

Memorandum

To:	Branch Presidents, Branch Directors of Surf Sports, Club Competition Directors, Coaches and Members
From:	Narelle Duggan – Sport Manager
Date:	15 th December, 2020
Pages:	3
Subject:	2021 NSW Surf Life Saving Championships – Proudly supported by your local club Event Information

Firstly, thank you to all our members for your patience and understanding whilst we navigate the challenging and ever moving restrictions necessary to plan for the NSW Surf Life Saving Championships proudly sponsored by Your local club. We are delighted to formally announce the Championships will be proceeding.

On the back of the recent round of easing restrictions which commenced on Monday, Community Sport has now been included in those relaxed provisions and is now permitted to conduct an event for a maximum of 3,000 persons providing the space allocated permits for 2sqm per person. The following table overviews the schedule for the State Championships. With respect to dates and categories of competition, this may change if there are greater restrictions imposed. Given the planning required and commitment to members with respect to travel arrangements, if restrictions ease further, we **will not** be changing event dates;

Dates

	Thursday		Friday		Saturday		Sunday	
	Water Swansea Belmont	Beach Redhead	Water Swansea Belmont	Beach Redhead	Water Swansea Belmont	Beach Redhead	Water Swansea Belmont	Beach Redhead
W/end 1 25/02 - 28/02	U9/ U10/ U11	U9/ U10/ U11	U9/ U10/ U11	U9/ U10/ U11	U12/ U13/ U14	U12/ U13/ U14 and Jnr RnR (TBC)	U12/ U13/ U14	U12/ U13/ U14
W/end 2 05/03 - 07/03			U15/ U17/ U19/ Open		U15/ U17/ U19/ Open	U15/ U17/ U19/ Open Open RnR (TBC)	U15/ U17/ U19/ Open	U15/ U17/ U19/ Open and March Past (TBC)
W/end 3 12/03 - 14/03				Champion Lifesaver	Masters Water & Beach	Patrol	Masters Water & Beach	First Aid
W/end 4 18/03 - 21/03			Masters /Reserve Boats		Boats		Boats	

Locations

Due to maximum numbers and the inability to have event groups mix, water and beach events will be separated this season. Members will be **required to choose** whether they compete in water or beach events. They are not able to do both. This too will be the same for officials due to strict mixing restrictions which still apply as part of the Health Order.

- **Water events will be held at Swansea Belmont** – Blacksmiths Beach
- **Beach events will be held at Redhead** (*with exclusion of Masters Beach Events*)

Entry Information

Due to maximum attendance restrictions, entries this year will be accepted as entry nominations. As such, clubs are required to only enter members into events that they intend to race. This approach will enable SLSNSW to plan and manage the number of spectators permitted in each event area. SLSNSW may seek clubs to self-select a smaller team if maximum event numbers are exceeded.

Competitors competing in the U9's – U15's are not permitted to compete up an age group for any event due to COVID mixing limitations.

Entry Nominations will open on Monday 21st December and close on Wednesday 20th January at 11pm. Carnival Manager will be used as the entry system for these Championships.

We have planned the schedule to include as many members as we can whilst also enabling spectators to attend. As such you will notice that the Age Championships have been condensed to two days of racing (block racing straight through to finals), U9-U11 competing on Thursday and Friday and U12-U14 competing on Saturday and Sunday. We understand that this is not ideal, however not permitting parents to access the event and watch their children race is less than ideal.

The Entry Circular will be available on Monday 21st December. Events which traditionally require qualifying through Branch will be as per normal arrangements. Please also be aware some specific events may not be able to be considered this year due to the location of events and the time available for competition. More information on this will be available as part of the event circular

Overview of Changes for 2021 NSW Surf Life Saving Championships proudly sponsored by Your local club

COVID requirements are still very much in place and contact tracing is still viewed by the Government as a critical element to keeping NSW COVIDsafe. Strict COVID regulations will be in place at these Championships and is a requirement of all in attendance to follow them. Below is an overview of the anticipated changes to the NSW Surf Life Saving Championships this season;

- **QR code check in for each event area**
Upon completion of the QR check in and declaration, all in attendance will be required to check in each day and will be issued with a coloured band that is required to be visible at all times during the event. If you do not have a band visible, you will be asked to leave the event.
- **One way beach access ramps**
Each event area will have one dedicated one-way beach entry and exit point to access each competition area.
- **COVID Marshals**
Each Club is required to nominate a COVID Marshal to oversee physical distancing and COVIDsafe practices.

A SLSNSW Biosecurity Safety Coordinator has been appointed and will ensure that the event complies with the event COVID Plan.

- **Competitor/Official/General Mixing**
Attending more than one event area is not permitted. Each weekend, all attendees must nominate which venue (Redhead or Swansea Belmont) they will attend for the duration of the event. *E.g. if you attend beach events on Thursday and Friday, you are not permitted to attend water events on Saturday or Sunday.*



- **Block Racing**
U9-U14 events will be block raced which means that each event will run through to a final before the next event commences. The Open program due to smaller numbers will run as per previous years (providing numbers remain within the regulations).
- **Medal Presentations**
The medal presentation process is currently being reviewed to ensure that this is conducted in a COVIDsafe way which includes limiting gatherings.
- **Briefings**
All briefings will be held outdoors on the beach. COVID briefings for all attendees will be conducted via an online recording and will be emailed to all Team Managers, Officials and Competitors 2 days prior to the event to ensure that all in attendance are aware of the COVID requirements for this event, including presentation of event maps and sanitisation points. This will enhance the safety and smooth running of these new measures.
- **Officials**
Senior Officials have now been secured for this event. A general call for officials will open on Monday 21st December.
Call for other technical official roles will be called for shortly. Official ratios will be as per the 2019 State Championships and it is a requirement that each club ensures the ratios are met.
- **Water Safety**
Water Safety requirements are currently being reviewed based on the modified requirements. Water Safety nominations will open on Monday 21st December.
- **Accommodation**
SLSNSW has been working closely with Lake Macquarie City Council and as such have requested where possible to allow for flexibility and consideration to all existing and/or new bookings as a result of the necessary changes affecting this event.

Please note that this information is accurate as at the time of distribution. Due to the nature of a pandemic, situations may change quickly, and the event will be required to adapt to the changes as communicated by the NSW Government, NSW Health and Lake Macquarie City Council.

We thank you for your understanding and look forward to a successful yet different State Championships in early 2021.

