



# SLSNZ SPORT UPDATE – JANUARY 2025

## Sport Calendar Review & Refresh Project

To support the achievement of our [2024–2027 Strategic Plan](#), SLSNZ has identified several key initiatives, informed by the recent Club Satisfaction Survey and feedback from Club Chairs/Delegates forums held across the country. These initiatives have been consolidated into an SLSNZ Programme of Work called Arotahi and includes 16 strategic projects to enhance our organisation.

The purpose of the project is to review of the planning and delivery of all existing SLS sport events in order to investigate, consider and decide on new/improved processes and opportunities. [Read here for more information.](#)

## National Championships Officials Appointments

Following the completion of the volunteer expressions of interest process, an appointments panel consisting of SLSNZ Event Manager, Matt Cairns and the four regional representatives from the National Sport Committee completed the appointment process for key roles at National Events.

Selection and allocation of remaining roles is currently in progress with the aim of notifying officials of their appointment to an event at least two months prior to the event and allocation of specific roles at least one month prior to the event.

Congratulations to the following officials who have been appointed:

Competition	Event Referee	Deputy Event Referee
SLSNZ Nationals	Scott Bicknel	Jo Miller
Oceans	Greg Reiger	Jo Miller
North Island IRB	Johnny Clough	N/A
NZ IRB	Richie Whinham	N/A

## 2025 National Event Initiatives

As part of our aim to continuously improve experiences and outcomes for participants and increase retention and attraction to the sport, SLSNZ uses research and member feedback to introduce purposeful changes to the format and structure of our events. Some changes for upcoming events include:

### Oceans

- Extend the optional use of fins for the Run-Swim-Run into the U13 & U14 age-groups.
- Change the current U11/12/13/14 divisions for mixed beach relay to U11 & U12 combined and U13 & U14 combined.
- Removal of the gender designation for the legs of the six-person Mixed Grand Cameron – the event is still 3 male/3 female, but you no longer have to have a member of each gender in the run, swim and board legs e.g. you could have 2 male runners, 2 female swimmers and a male & female board paddler.

### Nationals

- Introduce/pilot a six-person mixed Taplin (limited to one team per club, medals but no points)
- Introduce/pilot a mixed beach relay (medals but no points)
- Introduce/pilot a canoe relay.
- Introduce/pilot a change of 'Open Male' to 'Open' to allow any gender to make up a boat or canoe crew.
- Ensuring equity of trophies across genders – in 2024 there were 6 events where male champions received trophies and females did not.

### IRB

- Extend the available races for master's from Single and Assembly to include Tube and Mass.

## National Events – Entry Timelines

Event	Event Dates	Location	Entries Close
<a href="#">North Island Surf Boat Championships</a>	February 8 & 9	Waihi	January 24
<a href="#">Oceans</a>	February 20-23	Mt Maunganui	February 10
<a href="#">bp North Island IRB Championships</a>	March 1 & 2	Papamoa	February 16
<a href="#">Aon New Zealand SLS Championships</a>	March 6-9	Gisborne	February 23
<a href="#">bp South Island IRB Championships</a>	March 15	Dunedin	March 10
<a href="#">bp New Zealand IRB Championships</a>	March 28-30	Waipu Cove	March 16

## National Events - Alternate Locations

Recent years have shown our events, and their locations are subject to plenty of uncertainty – COVID-19 restrictions, extreme weather, road conditions/access, water quality and beach debris are just some of the factors that may result in original dates/locations no longer being suitable.

With this in mind, we continue to include alternate locations as part of the planning process.

Acknowledging the recent beach issues with the 2025 Nationals venue, we confirm that Midway Beach is still the host of this event and will remain the event base should contingencies require actioning.

## National Events - Future Dates

The process to confirm locations and dates in advance requires significant planning and engagement with key stakeholders, in particular councils and clubs and SLSNZ aims to communicate the dates and locations of summer Regional & National Championship events by May 1 annually.

## High Performance Squad Selections

Each year, athletes are invited to apply or re-apply for selection - applications are now open for ocean and beach athletes for the 2025-2026 period. Athletes should be familiar with the selection policy and read the selection information before applying. [More information can be found here](#)

## 2025 International Surf Rescue Challenge

The Black fins race in NZ for the first time since 2017! We will be hosting the ISRC in late 2025 (final date to be confirmed by end of January). The event consists of three racing days and will also include a domestic event for NZ clubbies.

## 2025 Trans-Tasman Surf Boat Series

New Zealand's top Open and U23 men's and women's crews will take on Australia's best as Waihi SLSC are once again host the TTSBS alongside the North Island Surf Boat Championships on February 8 & 9.

Congratulations to the following crews who were selected at the [Surf Boat Trial](#) to represent NZ.

- Open Men – Piha
- Open Female – Red Beach
- U23 Men – Titahi Bay
- U23 Female – Piha

## Liveheats

Surf Life Saving New Zealand has partnered with Liveheats to support the delivery of lifesaving sports events across the country. LiveHeats is a global software company, specialising in competition management systems for action and adventure sports. Learn more about Liveheats in the updates below:

- [LiveHeats Information for clubs \(Nov 2024\)](#)
- [LiveHeats Information for clubs \(Sept 2024\)](#)
- [LiveHeats Officials Online Training \(Dec 2024\)](#)
- [LiveHeats Managers Online Training \(Dec 2024\)](#)

## Competition Manual Consultation

Each year we invite the membership to provide feedback on the rules of our sport to ensure we continue to provide a safe and fair framework that assists the membership to participate in Lifesaving Sport. Members are invited to suggest the addition, removal or change of any rules with a focus on the principles of safety, equity, fairness, enjoyment and using easy to understand language. [Go here for more information and provide any suggestions.](#)

## Pool Rescue

Winter saw 15 pool rescue events delivery throughout the country, culminating in the Aon New Zealand Pool Rescue Championships. Read all about [the action here](#) and the [event management report here](#).

### 2025 Pool Rescue Championships Dates & Venues

- Eastern Region Pool Rescue Championships: 23 & 24 August, Kiwa Pools, Gisborne.
- Northern Region Pool Rescue Championships: 6 & 7 September, NAC, Auckland.
- Central Region Pool Rescue Championships: 13 September, Wellington Regional Aquatic Centre, Wellington.
- Southern Region Pool Rescue Championships: 13 & 14 September, Jellie Park Recreation & Sports Centre, Christchurch.
- AON New Zealand Pool Rescue Championships: 26-28 September, NAC, Auckland.

## Bluebridge Inter-Island Ferry Discount

SLSNZ is once again pleased to offer an exclusive ferry discount, courtesy of Bluebridge - offering clubs a 20% saving on retail Flexi Sail fares for travelling between Islands for upcoming events.

Clubs have received information regarding how to access the discount, which is valid for travel between 22 January and 5 April 2025.

## Looking for more sport information and updates?

Our [competitions](#) page links to all the key information for our Regional & National Championships while you can find the full list of events throughout the country by searching our [calendar](#).

All key documentation and updates can be found on our [Sports Resources](#) page on our website. Recent updates include:

- [High-vis Vest Guidelines reminder \(Nov 2024\)](#)
- [2024/2025 IRB Championship Dates & Venues \(Nov 2024\)](#)
- [Changes to Points System - Consultation Results \(Nov 2024\)](#)
- [Competition Eligibility Reminder \(Oct 2024\)](#)
- [Club Transfer Rules & Regulations reminder \(Oct 2024\)](#)

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