



NEW ZEALAND

IRB

CHAMPIONSHIPS

27-29 MARCH GISBORNE 2026



EVENT
CIRCULAR

Event Information:

The 2026 bp New Zealand IRB Championships will be hosted at Waikanae Beach. With three days of action-packed racing, we are really excited to be welcoming members from across New Zealand

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Entry Information:

This circular provides entry related information only.

A full event pack with logistics, programme and further event details will be shared with clubs after close of entries.

Entries can only be made using the SLSNZ Online Event Entry System ([Waves](#)). It is the expectation of SLSNZ that clubs will only allow members with the appropriate awards and capability to participate in the event.

Entries Open: Monday 15 December 2025

Entries Close: 10:00am, Monday 16 March 2026

Entry Fee: \$300.00 per Crew (up to five events)
(please note, individual clubs may charge different fees and/or have an earlier entry deadline to administer team entries)

Eligibility of Competitors: Please see Section 2.2 of the [Surf Life Saving New Zealand Competition Manual](#) for a comprehensive breakdown of eligibility criteria.

Contact Details: Please ensure Team Managers & Coaches contact details are updated and submitted via Waves by close of entries to ensure that the relevant people receive all updated information directly, and gain access to the LiveHeats team managers portal. Failure to list contact details may mean your club misses out on vital information.

Entering Teams: You must enter the entire team for all team events otherwise your entry will not be accepted.

Entry Checks: Following the close of registrations, lane draws are to be drawn days prior to the competition. Team managers must check their club's entries and notify the event manager of any scratchings or team changes. The process for scratching will be shared with clubs in a memo following the close of entries.

Rules & Regulations:

This event will be conducted under the rules contained in the following documents:

- [Surf Life Saving Competition Manual \(Nov 2025\)](#)
 - Please review as there have been changes to rules
- SLSNZ Equipment Specifications Manual
- [SLSNZ Constitution](#)
- [SLSNZ Regulations](#)
- [Sport Integrity New Zealand](#)
- Any additional documents or amendments as communicated by SLSNZ and/or Event Management

Key Times:

Tuesday 24 March

Team Managers Online Briefing: 7:30pm

Thursday 26 March

Scrutineering 1:00pm – 6:00pm

Friday 27 March

Scrutineering & Fuel Allocation: 8:00am – 11:00am

Marshalling: 11:45pm

Start: 12:00pm

Team Managers Meeting: 6:00pm (if required)

Saturday 28 March

Surf Officials Meeting: 7:00am

Team Managers Meeting: 8:00am

Marshalling: 8:15am

Start Time: 8:30am

Prizegiving: 30 minutes after the conclusion of racing

Additional Fuel Distribution: At the conclusion of prizegiving

Sunday 29 March

Surf Officials Meeting: 7:00am

Team Managers Meeting: 8:00am

Marshalling: 8:15am

Start Time: 8:30am

Prizegiving: 30 minutes after the conclusion of racing

Additional Fuel Distribution: At the conclusion of prizegiving

Age Groups & Divisions:

Age groups are determined by the competitor's age at midnight on 30th September 2025.

The age categories for this event are:

- Under 19 (15-18 years old)
- Under 23 (15-22 years old)
- Open (15+)
- Masters (30+)

* Patients may be 14 years of age

Event Programming:

The programme will be made available on the [SLSNZ Website](#). Please note this may be subject to change based on entry numbers or other logistical considerations.

Events:

The following events and divisions will be held at the championships (listed in no particular order).

| Events: | Age Group: | Gender: |
|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Single Rescue | U19, U23, Open and Masters | Male and Female |
| Mass Rescue | U19, U23, Open and Masters | Male and Female |
| Assembly Rescue | U19, U23, Open and Masters | Male and Female |
| Tube Rescue | U19, U23, Open and Masters | Male and Female |
| Teams Rescue | Open | Male/Mixed and Female |

Scrutineering:

Scrutineering will be carried out on the days and times indicated at Waikanae SLSC.

Please follow the instructions of the scrutineering team to ensure that this critical safety compliance check is completed.

You can find a full Scrutineering Check Sheet [here](#). (Please use this prior to turning up at the event)

Any issues need to be detected prior to the event, not as our Scrutineering team is inspecting your equipment. Your assistance with this will eliminate large delays during the scrutineering process.

Fuel:

Clubs will be allocated 10 litres of fuel per crew entered. Fuel collection times are specified in event timings above.

A re-fuelling station will be set up with a SOPEP oil/petrol spill mat, warning signs and a fire extinguisher. There is to be no re-fuelling of bladders in club tents on the beach.

Event Safety:

- 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.
- Return to Shore: Situations have arisen in past events where craft and or people have been stranded on the IRB Race Course in the direct path of rapidly approaching IRB crews, whom are unaware of the hazard that lies ahead due to the inability to see the stranded craft/person due to sea conditions, which poses significant risk to people and craft.
- The purpose of this procedure is to put in place systems to help identify these situations and immediately draw competitor's attention to the need to immediately 'throttle back' and precede with caution, to prevent potential collisions and harm to people and craft.
 - EMC/nominated officials – upon identifying that a person and or craft are stranded within the race arena, the following actions must be implemented as soon as practicable.
 - a) Have the starter activate the all-round **RED** flashing light atop of the starter pole.
 - b) Raise and wave a **RED** flag on shore from the starters stand.
 - Drivers – upon sighting the red flashing light or waving of red flag, drivers must throttle back and proceed to shore, unless directed to provide assistance by the designated water safety crew.

Health & Safety:

This event will abide by the facility safety measures put in place and will adhere by the rules instructed by the facility management and lifeguard team.

Parent, Guardian, Coach, Team Manager and Club Obligations

It is the responsibility of clubs, through their coaches and manager, to ensure that each individual competitor is competent to safely compete.

Officials & volunteers

All officials & volunteers should ensure they are physically capable of carrying out their important functions and are capable of independently moving and to and from their appointed role/position over the duration of a competition.

In nominating for any event, all volunteers warrant that they are, and must remain, mentally and physically capable of carrying out all the functions of their appointed role(s) over the course of the entire event. All volunteers should undertake a medical check prior to departure for the event and/or declare any medical/health concerns.

SLSNZ may request volunteers to provide medical clearance if they have had a medical event at previous competitions or if SLSNZ considers such request is reasonable and/or necessary. If requested, volunteers must provide the medical clearance before undertaking their duties.

Should your state of health change between expressing you interest and the competition, you must inform Event Management

Pre-Existing Medical Conditions

All participants and volunteers with a pre-existing medical condition must complete and submit a 'Pre-Existing Medical Conditions Declaration' form prior to the close of entries. These forms are to be submitted to the Event Manager via by email as early as possible. 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. Information on concussion can be found [here](#)

Competition Uniform & Equipment:

- No additional items shall be worn over top of driver, crew or patients PFDs, i.e. Hi-Vis Vests.
- All equipment used in competition must comply with the Equipment Specification Manual.
- Only SLSNZ sealed engines are to be used in Competition.
- No engine may be removed from the beach prior to the completion of the day's competition without clearance of the Event Referee.
- IRB Hulls & Engines purchased via Central Government Funding cannot be use for Sport and/or Competitions.
- All boats must complete a BP IRB Event Scrutineering Check Sheet prior to the event

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.

Media accreditation:

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

If you are wishing to take photos at our competition then complete and submit the [Media Accreditation Application Information here](#) to events@surflifesaving.org.nz at least one week prior to the competition for access into competition areas.

Please note Use of Cameras and Video devices rules are outlined in the Competition Manual.

Communication:

Event Management utilise a variety of tools to keep you updated with the latest event information and news.

TeamReach will be the primary platform for communication leading into and during the event. TeamReach can be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play. Group Code = **SLSNZIRBS**

- [SLSNZ Website](#) (event documentation)
- [SLSNZ Sport Facebook](#) (event photos & highlights)
- [SLSNZ Sport Instagram](#) (event photos & highlights)
- [LiveHeats](#) (programme and results)

Key Contact:

If you have any queries or concerns, please feel free to contact Luke.

For event management & delivery

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MAJOR PARTNERS



NAMING RIGHTS & PRESENTATION PARTNERS



COMMUNITY PARTNERS



MEDIA PARTNERS

