



## **SLSNZ Instructor Training Pathways Update**

Summary of changes and key updates - June 2025

The Education team would like to advise members of some key changes and updates to our Surf Lifeguard, IRB and Rock Training & Rescue Instructor Pathways.

### **Surf Lifeguard Instructor Pathway**

This new surf lifeguard instructor training and development pathway is an amazing opportunity for members who are passionate and committed about becoming a Surf Lifeguard Award (SLA) Instructor.

As part of a robust review of the existing pathway we have developed a new specific Surf Lifeguard Instructor course and pathway. Developing competency among SLA Instructors is crucial to our organisational goals, ensuring our training programs are effective, inclusive, and sustainable.

Our instructors play a crucial role in setting candidates up for success as a surf lifeguard and we are committed to developing quality instructors that have the skills and knowledge to teach all components of our Surf Lifeguard Award.

The SLA Instructor Training course emphasizes a training cycle that fosters best instructional practices, enhancing overall learning outcomes.

#### **Key changes include:**

- Patrol Support members can now become SLA instructors.
- Removal of existing Instructors Training Course.
- Replaced with online learning component – Instructor Fundamentals Module.
- New specific SLA Instructors Training Course.
- Post course requirements - observation and evaluation of actual instruction to be completed.
- 2 candidates only to be presented at an exam.

[Click here to view the new SLA Instructor Pathway](#)

[Click here to view all the new SLA course information and prerequisites](#)

The new pathway and course have been released. Check your local area training and development calendar for the [next course in your region here](#).



## **Rock Training and Rescue Instructor Pathway**

The primary role of a Rock Training & Rescue Instructor is to effectively prepare candidates for assessment. Instructors play a crucial role in setting candidates up for success to complete safe rock entries, exits and rescues.

As a volunteer instructor, the role involves teaching and sharing expertise across both the theoretical and practical components of the Rock Training & Rescue Module. We are committed to developing high-quality instructors who deliver engaging and effective training.

The Rock Training & Rescue Instructor Award certifies that the holder has the skills and knowledge to be an instructor to deliver the Rock Training & Rescue Module.

### **Key changes include:**

- Rock Training & Rescue Module: Updated PowerPoint and resources for delivery.
- Rock Instructors Award: Removal prerequisite of SLA or IRB Instructors Award to attend the course.
- New online Instructor Fundamentals Module to be completed prior to attending the Rock Instructors Course.
- Updated Rock Instructors course material and instructor resources.
- Inclusion of a new Rock Training and Rescue Instructor competency assessment during the course.
- Removal of any onsite assessment or RPL process for new Rock Instructors wishing to gain the award.
- Removal of the 'Rock Assessor' role and replaced with 'Rock Training & Rescue Facilitator' to align with our other pathways. The purpose of a Rock Training & Rescue Facilitator is to deliver the Rock Instructors Course only.

## **IRB Instructor Pathway**

The primary role of an IRB Instructor is to effectively prepare candidates for assessment. Instructors play a crucial role in setting candidates up for success as IRB Crew or Drivers. As a volunteer instructor, the role involves teaching and sharing expertise across both the theoretical and practical components of the IRB Crewperson Module and the IRB Drivers Award. We are committed to developing high-quality instructors who deliver engaging and effective training.

A review of our IRB instructor pathway has been initiated as part of our education curriculum review cycle and IRB injury project.

### **Outcomes of our pathway review:**

- To ensure all IRB instruction is consistent across all clubs, using the SLSNZ teaching methods.
- All examiners are consistently examining the same standards and upholding the quality and integrity of our exams.
- Reduction of IRB injuries as a direct result of poor instruction or poor teaching methods.
- Raised standards of instruction within the IRB space will enable our members to be a more proficient IRB Crew and Drivers, which improves standards of SLSNZ paid and volunteer patrols, SLSNZ IRB racing standard and injury prevention.



**Key objectives:**

- To review the existing IRB Instructor pathway with a view to create a pathway that encompasses quality training and mentorship for individuals who will instruct, and lead/co-lead members aged 14yrs through to adults.
- To develop resources that support both learning and delivery of content, but also effective communication with all stakeholders.
- For new instructors to effectively understand how to teach the knowledge and skills required for the IRB crewperson and Driver award using the SLSNZ methods.
- To upskill all exiting IRB instructors and examiners with the best practice methods of teaching and examining IRB crewperson and Driver awards.
- To demonstrate best practice for instruction and training through using SLSNZ resources and developing instruction that caters for candidates learning diversity.

While this review is in progress, we have had to make some minor changes to the existing IRB Instructor Pathway as the Instructors Training Course has now been removed from our framework.

**Key interim changes include:**

- Removal of existing Instructors Training Course.
- Replaced with online learning component – Instructor Fundamentals Module.

Candidate requirements:

1. Complete online learning - Instructor Fundamental Module.
2. Co-instruct and teach under a qualified and refreshed IRB Instructor at your club.
3. Successfully put through 4 IRB Driver candidates through their award.

We expect a new specific IRB Instructor Course and regional IRB Instructor and Examiner development workshops could be a outcome of this review.

[Click here to view current IRB Instructor information.](#)