



Surf Life Saving Australia – Circular (4/24-25)

Title:	SLSA Surf Sports Manual – July 2024 Revised Edition (SSM)
Document ID:	Circular 4/24-25
Date:	26 July 2024
Department:	Sport
Audience:	State/Territory Surf Sport Directors and Managers, Club Secretaries & Presidents, Branches, Officials, Coaches and Competitors
Summary:	This Circular details a amendments to the SSM plus clarifications and edits to assist with interpretation of the sport rules.

Detail

The Sports Advisory Committee, Chair of Sport and Sports Manager have considered, and a number of amendments, clarifications and edits have also been made to the Surf Sports Manual (SSM) to assist with conduct of surf sports and interpretation of the rules.

The updated SSM Manual may be accessed at: <https://sls.com.au/ssm>

In addition, all current changes and clarifications referenced in this circular will, for a short period, be highlighted in **yellow** in the updated source PDF version of the SLSA 37th Edition Surf Sports Manual (July 2024 Revised Edition) located within the [SLSA Members Area Document Library](#).

The amended SSM comes into immediate effect. For ease of reference the changes include:

Section 2

Finish of Events

A new clause (b) has been added to section [2.22](#) to clarify that once a competitor or team has been judged to have correctly crossed a finish line, they will be deemed to have completed that race and that they will then not be permitted to re-enter the course to correct any previous race errors.

Note: As a result of this clarification all subsequent clauses in the section have been renumbered.

Section 3

Champion Patrol

Four guidance notes have been added at the conclusion of the clause [3.5.12\(b\)](#) to assist officials and teams with participation in the Scenario Task of the Champion Patrol. These notes address aspects including competition fairness in scenario development, changing conditions, course setting and adjustment (as required), acceptance by teams of the “Luck of Prevailing Conditions” and the capacity to protest against the scenario set up.

Section 6

Masters Ski Relay



The Masters Ski Relay diagram ([figure 32](#)) has been updated to align the three orange ski turning buoys more correctly behind the swimming buoys and to realign the measures at the top of the diagram.

Section 7

A number of changes have been made to Board Riding, [Section 7](#), to allow for the (preferred) use of computer based scoring systems such as LiveHeats while still allowing for the use of manual based scoring systems.

Note: As a result of LiveHeats there are some minor changes to event conduct that were already implemented by consensus at the 2024 Australian Surf Life Saving Championships.

Section 8

[8.6](#) – SLSA has adopted the amended ILS rules for the Ocean M Lifesaver Relay event. The role of the runner has changed and they are to commence event with 50m run to their swimmer and then effect the run legs for swimmer, board, and ski competitors and the run to the finish line.

Section 14

[14.3.2 \(d\)](#) – A note has been added to the Lodging a Protest section to also refer also to individual sections for any particular protest conditions, e.g. Patrol Competition, R&R etc.

All Sections

At the front of each section in the PDF version, the following has been added:

General – Minor editorial changes are ongoing and do not affect the intended rules of competition. These changes clarify, simplify, and assist with comprehension of the SSM, and also correct grammatical and other minor errors.

Further Information

Should further information be required please contact the events team at:

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