



SURF LIFE SAVING®
NEW ZEALAND

Regional and National Volunteer Honours, Awards, and Recognition Framework 2024



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Introduction

Volunteering is the heart of the Surf Lifesaving movement in New Zealand. Volunteer recognition and appreciation is a key component for all volunteer organisations. We need to acknowledge the contributions of Surf Life Saving members who donate their time, skills, and expertise for the benefit of others. This is also a key component of the Surf Lifesaving Volunteer Strategy's Respect (Mana) pillar. This framework will guide the overall Surf Lifesaving recognition and appreciation program. This will include awards and honours, along with their respective processes, nomination, and judging criteria.

Recognition

Recognition is an acknowledgment that a member has achieved a personal qualification or milestone or performed exceptionally in the execution of their training. This is an acknowledgment of what that person has done to improve themselves or how they have executed their skills or training.

Appreciation

Appreciation is acknowledging a member's contribution and thanking them for their service to Surf Lifesaving, significantly when that service has benefitted others and improved the Surf Lifesaving movement.

Purposes of Volunteer Recognition and Appreciation

- 1. Acknowledge Positive Contributions** - Recognise positive contributions from clubs and members to improve or enhance the Surf Lifesaving movement.
- 2. Acknowledge Member Qualifications** - Recognise members' dedication, time, and commitment to achieve Surf Lifesaving qualifications.
- 3. Highlight Operational Excellence or Outstanding Performance** - Recognise outstanding examples of operational excellence or performance across all areas of Surf Lifesaving. This can also be used as an incentive to motivate members to perform and achieve outstanding results.
- 4. Celebrate Success** - Celebrate clubs and members who have achieved great things across various areas of Surf Lifesaving.
- 5. Highlight Positive Behaviors** - Highlighting success showcases what is good about the Surf Lifesaving movement and can be used as an example to encourage clubs and members to follow in others' footsteps to achieve great things.
- 6. Retain Members** - Receiving recognition and appreciation for their service and achievements may help retain some members as they feel valued, see their commitment is noticed, and feel they are contributing to the Surf Lifesaving movement achieving some amazing things. Thanking members for their time and commitment is also key to showing that members are valued and appreciated for what they do.
- 7. Raise the profile of Surf Lifesaving** - Volunteer recognition and appreciation can also be used to raise the profile of Surf Lifesaving through local and national media and other channels run by SLSNZ, clubs, members, and our strategic partners.

Guiding Principles

The volunteer honours, awards, and recognition framework apply the following guiding principles to recognise members for their contribution:

1. Clear - The nomination and judging processes and criteria must be:

- Simple;
- Easy to understand;
- Easy to follow;
- Transparent; and
- Accessible for all members on the SLSNZ website.

This will ensure that the right people are recognized, their nominations contain the required information, and consistent judging or assessment processes are applied.

2. Fair - The nomination and judging processes and criteria must be:

- Consistent;
- Judged equitably across all local areas and regions;
- Followed by members, volunteers, committees, and staff; and
- Impartial – perceived and/or actual conflicts of interests must be declared by any judges or committees that are assessing nominations.

This will ensure the integrity of the volunteer recognition framework is retained.

3. Relevant - The nomination and judging processes and criteria must be:

- Reflective of current operational or focus areas of Surf Lifesaving;
- Relevant to respective award, without extra unrelated content;
- Consistent with current strategies and plans, such as the Surf Lifesaving Strategic Plan;
- Reviewed regularly to ensure that they remain relevant and reflect the activities and focus areas of the Surf Lifesaving movement; and
- Consider historical information for honours when volunteers may have contributed service to Surf Lifesaving for decades.

This will ensure that the right people have the ability to be recognised for their achievements and service to the Surf Life Saving movement. A change in criteria, honours, and awards should also not impact the recognition of past honours and awards. These will continue to be recognised.

4. Focus on Volunteer Recognition and Appreciation - The primary purpose of honours and awards is to show recognition and appreciation to Surf Lifesaving volunteers for their contributions to the Surf Lifesaving movement at all levels. However, in some instances, it will be appropriate to recognise those that are in paid roles.

5. For contributions to Surf Lifesaving in New Zealand - Honours and awards will be presented to members for their contributions to Surf Lifesaving in New Zealand.

6. Respectful - It's inevitable that things will change over time. But any changes in honours and awards will not impact the recognition of past honours and awards. We will continue to recognise these past achievements.

7. Flexible - Be flexible and mindful of the needs and wants of volunteers when presenting honours and awards.

8. Quality over Quantity - The focus should be on the quality of volunteer contributions, not the quantity.

Service Awards

Service Awards recognise outstanding contributions from members for their service to Surf Lifesaving in New Zealand over a sustained period. The system allows any service to be recognised at a Club, Local Area, Regional, and National level. The processes is designed to run parallel, and members can be recognised across different levels as their contributions accumulate.

Club Service Awards

These awards are administered and awarded by clubs, they have the discretion to either use their own processes or the SLSNZ process and criteria (points thresholds). In addition to these criteria, clubs have the discretion to add other prerequisites or criteria to achieve these awards for their club (e.g., minimum length of service). Clubs may also have other awards to recognise member service and contributions to their club, summary of recommended points thresholds are below:

- **Club Service Award** – 40 points.
- **Club Distinguished Service Award** – 80 points
- **Life Membership** – 160 points

Regional Service Awards

These awards will be administered by SLSNZ and awarded at the Local Area/Regional Awards of Excellence. These awards aim to recognise service to Surf Lifesaving in New Zealand and the appreciation for member contributions. The service contribution by members can be provided across various clubs and regions and can be cumulative over several years – it does not need to be consecutive and continuous service in one region. They will be awarded across all four Surf Lifesaving Regions (Northern, Eastern, Central and Southern). There are no limits on the number of applicants per club, summary of points below:

- **Regional Service Award** – 60 points.
- **Regional Distinguished Service Award** – 120 points must include a minimum of 25 regional points.
- **Regional Life Membership** – 240 points must include a minimum of 50 regional points.

National Service Awards

These awards will be administered by SLSNZ and awarded at the SLSNZ Awards of Excellence. These awards aim to recognise service to Surf Lifesaving in New Zealand and the appreciation for member contributions. The service contribution by members can be provided across various clubs and regions and can be cumulative over a number of years – it does not need to be consecutive and continuous service. There are no limits on the number of applicants per club, summary of points below:

- **SLSNZ Service Award** – 80 points.
- **SLSNZ Distinguished Service Award** – 160 points that must include a minimum of 35 national points.
- **SLSNZ Life Membership** – 320 points must include a minimum of 70 national points.

Key

| |
|----------------|
| Club Award |
| Regional Award |
| National Award |

CURRENT SERVICE AWARDS PATHWAY

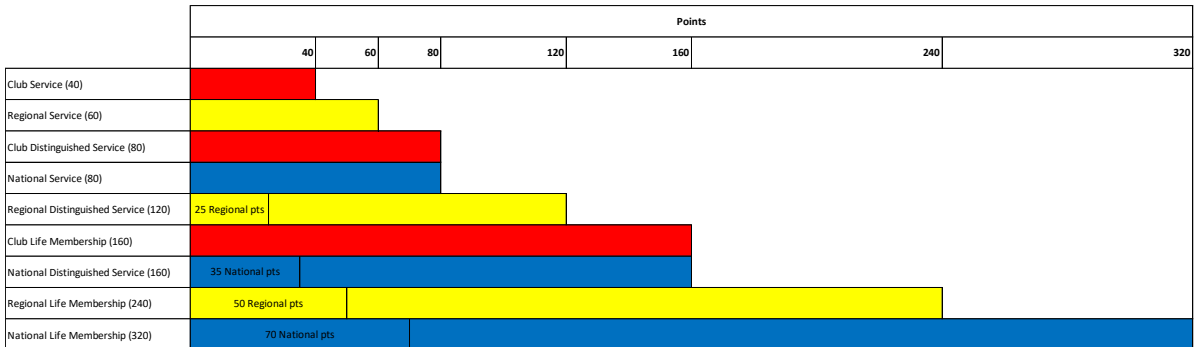


Figure 1: Service Award Thresholds

Surf Lifesaving 50-Year Badge

50-year badges will be presented at the SLSNZ Awards of Excellence to acknowledge members who have provided 50 years of service to Surf Lifesaving in New Zealand. The 50 Year Badge does not recognise 50 years of membership, but 50 years of active service. It is not sufficient to have joined 50 years ago the determination is based on having been active within a club(s) for 50 years. The 50 years does not need to be consecutive.

Local Area/Regional/National Recognition Awards

These awards will be administered by SLSNZ and awarded at the Local Area, Regional, and National Awards of Excellence. The system has been aligned, so clubs only need to submit one nomination at their club level. The categories reflect current key focus areas of Surf Lifesaving:

1. Surf Lifeguard of the Year

This is awarded to an outstanding volunteer for their work as an all-round volunteer surf lifeguard over the past year, with a focus on all aspects of surf lifeguarding (Patrols, SAR, Instructing or Examining). This is to recognise outstanding volunteer work for a key portion of our volunteer workforce who patrol and contribute to lifeguarding beaches across Aotearoa.

2. U19 Surf Lifeguard of the Year

This is awarded to an outstanding volunteer under 19 years old for their work as an all-round volunteer surf lifeguard over the past year, with a focus on all aspects of surf lifeguarding (Patrols, SAR, Instructing or Examining). This is to recognise outstanding volunteer work for a key portion of our volunteer workforce who patrol and contribute to lifeguarding beaches across Aotearoa.

3. Patrol Support of the Year

This is awarded to an outstanding volunteer for their work as Patrol Support at their club over the past year. This is to recognise a section of our membership who may not meet all the physical requirements to qualify as a surf lifeguard but can still contribute to lifesaving operations at their club.

4. Search and Rescue Contribution of the Year

This is awarded to an outstanding volunteer for contributing to search and rescue (SAR) over the past year. This is to recognise those in Surf Life Saving who volunteer to be on-call in SAR squads across the country or those who perform a crucial role in the organisation and management of these squads.

5. Powercraft Contribution of the Year

This is awarded to an outstanding volunteer for contributing to powercraft (IRBs and RWCs) over the past year. This is to recognise those in Surf Life Saving who volunteer their time to upskill, train and educate other members so that these surf rescue assets at all clubs can be effectively maintained and used by surf lifeguards in their daily operations and SAR activities.

6. Rescue of the Month/Year

This is awarded to members who have performed an outstanding rescue over the past year, displaying operational excellence in executing their skills and training during a rescue. This can include surf lifeguards and others who have participated in a rescue incident.

7. Coach of the Year

This is awarded to a coach for an outstanding contribution to surf sports coaching over the past year. This will be open to both paid and volunteer coaches and is to recognise the commitment and dedication to coaching athletes.

8. Surf Sports Official of the Year

This is awarded to a volunteer surf sports official for an outstanding contribution to officiating over the past year. This is to recognise the commitment and dedication to volunteer at lifesaving events as an official so that members can participate in these competitions.

9. Surf Sports Person of the Year

This is awarded to a surf sports athlete for outstanding and consistent performance over the past year. This is to recognise excellence in surf sports.

10. Surf Sports Team of the Year

This is awarded to a surf sports team for outstanding and consistent performance over the past year. This is to recognise excellence in surf sports.

11. Event Safety Contribution of the Year

This is awarded to a volunteer surf lifeguard for an outstanding contribution to event lifeguarding at events over the past year. This is to recognise the commitment and dedication to providing water safety at events so people can participate in these events.

12. Junior Surf Contribution of the Year

This is awarded to a volunteer for an outstanding contribution to Junior Surf over the past year. This is to recognise the commitment and dedication of these volunteers, who play a key role in bringing through the next generation of club members and surf lifeguards.

13. Instructor of the Year

This is awarded to a volunteer for an outstanding contribution to lifesaving instructing over the past year. This is to recognise the commitment and dedication of these volunteers who educate and upskill prospective and current surf lifeguards.

14. Examiner of the Year

This is awarded to a volunteer for an outstanding contribution to lifesaving examinations over the past year. This is to recognise the commitment and dedication of these volunteers who examine and assess prospective and current surf lifeguard qualifications.

15. Volunteer of the Year

This is awarded to a volunteer for an outstanding contribution to the Surf Life Saving movement over the past year. This is to recognise the commitment and dedication of volunteers across the Surf Life Saving movement.

16. Innovation Award (only awarded when a suitable innovation meets the criteria)

This can be awarded to a Surf Lifesaving Club, member, or an organization that has worked with clubs, members, or SLSNZ to develop something unique and innovative that will enhance the capability of the Surf Life Saving movement. This is to recognise the importance of innovation and continuous improvement across the Surf Life Saving movement to help us achieve our high-level vision that "No one drowns at the beach in Aotearoa."

Dates, Processes, and Forms

Key Dates

Nominations Open: Wednesday, 20 March 2024

- Regional and National Service Awards
- Surf Lifesaving 50-Year Badge
- Local Area, Regional, and National Recognition Awards
- Northern, Eastern, Central and Southern Specific Awards

Nominations Close: Wednesday, 1 May 2024

- Regional and National Service Awards
- Surf Lifesaving 50-Year Badge
- Local Area, Regional, and National Recognition Awards
- Northern, Eastern, Central and Southern Specific Awards

Local Area/Regional and National Awards of Excellence Dates

- Northern Region Awards of Excellence – **Saturday 16 August 2024**
- Coromandel/Bay of Plenty Awards of Excellence – **Saturday 20 July 2024**
- Gisborne/Tairāwhiti Awards of Excellence – **Friday 14 June 2024**
- Taranaki Awards of Excellence – **Saturday 8 June 2024**
- Hawkes Bay Awards of Excellence – **Saturday 16 June 2024**
- Capital Coast Awards of Excellence – **Saturday 25 May 2024**
- Canterbury/Tasman/Westcoast Awards of Excellence – **Saturday 18 May 2024**
- Otago/Southland Awards of Excellence – **Friday 17 May 2024**
- Surf Life Saving New Zealand Awards of Excellence **Saturday 21 September 2024**

Nomination Process

Please read these notes carefully before making any nominations:

- **Other Awards** - Besides the aligned Local Area/Regional/National Awards above, Local Areas and Regions may have specific additional awards to recognise existing trophies or additional categories as long as they are consistent with the Surf Lifesaving movement. An outline of additional awards is contained in the Regional Specific Awards Appendixes 2 to 5.
- **Endorsement** – Any Awards or Honours Nomination must be endorsed at the club level before the nomination is submitted, there is a sign-off spot on the form.
- **Progression** – For Local Area, Regional, and National Recognition Awards, only one nomination per category for each club will be accepted, all nominations will be taken through to the Local/Regional Awards, and only four Regional Nominations will be taken through to the National Awards as finalists. For Regional and National Service Awards, a club can make as many nominations as it feels meets the threshold. For the Surf Lifesaving 50-Year Badge, a club can make as many nominations as it feels meets the threshold.
- **General Comments**
 - Regional and National Service Awards are not automatically granted, they still need to be applied for, i.e., Clubs need to submit and endorse an application.
 - Please ensure the SLSNZ CRM is up to date with as much of the nominees' information as possible, as each nomination will be checked against the CRM



and the more accurate it is the easier this process will be for all. As an example, things like Club Positions held, Club Services Awards or Honours gained at a club level, should be entered by the club.

- The person endorsing the nomination must be available to confirm any details.
 - The nominees may be required at the time of acceptance of the award to verify the correctness and confirm that Clubs, Regions, or SLSNZ may use the information for publicity and promotional purposes.
 - Volunteers who are paid more than out-of-pocket expenses for that task may receive reduced points for those tasks in the schedule.
 - Volunteers can be fast-tracked if they are to be found eligible for a higher award.
- **Support** – In the first instance, the club should contact the SLSNZ designated Club Support person, the Regional/National Awards and Honours Committee is also available if required.

Nomination Forms

Please use the forms that are linked below for all nominations:

- **Regional and National Service Awards** – [Service Awards Nomination Form_2024](#)
- **Surf Lifesaving 50-Year Badge** – [50-Year Badge Nomination Form_2024](#)
- **Local Area, Regional, and National Recognition Awards** – [Award-Specific editable PDFs_2024](#)

All nominations for any awards above must be emailed centrally to:
awards@surflifesaving.org.nz

Please use your club's name plus the Award Nominations 2024 name as the email subject, for example:
East End - Award Nominations 2024

Appendix 1: Local/Regional and Nationally Aligned Awards 2024

Appendix 2: Northern Region Specific Awards 2024

Appendix 3: Eastern Region Specific Awards 2024

Appendix 4: Central Region Specific Awards 2024

Appendix 5: Southern Region Specific Awards 2024