



SURF LIFE SAVING®
NEW ZEALAND



Date: 5 January 2024

To: Clubs

From: Matt Cairns, National Events Manager

Subject: Entry Circular – Oceans'24: Festival of Junior Surf Lifesaving

Event Dates and Location

Thursday 22 February 9:00AM - Sunday 25 February 1:00PM

Main Beach, Mount Maunganui, Tauranga

Event Purpose

Oceans'24 is a festival of junior surf life saving and the biggest junior carnival of the season. Oceans'24 aims to provide an opportunity for junior members to challenge themselves and celebrate the skills of surf life saving in a fun, exciting and safe beach and surf environment.

Entry Information

This document provides you with all the information you need to know to enter the competition. While it contains the typical logistical information surrounding the event, it also includes very important details that a parent and/or guardian must be aware of this before entering the event.

It is the expectation of the SLSNZ that clubs will only allow members with the appropriate awards and capability to participate in the event.

Entries must be made using the [SLSNZ Online Event Entry System](#). Each club has access to this system and will process entries. Clubs will be invoiced for payment following the event.

Entries Open: Friday 5 January 2024

Entries Close: 10.00pm, Sunday 11 February 2024

Entry Fee: \$120 per person incl. GST

Eligibility of Competitors: Please see Section 2.2 of the SLSNZ Competition Manual for a comprehensive breakdown of eligibility criteria.

Update Contact Details Team Managers and Coaches contact details must be updated on the online system to ensure that the relevant person receives all updated information directly. Failure to list a team manager may mean that your club misses out on vital information.

Full Team Details: You must enter the entire team for all team events otherwise your entry will not be accepted.

In it for life



Rules & Regulations:

This event will be conducted under the rules contained in the following documents.

[SLSNZ Competition Manual](#), including any additional amendments as detailed on the website and any additional requirements as communicated by the Event Management Committee.

Additionally, members entering events are bound by the following rules, which can be found on the SLSNZ website:

- [SLSNZ Constitution](#)
- [SLSNZ Regulations](#)
- [Drug Free Sport New Zealand](#)

Age Groups & Divisions:

A participant's age group is determined by their age at midnight on 30th September 2023. For example, if you were 13 on the 30th of September 2023, you are eligible to compete in the Under 14 division.

Events and Divisions:

The following events and divisions will be held at the competition. A programme will be made available following the close of entries:

Individual Events

The age groups which athletes will compete in are: U11, U12, U13, U14. Athletes are only allowed to compete in their age group the entire event and cannot race up.

Event:	Age Group:	Gender:
Sprint, Flags, Run Swim Run, Surf Race, Diamond Race, Board Race	U11, U12, U13 & U14	Male and Female

Team Events

For all team events, the age groups vary slightly for each event. However, the underlying principle is that you cannot race up an age group. On top of that, further clarification for each event is provided in *italic*, under age-group, below:

Event:	Age Group:	Gender:
Beach Relay	U11, U12, U13 or U14 - <i>An athlete can only compete in one age group.</i>	Mixed (2 Male, 2 Female) Composite teams allowed
2km Beach Relay	U11, U12, U13 & U14 combined - <i>Teams can be comprised of a single age group or a mixture of any/all age groups</i>	Mixed (2 Male, 2 Female) Composite teams allowed
Board Relay	U11 & U12 combined or U13 & U14 combined - <i>An athlete can only compete in one age group.</i>	Male and Female Composite teams allowed
6 person Grand Cameron Relay	U11 & U12 combined or U13 & U14 combined - <i>An athlete can only compete in one age group.</i>	Mixed (1 Male Runner, 1 Female Runner, 1 Male Swimmer, 1 Female Swimmer, 1 Male Board Paddler, 1 Female Board Paddler) Composite teams allowed
Tube Rescue & Board Rescue	U13 & U14 combined - <i>An athlete can only compete in one age group</i>	Male and Female No Composite teams

Continuation of 2023 Changes

Composite Teams

An Expression of Interest (EOI) is available in the Waves entry system to identify competitors who are available and keen to be a part of a composite team. Team Managers can register the interest of any competitor who has not been able to compete in their Club Teams.

Composite teams will be assigned at random on the day of the event-by-event by Surf Officials and will be eligible to place and receive medals.

Run-Swim-Run Finishers Medal

Everyone that completes the run-swim-run will receive a unique medal.

Putting a foot on the line at Oceans'24 and finishing a race is an accomplishment and SLSNZ believes that recognising and rewarding this will provide a sense of pride, incentive for all participants and further encourage the development of swimming and lifesaving skills.

The event will still progress from heats to a final with the usual medals for top three placegetters.

Tube & Board Rescue

There will be no limit to the number of teams a club can enter the Tube and Board Rescue events.

Due to the limitation on the number of teams per race (max 9) and therefore time required to run the event, historically we have had to restrict the entries into these events.

'Super Sunday'

Where possible, all events will progress from heats through to finals in the same racing block, unless conditions dictate otherwise.

In previous years, heats and semi-finals for individual events were run from Thursday to Saturday, leaving all finals Sunday. Oceans history shows that we consistently lose time due to prevailing conditions which results in a mixture of extending time on the beach, removing events from the programme, reducing progression of competitors from heats or reducing entries into particular events, all in an effort to 'finish the carnival'.

We also know that a smaller percentage of participants make individual finals and are often in multiple finals, resulting in a smaller group of participants being involved on Sunday as well as that small group having a very high volume of racing in a short period of time.

Top Club Trophy

Team points will not be calculated and therefore a trophy for overall Top Club will not be awarded.

Rationale for change

Youth sport across the globe and in New Zealand has been undergoing significant change in recent years – the impact of COVID, the reduction in unstructured play and recreation and overall decrease in participation in sport and physical activity has required all sports to re-examine what and how they provide opportunities for their communities, in particular the youth.

In 2022 Surf Life Saving New Zealand joined other National Sporting Organisations in supporting and working towards Sport NZ's '[Balance is Better](#)' principles and the promotion of '[Good Sports](#)'.

'Balance is Better' originated from the Sport NZ 2016-2020 Talent Plan, where the focus was to support sporting organisations to better understand how to prepare and support young athletes through their developmental phases and is now the approach that underpins all youth sport in NZ. The Balance is Better principles are an evidence-based methodology, encouraging long term athlete development that focuses on participation and skill development, appropriate to the developmental phases and needs of participants. A key driver to the Balance is Better principles is centred around why young people play sport, to; have fun, be part of a team, be challenged, to improve, grow friendships, play with friends and overall enjoyment.

Timings and Programme

Please note that a draft programme will be provided in the next club memo with a detailed programme in the final club update memo once entries are known. The programme will always be subject to change to suit oceans conditions and entry numbers.

Thursday 22 February		Friday 23 February	
6.54am	High Tide	7.00am	Team Managers Meeting
7.30am	Team Managers Meeting	7.00am	On water warm-up open
8.00am	On water warm-up open	7.30am	Off water/Marshalling starts
8.30am	Off water/Marshalling starts	7.42am	High Tide
9.00am	Events start	8.00am	Events start
12.53pm	Low Tide	1.44pm	Low Tide
3.00pm	Estimated finish time	3.00pm	Estimated finish time
Saturday 24 February		Sunday 25 February	
5.58am	Low Tide	6.48am	Low Tide
7.00am	Team Managers Meeting	7.00am	Team Managers Meeting
7.00am	On water warm-up open	7.00am	On water warm-up open
7.30am	Off water/Marshalling starts	7.30am	Off water/Marshalling starts
8.00am	Events start	8.00am	Events start
8.25am	High Tide	9.04am	High Tide
2.31pm	Low Tide	1.00pm	Estimated finish time
3.00pm	Estimated finish time	3.15pm	Low Tide

Health and Safety

Please read the following Health and Safety points carefully and communicate these to team members.

Covid-19 and other illness:

If sick, please do not attend the event and follow Ministry of Health guidelines.

Club Obligations:

It is the responsibility of clubs, through their coaches and manager, to ensure that each individual competitor is competent to safely compete in the conditions that prevail on any given day.

It is therefore the clubs responsibility to ensure that competitors who are not yet competent to compete in the prevailing conditions are withdrawn from an event rather than expose them to unnecessary risk or potential harm by encouraging or coercing competitors to compete, particularly against their will.

It is the expectation of the organisers that all clubs will only permit competent competitors to compete in an event.

Warmups:

Please note that all SLSNZ rules and regulations apply during warm-ups, as they do throughout the event. Please ensure compliance and follow the instructions of Event Management and Surf Officials.

Competition Safety Plan:

A Competition Safety Plan will be completed and available for viewing at the event.

An important part of the Competition Safety Plan for all clubs to note, review, and communicate to team members, is the [Missing Person at Sea Responsibilities](#).

Pre-Existing Medical Conditions:

All participants and officials with a pre-existing medical condition must complete and submit a [Pre-Existing Medical Conditions Action Plan](#) and submit it to the Event Manager prior to the close of entries.

Once submitted, the forms will be reviewed by SLSNZ and a decision will be made on whether a 'Competitor Waiver' form is required to be completed. It is important to note that a pre-existing medical condition includes a concussion event that has occurred prior to this event. These forms are available through the website here.

Concussion Protocol:

1. Any person diagnosed with concussion within the 23 days (21 days for over 19 yrs) preceding a SLSNZ event or activity, who is not able to provide evidence of a Graduated Return to Play (GRTP), and provide a medical diagnosis and SLSNZ Medical Clearance, will not be permitted to compete in a SLSNZ event.
2. Any person observed or reported to have been unconscious during a SLS event is not permitted to participate in any further SLS event or activity, pending participation in a 23 day GRTP (21 days for over 19 yrs), and provide a SLSNZ Medical Clearance before further competition is permitted.
3. Any person suspected of a concussion during a SLSNZ competition may not participate in any further races for at least 24 hours, and must provide SLSNZ with the required SLSNZ Medical Clearance before further participation is permitted.
4. Any person suspected or diagnosed with concussion who wishes to return to a SLSNZ competition must provide SLSNZ with a copy of a SLSNZ Medical Clearance, which is to be completed by a medical practitioner, prior to returning to competition.

Environmental Protection:

Help SLSNZ and its clubs protect and conserve our beaches and coastlines. Utilise tracks and stay off dunes, stay away from marine and bird life and make sure all rubbish is placed in the bins supplied or taken with you.

Key Dates and Communications Schedule

Please note the following dates and communications schedule in the lead up to this event.

Date	Type	Note
22 December	Surf Officials Update	- <i>SENT 22.12</i> - List of Surf Officials Expression of Interest - Last call for Surf Officials for event
5 January	Entry Circular	- <i>THIS DOCUMENT</i>
5 January	Entries Open	- Waves
17 January	Surf Officials Update	- Including position appointments
23 January	Club Update	- Entry update - Draft Event Programme - Site Map
11 January	Entries Close	- Waves
16 February	Final Club Update	- Important event, venue and meeting updates
16 February	Final Surf Officials Update	- Important event, venue and meeting updates
21 February	Drop off club trailers	- <i>Further details in club updates</i>
22 February	Event Starts	- <i>Further details in club updates</i>

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Ngā mihi nui

Matt Cairns
National Events Manager
Surf Life Saving New Zealand

m 027 5555 498

e matt.cairns@surflifesaving.org.nz