.

Section 2 – General Competition Conditions

Table 2.1. – SLSNZ Divisions.

IRB Divisions have been changed to align Male and Female age groups within IRB's and align with already established ages groups in Surf Boats by changing from 22 years to 23 years. Change made are highlighted below.

14-18 years	Under 19	Male
14-18 years	Under 19	Female
19 - 22 years	Under 23	Male
19 - 22 years	Under 23	Female
23+ years	Open	Male
23+ years	Open	Female

From the 1 July 2020 the following age divisions will apply

Individual and Team – Ocean, Pool and Beach Divisions			
Age in years	Division	Gender	SLSNZ Award
14 years	Under 15	Male & Female	Refreshed Surf Lifeguard Award
15 years	Under 17	Male & Female	Refreshed Surf Lifeguard Award
16 years	Under 17	Male & Female	Refreshed Surf Lifeguard Award

2.1.6. - In Events where two or more persons comprise a team, substitution of up to and including half (50%) of the team Members is permitted **after the first round of the Event is completed, providing:**

2.3.5. Participation in Team Events:

- (b) Competitors holding the relevant and refreshed SLSNZ Award/s, may compete in their own division in team Events, as well as any older division up to and including the Open Division, except in pool Events **and IRB Events** where they must compete in one division only for any single team Event.

2.2. – Event Eligibility

2.2.2. – General Eligibility Rules of Competitors for all events. Information that was previously covered under Sport Policy Statement 008 Event Entry Eligibility Policy has now been included directly into the Surf Sport Competition Manual to avoid multiple locations of the entry rules. Further to the General Eligibility Rules the following rules have also been included from Policy SPS008.

2.2.3. – Specific Eligibility Rules of Competitors for Specific Disciplines and Age Groups.

2.2.4. – Submission of General and Specific Qualifications.

2.2.5. – Non New Zealand Citizen Competing for their own Surf Life Saving Club.

2.2.6. – Non New Zealand Citizen Competing for a New Zealand Club.

2.2.7. – Exceptional Circumstances.

2.3.8. – Gender Equality

Additional information and clarity given to SLSNZ position on Gender Equality. New points covered under (a) to (e).

2.6.8. – The only wetsuits approved for use in Events involving swimming shall have a maximum thickness of 5mm at any location on the wetsuit. Wetsuits cannot contain additional material to provide the wearer with flotation or buoyancy assistance.

2.7.5. and 2.7.7. - Information that was previously covered under Sport Policy Statement 010 and 011 and has now been included directly into the Surf Sport Competition Manual to avoid multiple locations of the entry rules. Note that majority of these two policies were mostly included in Surf Sport Competition Manual Edition 8 (V2) and only the below changes have been included.

2.7.5 - The wearing of helmets can be made compulsory for competition (including warmups) in Surf Boats, and Canoes and craft Events following a risk assessment of conditions. The wearing of helmets in Events will be directed by the EMC. If helmets are worn, they may replace the Competition cap.

2.7.7 - PFD's are compulsory for all IRB Drivers, Crew Person and Patients in competition and competition training with the exception of the Tube Rescue Race event where patients do not need to wear a PFD but will be required to wear a High Visibility Vest and continue to be clipped in the rescue tube while in the boat.

2.17.13 - 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.

2.23 - Disqualifications Classifications

2.24 - Did not Finish Classifications

2.25 - Use of Cameras and Video Devices – Inclusion of policy SPS004 into the manual

Section 5 – Surf Canoe Events

Inclusion of rule that competitors must have dropped their paddle prior to crossing through the finishing gates. This change has been made in the following places: 5.2.7 (b), 5.4.1. (c).

Section 7 – Multi Discipline Events

7.3. – Iron Person Eliminator Variation event rules.

7.4. - Diamond Person. Separating and clarifying the difference between an Under 14 Diamond race and 14 years and above Diamond Race.

(a) Under 14 Diamond Person Events. The procedure for the diamond person is as per the iron person event with the exception of the order shall be swim, board and the Surf Ski leg is not held.

(b) 14 years and above Diamond Person Events. The procedure for the diamond person is as per the iron person Event with the order of legs shall be by ballot and the Surf Ski leg is not held.

7.11. – Ocean M event rules.

7.12. – Ocean M Lifesaver Relay event rules.

Section 8 – Beach Events

8.1.2. Procedure.

- (j) 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.

Section 9 – IRB Events

9.1.5. The Events.

- (j) Prior to leaving the IRB, the driver will switch off the engine. From a seated position only, the driver will then exit the port (left) side of the IRB, (regardless of the direction the IRB slews upon beaching), and run to and cross the finish line. ~~The driver to exit the IRB from a seated or standing position.~~ The driver must exit and be grounded (minimum one foot on the sand) before passing the front of the IRB. The driver must not step on top of, or launch from, the pontoon during the exit. The driver must ensure they run between the two gates that mark their finish line.
- (n) Crews will be disqualified if:
 - (i) The driver crosses the finish line and the engine switch is not in the off position or the engine is still running.
 - (ii) The driver is not in a seated position when exiting the IRB from the port side (left side).

9.3.1 Team Composition

One Driver, crewperson, and two patients.

9.3.2 The Procedure

- (a) Each team will have one patient positioned in the water on the seaward side of the nominated IRB turning buoy and a second patient positioned on the shore side and in front of the respective buoy until required on the seaward side of the buoy for the second pickup.
- (b) On the starter's signal, the crew launch the IRB, proceed through the surf, pick up one of their patients, and return to shore.
- (c) The driver will switch off the engine before exiting the IRB.
- (d) When the driver has left the IRB on the first return to the beach, the crewperson and patient shall exit the IRB. The crewperson shall reposition the IRB for restart. The patient is permitted to assist the crewperson to reposition and hold the IRB. The crewperson or patient is not permitted to make any contact with the engine.
- (f) The crew return to shore and complete the Race by the driver switching off the engine, exiting the IRB and running through the start/finish line.

9.4.2. The Procedure

- (f) The first driver, on return to shore, switches off the engine, exits the IRB and runs to the start/ finish line and tags the second driver, who must remain behind the start/finish line until the tag is made. The tag must be made behind the start line.
- (h) The driver will then switch off the engine, exit the IRB and run through the finish line.

9.5.2. The Procedure

- (g) The crew will then launch the IRB, proceed through the surf, pick up their patient and return to shore. The driver will then switch off the engine, exit the IRB and run through the start/finish line.

9.6.4. - The Procedure

- (d) The crew person, with the rescue tube shoulder strap on and the rescue tube held in

a secure grip (but not clipped in any manner), shall exit the IRB. On exiting the IRB, the crew person shall:

- (i) Enter the water from the port side pontoon;
- (ii) On the inside of the turn; and
- (iii) On the beach side of the IRB turning buoy, after the IRB has rounded the buoy.
- (iv) The crew person is only permitted to leave the IRB once the entire IRB is on the shoreward side of the buoy line, marking the IRB turning buoys.
- (j) Once the driver makes physical contact with the patient (not the rescue tube harness) on the beach side of the IRB turning buoy line, the patient pick-up is deemed to have commenced and the IRB driver shall then drive the IRB anti-clockwise around the nominated turning buoy and return to shore.
- (k) The crew person and patient are both required to enter the IRB from the port side. The method of entry into the IRB is at the discretion of the crew. The driver may assist with this.
- ~~(l) Once the patient lift into the IRB has commenced, the driver shall then drive the IRB anti-clockwise around the nominated turning buoy and return to shore.~~
- (m) During the return journey the rescue tube shall remain clipped up around the patient. The crew person shall remove the shoulder strap and hand it to the patient.
- (n) The patient must keep a secure grip and/or wear the lanyard/harness over the head and shoulders to ensure they do not snag anything within the IRB, extend past the transom or pass through either of the self-bailers.
- (o) The driver shall then switch off the engine, exit the IRB and run through the finish line. The patient shall retain the tube around their torso until the finish judge has inspected the tube.

9.7.2. The Procedure

- (d) The driver will switch off the engine before exiting the IRB.

Section 10 – Protests and Appeals

10.1. - Conduct ~~and Discipline~~

10.1.1. - SLSNZ expects and requires of its Competitors, Participants, Officials, and Members, the highest standards of conduct and behaviour.

10.1.2. - These expectations and requirements are reflected in the SLSNZ Constitution, Regulations and this Manual.

10.1.3 - In the conduct of Competition, situations may arise that may give a reason for protests and/or appeals ~~and/or disciplinary matters~~. This section applies to all protests ~~or~~ appeals ~~of disciplinary matters~~, except as otherwise provided in the Constitution or Regulations.

10.1.4. - For the sake of clarity, this section 12 of the Manual only relates for situations that may give rise to protests and/or appeals ~~and/or disciplinary matters~~ that occur at Competitions. All other matters will be dealt with as ~~detailed in by the SLSNZ Judiciary Committee in accordance with the Constitution.~~ Section 1.6 Misconduct of this manual.

10.3. - ~~Competing Unfairly~~ section added

10.4.2 - Lodging and Determining a Protest

(d) Protests in Beach Flags

- (i)** In Beach Flags events a protest against an elimination must be lodged verbally within 5 minutes of the completion of the round or before the next run through of an event begins (whichever occurs first). If a Beach Flag elimination protest occurs the Arena Referee will immediately consider the protest without delay before proceeding with the event. There will be no Appeal permitted on Beach Flag elimination protest decisions of the Referee.
 - (ii)** A Event Referee is also authorised to refer a Beach Flag elimination protest directly to an onbeach Competition Appeal Committee representative for decision on the basis of the processes and timings detailed above. No paperwork is required nor is a fee payable if this occurs.
 - (iii)** A competitor is permitted to protest and/or appeal against a disqualification decision in Beach Flag events provided that correct processes are followed.
- (m)** No protest shall be accepted against the actions of another competitor or team in the same event except where that competitor or team has suffered direct interference e.g. if an official takes an action or no action against a competitor or team, another competitor or team cannot protest unless they are in the same race and there is direct interference involved.

10.6.1 - In the event that the:

- (a)** Competition Appeals Committee considers the breach of the rules of a serious nature; or
- (b)** The matter is considered to not be within the jurisdiction of the Competition Appeals Committee, then the protest or appeal may be referred to the SLSNZ Judicial Committee in accordance with the Constitution and relevant Regulations as detailed in Section 1.6, Misconduct, of this Manual.

New Protest Form added as example of information and process to follow during an appeal.

Section 11 – Lifesaving Events

General overview of the [Lifesaving Events](#) has been added along with the contents page. The specific rules for Lifesaving Events will be located on the SLSNZ Website for use but no longer in the printed copy of the Surf Sports Competition Manual.

Section 12 – Equipment Specification Manual

General overview of the [Equipment Specification Manual](#) has been added along with the contents page. The specification will be located on the SLSNZ Website for use and a separate printed copy will be held at Regional Offices for use.

Section 13 – Pool Rescue Events Manual

General overview of the [Pool Rescue Events Manual](#) has been added along with the contents page. The Pool Rescue Events Manual will be located on the SLSNZ Website for use and separate printed copies will be held at Regional Offices for use during Pool Rescue Events.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me on the details below.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Lord', written in a cursive style.

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