



**SURF LIFE SAVING**

**AON**

**NEW ZEALAND  
SURF LIFESAVING**



**5-8 MARCH • ŌHOPE BEACH**

**EVENT  
CIRCULAR**

## Competition Purpose:

Our vision for the Aon New Zealand Surf Life Saving Championships is to deliver the premier lifesaving sport event, with the athlete experience at its core. We are dedicated to fostering fairness, safety, inclusivity, and the celebration of achievement, all within a vibrant and engaging atmosphere that everyone can enjoy.

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## Entry Information:

This circular provides entry related information only. A full event pack with logistics, marshalling, seating, and further event details will be shared with clubs after close of entries.

Entries can only be made using [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:** Friday 12 December 2025

**Entries Close:** 10:00am, Monday 23 February 2026

**Entry Fee:** \$150.00 per competitor  
\$120.00 per Masters Competitor (Includes event t-shirt)  
\$150.00 per Senior + Masters Competitor  
(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 [SLSNZ Competition Manual](#) (September 2025) 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. 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. See information on composite teams on page 7.

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## Rules & Regulations:

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

- [SLSNZ Competition Manual](#)
- [SLSNZ Constitution](#)
- [SLSNZ Regulations](#)
- [Sport Integrity New Zealand](#)
- Any additional documents or amendments as communicated by SLSNZ and/or Event Management. This includes:
  - [Competition Manual Updates \(Nov 2025\)](#)
  - [Wetsuits \(May 2025\)](#)
  - [Ski Weights \(May 2025\)](#)
  - [Composite Teams \(May 2025\)](#)
  - [Medals & Points \(May 2025\)](#)

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## Age Groups:

A participant's age group is determined by their age at midnight on 30th September 2025. For example, if you were 18 on the 30th of September 2025, you are eligible to compete in the Under 19 division.

### Masters

Masters are permitted to compete in only one age group/division in each event type. Where a team event with two competitors is conducted (e.g. double ski), the age of the younger competitor shall determine the age category of the team. Where a Masters team event with three or more competitors is conducted, the total combined age of all team members must fall within the Age Group entered into. Note: this does not include the sweep in Surf Boat Events.

### Under 15

U15 competitors can only compete in U15 individual events. They are not able to 'race up' into older age-groups in individual events. There is no U15 team category, all U15 compete in the U17 age group for team events. There is no 'racing up' beyond U17 age group. U15 can compete in Diamond only (no Irons). U15 can compete in limited ski events – Single Ski, U17 Ski relay & Ski leg of U17 Taplin.

*\*Please note that U15 Ski events will be placed in the high-risk category in relation to event curtailment guidelines for Event Safety.*

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## Event Programming:

The programme will be made available on the [SLSNZ Website](#).

Masters racing is programmed for Thursday. Senior racing is programmed for Thursday – Sunday.

Please note this may be subject to change based on entry numbers or other logistical considerations.

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## Composite Teams:

Composite teams will be piloted in limited divisions and races at the 2026 Aon New Zealand Surf Lifesaving Championships. The events included are:

- Masters & U17 Beach Relay
- Masters & U17 Board Relay
- Masters Ski Relay
- Masters Taplin Relay

When offered, composite teams will be eligible for medals, but not overall points.

For more information, please refer to the [May 2025 Memo](#)



## Key Times:

### Thursday 26 February

Team Managers Online Briefing: 7:30pm

### Wednesday 4 March

Masters T-Shirt Collection: from 2:00pm

### Thursday 5 March

Team Managers Meeting 7:15am  
 Surf Officials Meeting: 7:45am  
 Swim Warm Up: 7:00am – 7:20am  
 Craft Warm Up: 7:25am – 7:45am  
 Marshalling: 7:45am  
 Events Start: 8:00am  
 Prizegiving: After Racing  
 Masters Function: 7:00pm @ [Wharfside](#)  
 High Tide: 8:54am  
 Low Tide: 3:10pm

### Friday 6 March

Team Managers Meeting 6:45am  
 Surf Officials Meeting: 7:15am  
 Swim Warm Up: 7:00am – 7:20am  
 Craft Warm Up: 7:25am – 7:45am  
 Marshalling: 7:45am  
 Events Start: 8:00am  
 Prizegiving: After Racing  
 Volunteer Dinner & 21 Club AGM: 7:00pm @ [Wharfside](#)  
 High Tide: 9:37am  
 Low Tide: 3:52pm

### Saturday 7 March

Team Managers Meeting 6:45am  
 Surf Officials Meeting: 7:15am  
 Swim Warm Up: 7:00am – 7:20am  
 Craft Warm Up: 7:25am – 7:45am  
 Marshalling: 7:45am  
 Events Start: 8:00am  
 Prizegiving: After Racing  
 High Tide: 10:18am  
 Low Tide: 4:34pm

### Sunday 8 March

Team Managers Meeting 6:45am  
 Surf Officials Meeting: 7:15am  
 Swim Warm Up: 7:00am – 7:20am  
 Craft Warm Up: 7:25am – 7:45am  
 Marshalling: 7:45am  
 Events Start: 8:00am  
 High Tide: 10:59am  
 Low Tide: 4:51pm

\* All times are subject to change

## Events:

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

### Individual Events:

Beach Sprint

Beach Flags

2km Beach Run

Surf Race

Run Swim Run

Board Race

Ski Race

Diamond

Ironperson

### Team Events:

Beach Relay

Surf Teams

Board Relay

Ski Relay

Double Ski

Mixed Double Ski

3 Person Taplin Relay

6 Person Taplin Relay

Rescue Tube Rescue

Board Rescue

Canoe Race – Short Course

Canoe Race – Long Course

Canoe Relay

Surf Boat Race – Short Race

Surf Boat Race – Long Course

Surf Boat Relay

### Age Group:

U15, U17, U19, Open & Masters

U15, U17, U19, Open & Masters

U15, U17, U19 & Open

U15, U17, U19, Open & Masters

U15, U17, U19 & Open

U15, U17, U19, Open & Masters

U15, U17, U19, Open & Masters

U15

U17, U19, Open & Masters

### Age Group:

U17, U19, Open & Masters

U17, U19, Open & Masters

U17, U19, Open & Masters

U17, U19, Open & Masters

U19, Open & Masters

Open

U17, U19, Open Female & Masters

Open Male & Open Mixed

U17, U19 & Open

U17, U19 & Open

U19, Open & Masters

U19 & Open

Open

U19, U23, Open & Masters

U19, U23, Open & Masters

Open

### Gender:

Male and Female

Male and Female

Male and Female

Male and Female

Male and Female

Male and Female

Male and Female

Male and Female

Male and Female

### Composition:

Male and Female

Male and Female

Male and Female

Male and Female

Male and Female

Mixed (1M, 1F)

Male and Female

Male and Mixed

Male and Female

Male and Female

Male and Female

Male and Female

Mixed

Male and Female

Male and Female

Mixed

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## Club Equipment & Logistics:

All members entering the water for warm ups, warm downs and competition must be wearing an approved colour high-visibility vest at all times ([Section 2.13.5](#))

We request clubs use 3x3 and/or 6x3 pop up tents as club tents on beach. Traditional style circus tents will be allocated space off the beach due to the inability to move them efficiently.

A draft site map will be published on the event page mid-January displaying tent areas and allocated trailer storage areas.

The site map will always be subject to change to suit weather and environmental conditions if required.

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## Photography & Imagery:

Any competitor, member, or club registering for a SLSNZ event is deemed to have given approval for images of them to be captured and used by SLSNZ and/or approved contractors, provided such images do not knowingly compromise any individual.

### **Clubs are responsible for informing parents or guardians of this condition of entry.**

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 please read the [Media Accreditation Application Information here](#) and contact Event Management 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.

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## 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 your 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 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:**

All competitors must wear their club cap, suitable swimwear and use appropriate fins outlined in the competition manual.

SLSNZ will provide Manikins, tubes & bricks that comply with the SLSNZ Equipment Specifications Manual.

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## **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 = **SLSNZ2026**

- [SLSNZ Website](#) (event documentation)
- [SLSNZ Sport Facebook](#) (event photos & highlights)
- [SLSNZ Sport Instagram](#) (event photos & highlights)
- [Liveheats](#) (live results)



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## Key Contacts:

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

For event management & delivery

Luke Smith  
National Events Manager  
Surf Life Saving New Zealand  
M 021 190 1432  
E [luke.smith@surflifesaving.org.nz](mailto:luke.smith@surflifesaving.org.nz)

For event administration & support

Aoife Fyall  
National Sport Administrator  
Surf Life Saving New Zealand  
M 027 714 1477  
E [aoife.fyall@surflifesaving.org.nz](mailto:aoife.fyall@surflifesaving.org.nz)

MAJOR PARTNERS



NAMING RIGHTS & PRESENTATION PARTNERS



COMMUNITY PARTNERS



MEDIA PARTNERS

