



# SLSNZ SPORT UPDATE – MAY 2025

## National Sport Committee

The National Sport Committee and SLSNZ sport staff, consisting of Dave Shanks (Independent/Chair), Hirata Titcombe (Independent), Jo Miller (Independent), Wayne Franich (NR), Dion Williams (ER), Isaac Davies (SR), Zac Franich, Lewis McClintock, Luke Smith, Tanya Hamilton, Holly Fletcher, Dan Grant (SLSNZ) met on May 10 & 11 to review and plan for sport. High level discussions and outcomes of interest to the membership are outlined below.

## Arotahi Sport Calendar Review & Refresh Project

To support the achievement of our [2024–2027 Strategic Plan](#), SLSNZ identified several key initiatives, informed by Club Satisfaction Surveys and feedback from Club Chairs/Delegates forums held across the country.

One of these projects related to the sport events calendar. 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.

SLSNZ is now consulting with the membership on three proposals designed to optimise event delivery, improve member experience and ensure long-term sustainability.

- A. Introduce a nationally coordinated calendar process for Sports events.
- B. Create greater consistency across event delivery standards and experience, through establishing a second tier of National events
- C. Nationally drive and support a local participation delivery model

More information, the full consultation document and links to the survey can be found [here](#)

## Regional & National Summer Events Dates & Venues

Given the consultation currently in progress as outlined above, confirmation of Regional & National dates and venues is ongoing. National events that have been confirmed are:

- Oceans 26 – February 19-22, Mount Maunganui
- 2026 Aon NZ Championships – March 5-8, Ohope Beach

## Pool Rescue Competitions

All interclub, Regional Championship & National Championship event dates and venues can be found [here](#)

## Ski Weights

SLSNZ will follow Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA) in progressively reducing the ski weight from 18kg to 16.5kg over a nine year period. [Detailed information can be found here](#)

## Wetsuits

An adjustment to the competition manual to allow wetsuits at any time during an event for junior and masters competitors. The competition manual will be updated accordingly. [Detailed information can be found here](#)

## Composite Teams

The National Sport Committee has provided clarity in relation to when and how composite teams can participate at events as well as identifying new events/divisions where composite teams will be piloted for 2025/26. [Detailed information can be found here](#)

## Medals

When supplied, medals will be allocated to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place getters.

In situations where individuals/teams are representing a non-New Zealand club and/or are a composite team (comprised of multiple clubs) they will be eligible for all placings and medals i.e. the next best New Zealand club individual/team does not receive a medal and there are no additional 'visitors' or alternate medals.

In situations where individuals/teams are representing a Region, State, National or similar organisation, they will NOT be eligible for placings and medals. The next best individual/team will receive the placing and medal.

The competition manual will be updated accordingly.

## Points

Following member consultation and subsequent implementation in 2024 the points scoring system for Regional & National Championships in individual and team events points will be 6 to 1 for 1<sup>st</sup> through to 6<sup>th</sup>.

Different point scoring systems may be implemented for other competitions other than those listed and be determined by the club, region or organising committee of those particular competitions and will be described in the Event Circulars.

In situations where individuals/teams are representing a non-New Zealand club, are a composite team (comprised of multiple clubs) and/or are representing a Regional, State, National or similar organisation, they will NOT receive Championships points - these will be awarded to the next best legitimate club team.

The competition manual will be updated accordingly.

## National Championships Officials Appointments

Following the completion of the Event Referee & Event Safety Officer volunteer expressions of interest process, the National Appointments Panel consisting of SLSNZ Event Manager, Luke Smith, the four National Sport Committee regional representatives (Northern – Wayne Franich, Central – Richie Whinham, Eastern – Dion Williams, Southern – Isaac Davies) and independent Michelle Newton completed the appointment process for key roles at National Events.

Selection and allocation of all other roles will begin once the expressions of interest process for Pool Rescue, ISRC & Summer events have been completed.

Once EOI's have been received, the aim is to notify officials of their appointment to an event at least three 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:

<b>Competition</b>	<b>Event Referee</b>	<b>Event Safety Officer</b>
Aon NZ Pool Rescue Championships	Jo Miller	Tara Coe
International Surf Rescue Challenge	Scott Bicknell	Mike Smith
Oceans	Greg Rieger	Scott Weatherall
Aon NZ Championships	Scott Bicknell	Mike Smith
bp NZ IRB Championships	Richie Whinham	Sam Blackmore

## Officials Feedback Survey – National Events

As part of improving our experience at National events for all members, we're wanting to hear from our Surf Officials regarding their experiences at Oceans, Nationals and NZ IRBs so we can best plan ahead of delivery next season. [Please click here](#) to complete the brief survey before June 1.

## Pool Rescue Volunteer Expression of Interest

The following survey is for any Officials, Water Crew & Event Volunteers keen to support the delivery of the 2025 Eastern, Northern Regional Events and the Aon New Zealand Pool Rescue Championships.

The purpose of the survey is to indicate your availability and role preference for particular events. Involvement and specific roles will be confirmed after the close of this survey.

Officials & volunteers for interclubs and competitions in Southern & Central Regions will be recruited separately by the Regional Sport Manager for those events.

[Complete the survey here](#). Applications close on Sunday 8 June 2025.

## International Surf Rescue Challenge Volunteer Expression of Interest

The following survey is for any Officials, Water Safety & Event Volunteers keen to support the delivery of the 2025 International Surf Rescue Challenge to be held at Mount Maunganui on November 27-30.

[Complete the survey here](#)

## High Performance Squad Selections

SLSNZ is thrilled to announce the selection of three national teams for the 2025 International Surf Rescue Challenge (ISRC), taking place on home soil first the first time in eight years.

New Zealand teams will be headed by the open Black Fins team, with the Junior Black Fins and a New Zealand Pathway Team also competing.

In addition to the ISRC, three national representative teams were also selected for the Battle of Tasman on the Gold Coast in August 2025, a Trans-Tasman event that caters to athletes deeper into the performance pathway. This competition aims to prepare athletes for the Lifesaving World Championship format, the pinnacle event in lifesaving sport. [Detailed information can be found here](#).

## 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:

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