



**SURF LIFE SAVING®**  
NEW ZEALAND

A group of approximately 12 surf lifesavers are gathered on a sandy beach. They are wearing bright neon green and pink vests over their swimwear. Some are wearing swim caps. They appear to be in a group discussion or receiving instructions. The background shows the ocean and a clear blue sky.

# INTRODUCTION

## SECTION 1.

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IN THIS SECTION YOU WILL FIND:

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# SECTION 1.

## INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1. PURPOSE

- 1.1.1. The rules in this Manual are designed to assist in the conduct, control and management of all Competitions held by or under the control of SLSNZ to provide a safe and fair framework within which surf lifesaving Competitions are regulated and conducted.
- 1.1.2. This Manual supersedes and replaces all previous SLSNZ Competition Manuals with effect from August 2019. This Manual may be amended by the Board at any time. Amendments will be issued in accordance with the Constitution and Regulations and will be available on the SLSNZ website.
- 1.1.3. SLSNZ will detail specific Entry requirements, responsibilities and accountabilities within Event Circular. These specific Entry requirements are deemed to be incorporated into this Manual.
- 1.1.4. SLSNZ, and/or its designated Event Managers and/or Event Referees, at their sole discretion, may adapt or amend the rules to meet the requirements of the HSWA Act 2015 and the prevailing surf and other environmental conditions during Competition.
- 1.1.5. Any breach or failure to comply with the rules in this Manual will be dealt with in the manner set out in Section 10.
- 1.1.6. Clubs may use the rules set out in this Manual for Competitions held by them or on their behalf, and in doing so:
  - (a) May adapt or amend the rules for their own purposes;
  - (b) Must inform all Participants that the rules applied are the rules of the Club;

- (c) Acknowledge and agree that the use of the rules set out in this Manual are not to be construed as an approval, endorsement or sanction of the Club's Competitions by SLSNZ;
  - (d) Must by resolution of its committee, agree that all references to SLSNZ in the Manual means "the Club", where relevant and applicable;
  - (e) Understand that the Club must have its own Referees, Officials and Competition Appeals Authority if the rules are used as a whole; and
  - (f) Acknowledge and agree that SLSNZ takes no responsibility for the implementation of such rules by the Club.
- 1.1.7. These rules are issued in accordance with the Regulations, and are consistent with, but subject to, the Constitution, the Regulations and all policy directives of the Board.
- 1.1.8. The rules in this Manual (and any term in them) are to be interpreted in accordance with the Constitution and Regulations. To the extent that there is any inconsistency between this Manual and the Constitution or Regulations, the Constitution and Regulations (in that order) will prevail.

## **1.2. AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND BY THE MANUAL**

- 1.2.1. Each Member and other persons who enter a SLSNZ Event agrees to be bound by this Manual and acknowledges and agrees that by entering an Event, he or she:
- (a) Is bound by the Constitution, the Regulations and this Manual;
  - (b) Must comply with and observe the Constitution and Regulations, this Manual and any determination or resolution which may be made or passed by the Board;
  - (c) Will comply with the SLSNZ Code of Conduct and Anti-Doping Policy, which are available on the SLSNZ website;

- (d) Understands that only Members of SLSNZ or other persons who agree (by Entry) to be bound by the Manual may compete or participate (including officiating) in SLSNZ Events;
- (e) Understands that surf lifesaving can be inherently dangerous. Serious accidents can and often do happen which may result in Participants being injured or even killed. By entering Events, all Participants are assumed to have voluntarily read and understood this warning and accept and assume the inherent risks in surf lifesaving;
- (f) Understands:
  - (i) That surf lifesaving Competitions and the conduct of, and participation in, Events can and will be affected by the surf conditions.
  - (ii) That there is often an element of the “luck of the prevailing conditions” in entering and competing in Events.
  - (iii) That a protest or appeal on an incident is not available to them when the incident is caused by the prevailing conditions.
  - (iv) That the Event Referee and/or relevant Official(s) have absolute discretion as to whether an incident has been caused by the luck of the Competition or the prevailing conditions;
- (g) Will release SLSNZ from all Claims that they may have or may have had arising from or in connection with their membership and/or participation in any Event; and
- (h) Will keep indemnified SLSNZ to the extent permitted by law in respect of any Claim by any person including another Member arising as a result of or in connection with their participation in any Event.

## 1.3. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

- 1.3.1. The information in this Manual is protected by copyright, trademark and other intellectual property laws and rights, including, without limitation, content, text materials, graphics, tools, trademarks, service marks, names and logos.
- 1.3.2. All rights, title and interest in such intellectual property rights, copyright and trademark are owned, licensed and controlled by SLSNZ.
- 1.3.3. The information in this Manual may be used and reproduced in hard copy for personal reference only. All copyright and other proprietary notices must be retained as they appear in the original material.
- 1.3.4. Content in the Manual may not be modified nor may any modified content be presented from the Manual as official SLSNZ material.

## 1.4. DEFINED TERMS

“**Arena Referee**” means the Official who is responsible to the Event Referee for the control of a specific arena.

“**Board**” means the Board of SLSNZ as defined in the Constitution.

“**Chief Scrutineer**” means the Official responsible for ensuring all equipment used complies with the equipment specifications.

“**Claim**” means and includes any action, suit, proceeding, Claim, demand, damage, penalty, cost or expense however arising, including but not limited to negligence, but does not include a Claim against SLSNZ under any right expressly conferred by the Constitution or any Regulations.

“**Circular**” means a document described as such which is sent out by SLSNZ to Clubs prior to a Competition listing the Entry criteria and rules of that Competition.

“**Club**” means a Club as defined in the Constitution.

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

“**Competitive Season**” means 1 July to 30 June inclusive.

“Competing unfairly” includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) Competing without Entry or for another Club without clearance or transfer;
- (b) Competing without being a Member of SLSNZ, having the appropriate SLSNZ Award, or proficiency or patrol hour obligation eligibility;
- (c) Impersonating another Competitor;
- (d) Attempting to defeat the ballot or draw for Events or positions;
- (e) Competing twice in the same individual Event;
- (f) Competing twice in the same Event in different teams;
- (g) Using equipment in Competition not meeting the SLSNZ Equipment Specification Policy;
- (h) Purposely interfering with a course to gain an advantage;
- (i) Jostling or obstructing another Competitor or handler so as to impede their progress;

“Competition” means the total Competition, which may be made up of Events, Races and other supporting activities.

- (a) Any national, provincial, inter-Club or other SLSNZ Competition held by or under the auspices of SLSNZ as set out in the Event Calendar;
- (b) A Competition shall be deemed to start at the commencement of the official opening, manager’s meeting or pre-Event briefing immediately preceding the proceedings of the Competition (whichever is the earlier) and shall end at the conclusion of the official closing, prize giving or official SLSNZ function for the Competition (whichever is the latter); and
- (c) Any international Competition, Event or activity at which the SLSNZ has a representative team; but does not include a Competition, Event or activity held by or on behalf of any Club unless it is notified in the Event Calendar.

“Competition Area” is the area of the beach encompassed by a line or fence, or a direct line to the water from the extreme ends of a line or fence or other designated areas as specified by the Event Referee.

“Competition Arena” is the Competition area set for each Event e.g., under 16, under 19, open and boat/canoe, etc.

“Competitor” means a person or team Member who has entered into an Event by completing the relevant Entry requirements and is competing in that Event.

“Competitor Liaison” means the Official who is responsible for providing guidance for Competitors, coaches and team Managers on protest and appeal procedures and the best method of approach to the Referee involved.

“Constitution” means the Constitution of SLSNZ.

“DNF” means Did Not Finish the race.

“DNS” means Did Not Start the race.

“DQ” means Disqualification from a race.

“Entry” means the process by which Competitors, Participants and/or Clubs (whichever is applicable) have entered a Competition, Event or Race in accordance with the Competition Entry Circular.

“Event(s)” are the types of Events undertaken in Competitions e.g., ski paddling, board paddling, boat rowing, swim, wade, beach sprinting, beach flags, first aid, patrol competition, champion lifesaver, IRB, taplin relay, iron person, cameron relay, board rescue, lifesaver relay.

“Event Calendar” means the list of Events and the dates these are scheduled to take place each year (refer to [www.surflifesaving.org.nz](http://www.surflifesaving.org.nz)).

“Event Manager” means the person responsible for all aspects of the Competition.

“Event Management Committee” means the Event Manager, Event Referee and the Event Safety Officer responsible for the conduct of the Competition.

“Event Referee” means the Official responsible for the overall conduct of the Competition.

“Event Safety Officer” means the person responsible for leading all health and safety aspects of the Competition.



“ILSF” means the International Life Saving Federation.

“IRB” means inflatable rescue boat.

“Manual” means the SLSNZ Surf Sports Competition Manual.

“Marshall” means the Official responsible for calling and processing Competitors at the start of an Event, which may also include ensuring Competitors are in the correct order and ready for the start of a Race.

“Member” means a Member of SLSNZ as defined in the Constitution.

“Notifiable Events” include: work related deaths; illness or injury sustained by someone, or incidents that exposed someone to serious risk.

“Notifiable Death” when a person has been killed as a result of work.

“Notifiable Incident” when a person’s health and safety is seriously threatened or endangered as a result of a work situation.

“Notifiable Injury” when a person has suffered a serious injury, and the injury requires immediate treatment other than first aid.

“Notifiable Illness” A person has been made unwell as a result of work, i.e., if a person contracts an illness as a result of work and needs to be admitted to hospital for immediate treatment or needs medical treatment within 48 hours of exposure to a substance, then you MUST notify us.

“Official” means a person that works as part of the team that conducts the Competition Arena.

“Participant” means a person who is participating in some way in the Competition e.g., as a Competitor, coach, team Manager, SLSNZ Official or Club administrator.

“Race” is a round of an Event and includes heats, rounds, quarter and semi-finals, and final of an Event.

“Regulations” means the Regulations of SLSNZ.

“SLSNZ” means Surf Life Saving New Zealand Incorporated.

“SLSNZ Award” means the award as detailed in the Competition Categories and Provisos (refer to section 1.3).

- 1.4.1. All words in this handbook importing the masculine gender (e.g., “his”, “he”, etc.) shall be read as inclusive of the feminine gender.

## 1.5. COMPETITION SAFETY

- 1.5.1. The provision of safe Competitions is essential to and a priority of Competition planning. The Event Management Committee (EMC) is responsible for the overall safety of Competitions and the provision of adequate resources to ensure the health and safety of those participating in the Competition.
- 1.5.2. The EMC is responsible for ensuring that all Competition facilities and environments are safe for use, and that the appropriate safety plan, equipment, craft, procedures and emergency personnel are in place to ensure the safety of Participants.
- 1.5.3. The EMC prepare and distribute by appropriate means, a Competition Safety Plan which shall outline in detail the procedures and practices required to ensure the safe operation and delivery of the Event and the requirements of the HSWA Act 2015.
- 1.5.4. The CEO of SLSNZ, or their delegate must be informed of any Notifiable Injury, Incident or Death and they in turn shall notify Work Safe NZ.
- 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

- 1.6.1. In addition to the SLSNZ Code of Conduct, any SLSNZ member who abuses any other person where it be a volunteer, competitor or public at an SLSNZ competition, carnival or event may be excluded or disqualified from any

event, events and/or the entire carnival at the discretion of either the Event Management Committee or SLSNZ Staff.

- 1.6.2. Abuse which is deemed of a serious nature will be elevated and dealt with by the SLSNZ Judiciary Committee in accordance with the Constitution.
- 1.6.3. Nothing in this Section or Section 10 prevents the Event Management Committee, SLSNZ Staff or any other person referring a matter to the NZ Police where appropriate.

## 1.7. CONTACT DETAILS

All enquiries should be direct to:  
Surf Life Saving New Zealand  
P.O. Box 39129  
Wellington Mail Centre  
Lower Hutt 5045  
NEW ZEALAND

