



Australian Life Saving Team - Circular

Title:	2026 Lifesaving World Championship Selection Information & Athlete EOI
Document ID:	Circular 54/25-26
Audience:	Athletes, Coaches, State/Territory Surf Sport Managers and Directors
From:	High Performance and Pathways
Date:	2 nd February 2026
Summary:	This Circular contains the selection process, eligibility requirements, key events and athlete obligations for those seeking selection to the Australian Life Saving Team (ALT) for the 2026 Lifesaving World Championships. All athletes must complete the mandatory Expression of Interest (EOI) form EOI Link which should be completed before 11:59pm on Sunday 22 nd March 2026 to be considered for selection.

SUMMARY

The Australian Life Saving Team enters the 2026 World Championship campaign as reigning World Champions, following a successful home World Championships on the Gold Coast in 2024.

The 2026 Lifesaving World Championships will be held in Nelson Mandela Bay (Port Elizabeth), South Africa, with Ocean and Beach events at Kings Beach and Pool events at Newton Park Aquatic Centre.

Australia will select both an Open and Youth team to compete in the National Teams Program from 2 – 6 December 2026. Information regarding the IRB National Teams competition will be communicated separately once confirmed by event organisers.

Australian athletes will compete as the Australian Life Saving Team, delivered in partnership with Royal Life Saving Australia. Selection will be limited to 12 Open and 12 Youth athletes, reflecting the multi-disciplinary demands of the International Lifesaving Federation (ILS) World Championships program across pool, ocean, and beach events.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility requirements are detailed in the [25-26 Selection Guidelines](#) available in the SLS Members Area and on the Royal Life Saving Australia website [here](#). Athletes must meet all eligibility criteria to be considered for selection.

In addition to other listed eligibility requirements, age eligibility is defined below.

Youth Team: Competitors who turn 15,16,17 or 18 years of age on or before 31/12/2026.

Open Team: Competitors who turn 16 years of age on or before 31/12/2026 (no maximum age).



SELECTION PROCESS (two stages)

Selection for the 2026 ALT World Lifesaving Championships Team will occur in two formal stages:

Stage 1 – Squad Selection

Event: 2025/26 Australian Surf Life Saving Championships (Aussies)
Date: 29 March 2026
Location: North Kirra, QLD

- A preliminary Open and Youth Squad will be announced at the conclusion of competition
- Up to 40 athletes will be selected
 - Up to 20 Open eligible athletes
 - Up to 20 Youth eligible athletes

Important: Selection into the Squad does not guarantee selection into the final Team.

Stage 2 – Team Selection

Event: 2026 Australian Pool Rescue Championships
Date: 9th August 2026
Location: Adelaide, SA

- The final Open and Youth Teams will be selected and announced at the conclusion of competition.

Athletes not selected in the Squad remain eligible for final team selection provided they have submitted an EOI.

AUSTRALIAN TEAM COMPOSITION / SIZE

Open Team

The Open Team comprises of 12 athletes.

The Youth Team comprises of 12 athletes.

Each team must contest events on the beach, in the ocean and in the pool. For athletes to increase their chances of selection, it is advisable that they provide selectors with an opportunity to review performances and results across multiple disciplines (beach, ocean, and pool) where possible.

The following events will comprise the Worlds Program

Pool Events	National Teams Open and Youth maximum entries per team
200m Obstacle Swim	2 competitors
50m Manikin Carry	2 competitors
100m Rescue Medley	2 competitors
100m Manikin Carry with Fins	2 competitors
100m Manikin Tow with Fins	2 competitors
200m Super Life Saver	2 competitors
Line Throw	1 team
4 x 25m Manikin Relay	1 team



4 x 50m Obstacle Relay	1 team
4 x 50m Medley Relay	1 team
4 x 50m Mixed Pool Life Saver Relay	1 team
SERC	1 team

Ocean Events	National Teams Open and Youth maximum entries per team
Surf Race	2 competitors
Beach Flags	2 competitors
Beach Sprint	2 competitors
Surf Ski Race	2 competitors
Board Race	2 competitors
Ocean man / Ocean woman	2 competitors
Rescue Tube Rescue	1 team
Beach Relay	1 team
Board Rescue	1 team
Ocean man / Ocean woman Relay	1 team
Mixed Ocean M Lifesaver Relay	1 team

Considering the program, selectors will prioritise athletes capable of contributing across multiple disciplines i.e. an ocean athlete to perform in SERC, pool relays, beach relays or ocean events etc.

NATIONAL TEAMS POINT SCORE

The Lifesaving World Championships operate on a combined point score across pool and ocean venues.

Key principles:

- Individual and relay events contribute equally
- Depth, versatility, and reliability are essential
- Selectors consider an athlete's ability to maximum point scoring opportunities

Point Scoring Matrix

1 st	20 points		9 th	8 points
2 nd	18 points		10 th	7 points
3 rd	16 points		11 th	6 points
4 th	14 points		12 th	5 points
5 th	13 points		13 th	4 points
6 th	12 points		14 th	3 points
7 th	11 points		15 th	2 points
8 th	10 points		16 th	1 point



KEY SELECTION EVENTS

Selection priority will be given to performance in the 2024/25 Surf Season and 2025/26 Pool Season. At the Selection Panel's discretion, earlier results may be considered.

Events include (but not limited to);

- 2025/26 SLSA Australian Surf Life Saving Championships
- 2026 SLSA & RLSSA respective State Championships
- 2026 RLSSA Australia Pool Life Saving Championships (APLSC)
- 2026 Australian Pool Rescue Championships
- Relevant International events:
 - 2025 Battle of the Tasman
 - 2025 NZ Pool Rescue Championships
 - 2025 World Games
 - 2025 German Cup
 - 2025 International Surf Rescue Challenge

Additional events may be used to validate performance in line with the [25-26 Selection Guidelines](#) in the SLS Members Area and [here](#) on the Royal Life Saving Australia website.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (mandatory)

All athletes seeking selection must complete an [EOI Link](#).

EOI closes at 11:59pm on Sunday 22nd March 2026.

Failure to complete an EOI render an athlete ineligible for selection, regardless of competition results.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Squad Announcement: 29 March 2026 – final day of the Aussies

Team Announcement: 9 August – final day of the Australian Pool Rescue Championships

Athletes are encouraged to attend announcements where possible.

SELECTION PANEL & COLLABORATIVE PANEL

The Collaborative Panel, comprising SLSA and RLSSA operational staff, overseas governance of the appointment and selection process. This panel appoints the Selection Panel, consisting of a Chair and two panel members, with representation from both organisations.

National Coaches (Youth and Open) participate in an advisory capacity.



TEAM CAMPS/ COMPETITION & AVAILABILITY

Selected Squad and Team athletes must attend scheduled camps, meetings, inductions, development sessions and testing activities, unless prior approval has been sought in advance from the Head Coach or SLSA High Performance and Pathways Manager due to exceptional circumstances (e.g. family, business academic commitments).

Indicative Schedule:

• Team Induction & Information Meeting	May	Online
• Squad Performance Planning	May	Various
• Pool Skills & Testing Session #1 +	24 June	WA
• Australian Pool Championships (APLSC) +	25 – 27 June	WA
• Squad Camp	17 – 19 July	Gold Coast
• Pool Skills & Testing Session #2 +	6 August	Adelaide, SA
• SLSA Pool Rescue Championships +	7 – 9 August	Adelaide, SA
• Beachies Training Day	August TBC	Gold Coast
• State based Pool team training	Sunday's Sept-Nov	Various TBC
• Pre-Departure Camp	September	Gold Coast
• NZ Pool Rescue Championships	1 – 4 Oct	Auckland, NZ
• 2026 Lifesaving World Championships	22 Nov – 4 Dec	South Africa

Dates and activities will be confirmed, and additional activities may be added as required.

+ Attendance at designated selection events is recommended to enhance selection opportunities, athletes are responsible for their own travel and associated costs.

TEAM LEVY

A team levy of \$5,250pp will apply to members selected in the Youth Team. This will be invoiced in 3 instalments of \$1,750.