



Date: 5 January 2024

To: Clubs

From: Matt Cairns, National Events Manager

Subject: Entry Circular – 2024 New Zealand Surf Life Saving Championships

Event Dates and Location

Thursday 14 March 8:00AM - Sunday 17 March 4:00PM

Main Beach, Mount Maunganui, Tauranga

Event Purpose

Our vision for Nationals is to be the ultimate lifesaving sport event, placing the athlete experience at the forefront. We're committed to upholding fairness, safety, inclusivity, and the celebration of success in every race. All of this while providing a lively and enjoyable atmosphere for everyone involved.

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: 11.00am, Monday 4 March 2024

Masters Entry Fee: \$100 per person incl. GST

Seniors Entry Fee: \$150 per person incl. GST

Masters + Seniors: \$150 per person incl. GST

Surf Boat Crew Fee: \$400 per crew 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.

In it for life



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

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 18 on the 30th of September 2023, you are eligible to compete in the Under 19 division.

Masters

Masters are permitted to compete in only one age category in each team event conducted at a Competition. Where a team event with two competitors is conducted (e.g. double ski), the age of the younger competitor shall determine the age category of the team.

Where a Masters team event with three or more competitors is conducted, the total combined age of all team members must fall within the Age Group entered into. Note: this does not include the sweep in Surf Boat Events.

Under 15

U15 competitors can only compete in U15 individual events. They are not able to 'race up' into older age-groups in individual events.

There is no U15 team category, all U15 compete in the U17 age group for team events. There is no 'racing up' beyond U17 age group.

U15 can compete in Diamond only (no Irons).

U15 can compete in limited ski events – Single Ski, U17 Ski relay & Ski leg of U17 Taplin.

**Please note that U15 Ski events will be placed in the high-risk category in relation to event curtailment guidelines for Event Safety.*

Events:

The following events and divisions will be held at the competition.

Individual Events:	Age Group:	Gender:
Beach Sprint	U15, U17, U19, Open & Masters	Male and Female
2km Beach Run	U15, U17, U19, and Open	Male and Female
Beach Flags	U15, U17, U19, Open & Masters	Male and Female
Run Swim Run	U15, U17, U19, & Open	Male and Female
Surf Race	U15, U17, U19, Open & Masters	Male and Female

Ski Race	U15, U17, U19, Open & Masters	Male and Female
Board Race	U15, U17, U19, Open & Masters	Male and Female
Diamond Race	U15	Male and Female
Ironman/Ironwoman	U15, U17, U19, Open & Masters	Male and Female

Team Events:	Age Group:	Gender:
Beach Relay	U17, U19, Open & Masters	Male and Female
Surf Teams	U17, U19, Open & Masters	Male and Female
Ski Relay	U17, U19, Open & Masters	Male and Female
Double Ski	U19, Open & Masters	Male and Female
Mixed Double Ski	Open	1 x Male, 1x Female
Board Relay	U17, U19, Open & Masters	Male and Female
Taplin Relay	U17, U19, Open & Masters	Male and Female
Tube Rescue	U17, U19, and Open	Male and Female
Board Rescue	U17, U19, and Open	Male and Female
Canoe Race – Long Course	U19, and Open	Male and Female
Canoe Race – Short Course	U19, Open & Masters	Male and Female
Surf Boat Race – Long Course	U19, U23, and Open	Male and Female
Surf Boat Race – Short Course	U19, U23, and Open	Male and Female
Mixed Surf Boat Relay	Open	Open

Note: Masters Run Swim Run and Masters Boat have been removed from this years programme due to low entry numbers in the last few Nationals. Surf Race / Surf Teams, Irons and Taplin Relays are available to Masters swimmers. We encourage Master who row boat to enter the Open division.

Event Programme

Please note that a [draft programme is available on the event page on the SLSNZ website](#).

The following considerations were prioritised in developing the draft programme.

- Start senior events earlier (from 10am) on the Thursday to increase the likelihood of getting off the beach earlier each day.
- Balance the events each “discipline type” of athlete has available across the four days.
- Showcase finals, in blocks where possible, to create atmosphere and hype.

- Run a “Super Sunday” programme on the Sunday, including boats finals at the start of the day as close ‘the hub’ as practical.

We will provide an update in the next club memo, with a detailed programme to follow in the final club update memo once entries are known. The programme will always be subject to change to suit ocean conditions and entry numbers.

Club Equipment and Logistics

This year there will be less event infrastructure and club equipment on the beach. A detailed site map and additional information will be provided in the next club update. However, to assist with club planning at this stage we encourage clubs to start planning for the following points.

- Water arena locations will be more mobile this year, with a view to use the best part of the beach for racing on any given day. To plan for this, we encourage clubs to use pop-up mobile club tents and plan to pack these down each day and set up again the following day once the arena locations are set. There will be a space to leave larger tents set up for the duration of the event if clubs want a meeting point/club base.
- Board and Ski Trailers will be situated in car parks off the beach this year. Our traffic management plan has a road closure in this area so it will be safe for clubs to unload and load their craft. We will be encouraging clubs to store craft either on their trailers or in their larger, base tents overnight during the event.

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.

Photography & Imagery:

By entering this event clubs and members acknowledge and agree that SLSNZ may use images and video taken during the event for media and marketing purposes. Clubs and members also agree by entering into this event that SLSNZ or second party contractors are allowed to fly drones throughout the event.

Media accreditation:

Only applications from Surf Life Saving Members and Media Agencies will be accepted for consideration.

Applications need to be made to the Event Manager via the [Media Accreditation Application Form](#) in order to use cameras or video devices in the Competition Arenas. Applications must be submitted by the 1st March, 2023.

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
24 January	Surf Officials Update	- Including position appointments

6 February	Club Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Entry update - Event Programme update - Site Map and Club Logistics Update
25 February	Entries Close	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Waves
8 March	Final Club Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Important event, venue and meeting updates
8 March	Final Surf Officials Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Important event, venue and meeting updates
13 March	Drop off club trailers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Further details in club updates</i>
14 March	Event Starts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Further details in club updates</i>

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Ngā mihi nui

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