



SLSNZ SPORT UPDATE – FEBRUARY 2025

National Events – Entry Timelines

Event	Event Dates	Location	Entries Close
bp North Island IRB Championships	March 1 & 2	Papamoa	February 16
Aon New Zealand SLS Championships	March 6-9	Gisborne	February 23
bp South Island IRB Championships	March 15	Dunedin	March 10
bp New Zealand IRB Championships	March 28-30	Waipu Cove	March 16

2025 National Event Updates

Following the communication of new initiatives being introduced at upcoming National events, the following provides more detail regarding some of those initiatives as well as other clarifications.

Nationals

- Mixed Taplin Relay
 - There will be no fixed order of racing i.e. clubs can choose the order in which their male or female race each leg.
- Mixed Beach Relay
 - There will be no fixed order of racing i.e. clubs can choose the order in which their two males and two females race each leg.
- Canoe Relay
 - [Confirmed rules of the canoe relay.](#)
- Beach Flags
 - Following the Senior Eastern Region Championships, clarity was sought regarding the interpretation of 8.3.5(b) relating to body an arm position. A group of officials and coaches are currently working through this to provide clarity for the membership as soon as possible.

IRB

- Rule Variance
 - The following rule variance was agreed to in previous years but has not been updated in the Competition Manual - 2.10.5c and the related DQ 106 - patients may wear whichever length wetsuit they choose.
- High-vis vest over PFD's
 - A contradiction has been identified in the Equipment Specification Manual so for clarity - No additional items shall be worn over top of driver, crew or patients PFDs, i.e. Hi-Vis Vests.

Oceans

- Oceans celebrates 25 years in 2025, and we know kids participate for lots of different reasons and we want the event to keep growing and getting better so our junior members, parents and volunteers want to keep coming back and continue to be a part of our awesome movement. Over the last few years, we have introduced a number of initiatives and changes – [read more here.](#)

National Events - Future Dates

We have recently fielded queries regarding the location of upcoming Aon New Zealand Surf Lifesaving Championship events. There is no intention to deviate from what was communicated in March 2023. [Read more here](#)

To that end, dates and locations for upcoming events are as below:

- 2025 Aon New Zealand Surf Lifesaving Championships (incl. Masters): Thursday 6th March-Sunday 9th March 2025, Midway SLSC, Gisborne.
- 2026 Aon New Zealand Surf Lifesaving Championships (incl. Masters): March 2026, Ōhope Beach, Whakatāne.
- 2027 Aon New Zealand Surf Lifesaving Championships (incl. Masters): March 2027, New Brighton, Christchurch.

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.](#)

2025 International Surf Rescue Challenge

The Black fins will race in NZ for the first time since 2017 with the ISRC to be held at Mount Maunganui beach on November 27-30. The three days of international racing will be held on Thursday 27, Friday 28 and Sunday 30 while Saturday 29 will see the Mount Monster and a junior event being run, giving clubbies the opportunity to be a part of this International Festival of Lifesaving. [Read more here](#)

High Performance Leads appointed

SLSNZ is pleased to announce the appointment of Steve Kent and Byron Reid as campaign leads for the Black Fins & Junior Black Fins respectively, through to the 2026 Lifesaving World Championships in Morocco next September. [Read more here](#)

2025 Trans-Tasman Surf Boat Series

Waihi SLSC held the North Island Surf Boat Championships and the Trans-Tasman Surf Boat Series with over 40 crews in attendance on Waitangi weekend.

In the Trans-Tasman Series the Australian open crews proved too strong with the men taking out the Piha A crew 3 nil while the Red Beach Rabbits were able to win one race in the open females, going down 5-1 overall.

In the U23s the Australian mens crews match their opens, beating Titahi Bay Two-stroke 3-0, however the Piha Piranhas U23 female crew took out the Australian U23s 3-0 to set up a boat relay to determine the overall U23 champion, which they took out for the 2nd year in a row.

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:

- [January Sport Update \(Jan 2025\)](#)
- [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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