

Date: 20 May 2025

To: All Clubs

From: Lewis McClintock – National Sport Manager

Subject: Composite Teams

Summary

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.

Background

Composite teams have been widely used at local and regional events and featured for junior divisions at NZ Pool Rescue Championships and Oceans.

The introduction of composite teams has proved popular and allowed more members to interact and participate at events, in particular to clubs with smaller numbers in any given age/gender division.

In some instances which events, races and divisions composite teams are permitted has not been clear to the membership as well as demand for and management of composite teams has impacted the timing and delivery of some events

Principles

- The purpose of composite teams is to increase participation opportunities for the SLSNZ membership primarily when clubs do not have the correct number of a particular age/gender to form a team.
- In keeping with this, clubs are strongly encouraged to use this as a tool to promote participation
- Composite teams are not a means to promote performance and/or select teams made up of members from multiple clubs at the exclusion of their own club members.
 - Instances where clubs are engaging with this process will be dealt with directly by the EMC, as it may be considered outside of the spirit of fair play

Outcomes

- No composite teams in IRB competitions for qualification and Health & Safety considerations. This excludes the practice of sharing patients when permitted by the EMC.
- No composite teams in Rescue Events
- No composite teams in two-person events
- Composite teams are permitted at all local & regional events across all divisions
- Composite teams will continue at Oceans and the junior division of NZ Pool Rescue Championships
- Composite teams will be piloted for two events at the 2025 Aon Pool Rescue Championships for Masters.
- Composite teams will be piloted across two U17 events (Male and Female) at the 2026 Aon New Zealand Surf Life Saving Championships.
- Composite teams will be piloted for the 2026 Aon Masters Championships.
- Boats and Canoes can engage the EMC regarding composite teams through the Team Declaration form process.
- When offered, composite teams will be eligible for medals but not overall points.
 - For all of the above, event circulars and/or EMC briefings will outline if there are any restrictions on composite teams based on potential entry, programme, weather, surf or time constraints.

In it for life

Competition	Events
Aon Pool Rescue Championships (Masters Pilot Only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4x50m Obstacle Relay - 4x50m Medley Relay
Oceans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Beach Sprint Relay - Board Relay - Cameron Relay - 2km Beach Relay
Nationals (U17 Pilot only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Beach Sprint Relay - Board Relay
Masters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Beach Sprint Relay - Board Relay - Ski Relay - Taplin Relay
Local & Regional Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Beach Sprint Relay - Board Relay - Ski Relay - Taplin/Cameron Relay

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