

CRONULLA SLSC..

2025-26

Patrol and Competition Rules



SEASON 2025-26 PATROL AND COMPETITION RULES

MESSAGE FROM THE LIFESAVING COMMITTEE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

This document details both the patrol rules / obligations (page 2) and the patrol competition rules (page 6).

Patrol Rules and Obligation for Season 2025-26

Developing the patrol roster is complex, trying to balance many competing demands and considerations. It is important that members patrol to the roster to allow for the efficient management of all our patrol members time, and to ensure that we are able to maintain compliant patrols.

It is a SLSA requirement that all members meet the patrol obligations of their membership, including any additional rules set by their club. If the club fails to enforce the club's rules, and permits a member to compete in a carnival, the entire team may be excluded from the results of a carnival. We endeavour to balance the needs of the club with the need to ensure we do not put our teams at risk.

The Management has agreed the following rules to encourage members to patrol to the roster. We trust that all members will understand the underlying motive of improved public safety and benefits to all members that underpin the patrol rules for this season.

The Club Rules allow for The Management to lapse the membership of any Active or Reserve Active member who does not fulfil the patrol requirements of their membership category. These rules provide the framework under which The Management may exercise that right.

Members are able to check their roster, patrol hours record, awards status and other details using the SLSA Online Members Portal <https://members.sls.com.au>

A summary of the 2025-26 Club Rules are provided here, with the specifics of the rules contained later in this document.

Summary - Club Rules for the 2025-26 Season will be:

- *Members who do not undertake a minimum of 30% of their hours as Rostered Hours may be called upon to make a submission to the club management to maintain active membership of the club. If you are unable to undertake rostered patrols, you should apply for consideration of an exemption, via a submission to the Club Captain.*
- *Members who do not advise the Patrol Captain in advance that they are unable to attend a patrol, will be logged as a 'no-show'. Members who record 3 'No-Show's in the season may be called upon to make a submission to the club to maintain active membership.*
- *Members who wish to perform a Voluntary Patrol must perform a minimum of 3 consecutive hours of active patrolling. Active patrolling means reporting to the Patrol Captain in uniform, being present on the beach, available for duties as asked by the Patrol Captain, and rescue ready. Specifically, if a member is volunteering on a Sunday morning, they can participate in the Sunday races at the patrol captains discretion.*
- *Members are reminded that they are also required to complete at least the SLSA minimum hours requirement to be eligible for competition (nominally 25 hours in a calendar year).* **Lifesaving Awards.**

To encourage rostered patrol attendance and support our public safety outcomes, The Management of the club provides for the Lifesaving Awards outlined below.

100% Attendance Award;

To gain this award, members must have been on the Patrol Roster for the entire season, and performed all their rostered patrols as per the roster without any time missed or any changes. Additional hours to rostered patrols, have no impact on the achievement of the 100% Attendance Award.

**Members who are competing at the State or Australian Titles and have been scheduled to patrol on those weekends may apply for an exemption from the club captain before the State or Australian Titles. If an exemption is granted, a make-up patrol date will be agreed with the Club Captain. Members who do not apply for an exemption before the State or Australian Titles will be required to fulfill their scheduled patrol and will not achieve 100% attendance.*

Outstanding Patrol Attendance Award (OPAA);

Eligibility for the OPAA is the same as the 100% attendance Award, with the exception that members may miss one patrol where they arrange a substitute at least 5 days in advance, and make up the missed hours as a substitute, or on the two Rostered Voluntary Patrol weekends (State and Aussies).

Patrol Person of the Year;

The Patrol Person of the year is selected from a group nominated for the award by their patrol captains, and other members of the Life Saving Committee. The winner is decided by a selection panel endorsed by The Management.

Patrol Person of the Year Criteria;

- Safety of self and the Patrol,
- High attendance and engagement on Patrol,
- Strong Contribution to the operation of a patrol, and support of members (set up, pack up, engaging and encouraging members, active participation on the beach),
- Enhancing lifesaving skills through training and self-development,
- Maintaining and improving their physical fitness,
- Participation in club events and supporting the club (Sunday Races, Carnivals, Water Safety etc)

Nominee's will be reviewed by the Club Captain and Vice-Captain and the nominee's that fit the criteria will be interviewed by the Club Captain and Vice-Captain using set questions and scoring criteria.

Club Rules for the 2025-26 Season (detailed):

Minimum Rostered Patrol Hours Requirement;

Members who do not undertake a minimum of 30% of their hours as Rostered Hours may be called upon to make a submission to the club management to maintain active membership of the club.

It is a requirement of Active Membership to attend your rostered patrols, or to have arranged a substitute in advance. It is vital that the Patrol Captains know in advance that they will have sufficient members in attendance to remain compliant with our obligations, and maintain public safety.

If you are unable to attend rostered patrols, for example due to work or sports commitments, you should apply to the club management for consideration of an exemption, via a submission to the Club Captain.

Advising your patrol leaders in advance gives them an opportunity to assess likely patrol attendance, and call out for additional volunteers if required.

Requirement to advise in advance if unable to attend;

Members who do not advise the Patrol Captain in advance that they are unable to attend a patrol, will be logged as a 'no-show'. Members who record 3 'No-Show's in the season may be called upon to make a submission to the club to maintain active membership.

The lifesaving committee recognises modern lifestyles make it difficult for people to provide and commit so much time to keeping our beach safe. We understand that all members cannot attend all their rostered patrols on any weekend, however we need to manage attendance to ensure public safety. The Club signs an agreement with the SLSNSW, SLSS and Sutherland Council to meet certain guidelines and minimum patrol requirements, and as such must ensure that adequate volunteer numbers are available for each patrol.

If you **cannot** attend your rostered patrol,

A: You must attempt to obtain a substitute with similar qualifications to cover your patrol, and advise your Patrol Captain in advance.

B: If you cannot obtain a substitute 5 days before your, you must inform your Patrol Captain.

It is vital that Patrol Captains are able to ensure that minimum patrol standards are met, and have sufficient time to take action if there is a risk that minimum standards will not be met. If members fail to show for a patrol without the Patrol Captain knowing in advance, it is too late for the Patrol Captain to take action to fill the gap.

A simple email to the patrol captain a minimum of 5 days before a rostered patrol, allows us to ensure that minimum standards are met, and that public safety is not compromised.

Members undertaking a Voluntary Patrol to perform a minimum 3 consecutive hours of active patrolling.

Members who wish to perform a Voluntary Patrol must perform a minimum of 3 consecutive hours of active patrolling. Active patrolling means reporting to the Patrol Captain in uniform, being present on the beach, available for duties as asked by the Patrol Captain and be rescue ready. Specifically, if a member is volunteering for 3 hours on a Sunday morning, they can participate in the Sunday races at the patrol captains discretion.

A significant amount of effort for a patrol is setting up and breaking down the patrol area for the day and we encourage members who wish to undertake a voluntary patrol to make themselves available at those times. The beginning of patrol is also the time when the Patrol Captain allocates duties and performs the briefing.

This requirement does not apply for the two 'voluntary patrol weekends' (i.e. the weekends of the State and Australian Championships).

If a member wishes to perform a Voluntary Patrol, it is important that they commit to performing their duties properly. They should be wearing the proper uniform, be present on the beach and available for duties asked by the Patrol Captain and be rescue ready. Specifically, if a member is volunteering for 3 hours on a Sunday morning, they can participate in the Sunday races at the patrol captains discretion.

Minimum Patrol Hours requirement for Competition.

Members are reminded that they are also required to complete at least the SLSA minimum hours requirement to be eligible for competition (nominally 25 hours in a calendar year).

It is an SLSA and SLSNSW requirement that members complete the prescribed minimum number of patrol hours for their membership category, and comply with the club's patrol obligations.

If you are unsure of the minimum patrol hour requirement of your membership category please refer to the SLSA 5.04, available online, or ask the office for a copy of the requirements. If you do not meet the minimum requirements applicable to your category, or you fall into default of your hours, (typically 25 hours) then the club cannot (and will not) enter you in any carnivals.

SurfGuard will not allow members to be entered for competition if the required patrol hours have not been recorded, and allowing members to compete who have not complied with our club rules could result in the entire club being excluded from the results of that competition.

The 25 hours for competition is patrol hours performed over the calendar year. Competition in 2023 is based upon hours from 1st Jan 2023 till 31st Dec 2023. If you are unsure of your hours, please review your record via the Members Portal in Lifesaving Online, or contact the club office.

Patrol Season Credit towards Long Service Requirements

- a) **Season to count towards Long Service Requirements** – members must fulfil the requirements above, and complete a minimum of 25 patrolling hours of a patrol season.

Patrol Requirements and Guidelines;

Members are reminded of the requirements contained within the Patrol Guidelines that accompany the Patrol Handout and Roster.

- It is the patrollers responsibility to sign on / off with their patrol captain on arrival and departure.
- Patrollers should check on the portal that their hours have been correctly recorded – if not, they are required to contact the office within 2 weeks of the patrol date to rectify.
- Patrollers are to present to patrol in full uniform – shirt, shorts, quartered cap and hat, in accordance with SLSA requirements Patrollers may not sign on unless they are in full uniform.
- Patrollers are not to leave their post and / or the patrolled area without first informing the Patrol Captain
- Patrollers should always be “rescue ready” – i.e., eyes on the water, and / or ready to enter the water if need be.

Please ensure you understand all the Patrol Rules and Guidelines. The Rules and Guidelines are developed with member safety and the safety of the public in mind.

Club Patrol Competition Rules

All Patrols will be assessed in accordance with the following **8 competencies**.

1. Average Score from Patrol Inspections.
2. Patrol Resus/First Aid/Radio Procedures Competition.
3. Surf Sports Competition.
4. Average Patrol Hours (Rostered, Substitute & Voluntary, excluding Water Safety).
5. Average Number of 100% Award Recipients.
6. Average Number of New Awards and Advanced Awards proficiency.
7. Attendance at Life Saving Committee Meetings.
8. Sunday Club Races Participation.

General Rules.

For Season 2025-26, there are 12 Patrols.

In each of the individual competency the Patrols will be ranked from 1st to 12th and will score points based upon the ranking. 1st receiving maximum 12 points down to 12th receiving 1 point. If a Patrol does not participate in any competency, they receive 0 points. If Patrols are tied for a ranking, they both receive the points for that ranking.

At the conclusion of the 8 competencies the points will combined to calculate the winning Patrol.

In the event the points are tied at the conclusion of the 8 Competencies the score for an event will be excluded in the following order to calculate the places until there is an eventual winner.

1. Sunday Club Races Participation.
2. Attendance at Life Saving Committee Meetings.
3. Average Number of New Awards and Advanced Awards proficiency.
4. Average Number of 100% Award Recipients.
5. Average Patrol Hours (Rostered, Substitute & Voluntary, excluding Water Safety).
6. Surf Sports Competition.
7. Patrol Resus/First Aid/Radio Procedures Competition.
8. Average Score from Patrol Inspections.

For Clarity, Rostered Hours is as per the Patrol Roster and Patrol Logs, not including Voluntary Hours, Water Safety Hours, or any other category of Patrol Hours Type or service.

Patrol Members with **less than 30%** of Rostered Hours at the completion of the season are excluded from contributing to points/hours for the patrol, and also removed from calculations of average patrol members.

Patrol Members with **less than 30%** will Not be eligible for any patrol awards including eligibility for the Snow trip.

Competition Rules.

1. Average Score from Patrol Inspections.

- Average Score from District Inspections.
- If a Patrol was not inspected during the season, that Patrol will be awarded full points for this competency.

2. Patrol Resus/First Aid/Radio Procedures Competition.

- Two Members per patrol, for all three competition items.
- Competitors in Resus/First Aid Competition must not be the Patrol Captain (in a real life situation, the Patrol Captain should be coordinating and supervising).

3. Surf Sports Competition.

- Events;
 - Event 1 – Swim Race – (one male + one female swimmer per patrol) 2 swimmers per Patrol – points calculated as per Swim Teams event.
 - Event 2 – Board (Yellow Rescue Board only) – 1 paddler per Patrol
 - Event 3 – Board Rescue (Yellow Rescue Board only) – 1 team per Patrol
 - Event 4 – 4 Person Sprint Relay – 1 team per Patrol
 - Event 5 – 6 Person Board Rescue – 1 team per Patrol
- Events to run as per the 35th Edition of the Surf Sports Manual, except for Event 5.
- Each competing patrol member can only compete in 2 events (other than the 6 person board relay).
- 6 Person Board Relay structure - 5 members of the team swim to the cans, when every member reaches the can, one person signals for the board paddler. When the board paddler reaches the swimmers, the entire team returns to the finish line, all touching the board, at all times until they cross the finish line.
- At least one competing member must be female (or forfeit one event).
- At least one competing member must be over 40 years old (or forfeit one event).
- Each competing patrol member must have completed at least 30% of their Rostered Hours as of the date of the Competition

4. Average Patrol Hours

- Total Patrol Hours (Rostered, Substitute and Voluntary, excluding Water Safety) as a percentage of the number of Patrol Members.

5. Average Number of 100% Award Recipients.

- Total Number of 100% Award Recipients, as a percentage of the number of Patrol Members.

6. Average Number of New Awards and Advanced Award Proficiency.

- Excludes SRC or Bronze Medallion Awards.
- Advanced Award proficiency is included (ART, IRB Driver and Crew, Gold Medallion).
- New awards gained will be calculated as a percentage of the number of Patrol Members in each Patrol.

7. Attendance at Life Saving Committee Meetings.

- Attendance at Life Saving Meeting by Patrol Captain or their Vice Captain or IRB Driver as delegate)

8. Sunday Club Races Participation.

- Average participation by Patrol Team Members over the season, as a percentage of the number of Patrol Members.
- One Point per member, per race day (multiple events on the same day only count as 1 point)
- Results are not a factor, only participation.
- Records maintained by Race Convener is the official record.

Snow Trip

Annually our club rewards member who have achieved excellence for in the 2025-26 season with a snow trip to Perisher. This season this will be offered to the following 3 categories:

- 100% Patrol Attendance Award
- Patrol Person of the Year
- Winning Patrol

Members who archived the above awards will be notified with further details at the end of the season.

Note: This trip is subject to the clubs' financials and ability to secure accommodation at the snow.

Chris Barber
Club Captain

Zoe Duchet-Catherine
Vice Captain

Enjoy Your Season.

