

Surf Sports Official

Purpose

Ensure surf sports events are fair, safe and well-run by applying the rules consistently and supporting athletes, coaches and organisers.

Key Responsibilities

Event Operations

- Fulfil your appointed role(s) such as Marshall/Check-Marshall, Starter/Check-Starter, Recorder, Timekeeper, or Finish Judge.
- Arrive early, attend officials' briefings, review the program, and set up your area as directed.
- Apply competition rules accurately and consistently; record and report results as required.

Safety and Integrity

- Act impartially with professionalism and integrity at all times.
- Stay alert to hazards; immediately report concerns to the Referee or Safety Officer.
- Wear required uniform and PPE; manage sun safety, hydration and fatigue.

Communication and Teamwork

- Work as part of the officials team under the Chief/Sectional/Area Referees.
 - Use clear signals and radio procedure; assist with draws, marshalling and results flow.
 - Support smooth competition flow and positive experiences for competitors and volunteers.
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Reporting Line

- Reports to the Chief Referee via Area/Sectional Referees and appointed Advisors.
 - Liaises with Carnival/Competition Liaison Officers and Event Management as needed.
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Who Can Officiate and Where

- **Core Official:** Officiate at carnivals up to and including U14 age groups. Roles include Marshall, Recording Judge, Timekeeping Judge, Finish Judge. Supervised by a Technical (or above) Official.
 - **Technical Official:** Officiate across Junior, Youth, Senior, Pool, Surf Boats, IRB and Lifesaving events at club/branch/state levels. Roles include Marshall/Check-Marshall, Starter/Check-Starter, Recorder, Timekeeper, Finish Judge.
 - **Senior Official:** Experienced officials in senior roles such as Chief Judge, Referee, Area/Sectional Referee, Course Supervisor; mentor and facilitate workshops at state/national level.
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Prerequisites

Core Official:

- Minimum 16 years of age
- Financial member of a club
- Hold a valid Blue Card (Working with Children check)

Technical Official:

- Same as above, plus completion of Technical Official accreditation

Senior Official:

- Minimum 18 years of age
 - Financial member with valid Blue Card
 - Hold Technical Official accreditation
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Accreditation Pathway (how to get started)

Core Official (entry for junior comps):

- Register via your Branch, complete Blue Card + SLSQ safeguarding modules
- Complete SLSA Core Official online modules (approx. 4 hours) via Members Area eLearning
- Attend a face-to-face workshop and on-the-job assessment at a carnival

Technical Official (entry to full pathway):

- Complete SLS Technical Official online course (approx. 6+ hours) covering marshalling, starting, timekeeping, finishing and recording
- Attend a practical workshop and officiate at 2 competitions within 12 months
- On-the-job assessment and logbook sign-offs

Senior Official:

- Appointed based on experience; mentor others and may facilitate training
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Maintenance and Administration

- Keep an officials logbook and attain the required points within the accreditation period (courses are accredited for four years).
 - Sign on/off at carnivals; submit assessments to Branch for State processing and SLSA award allocation.
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Uniform

- Officials wear white or blue top with white/blue shorts, pants or skirt; white hat preferred. Event-specific uniform should be worn if provided.
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Source Snippets and Links

- “Core Officials are permitted to Officiate at any carnivals and competitions including State Championships where up to and including under 14 years age categories are conducted... duties: Marshall, Recording Judge, Timekeeping Judge and Finish Judge.” — SLSQ Sports Officials page <https://lifesaving.com.au/sports-officials#>
- “Technical Officials... roles include: Marshall/Check-Marshall, Starter/Check-Starter, Recorder, Timekeeper and Finish Judge... Complete the SLS Technical Official Online Course... attend a Practical Workshop... Officiate at 2 competitions within 12 months.” — SLSQ Sports Officials <https://lifesaving.com.au/sports-officials#>
- “Senior Officials fulfil roles such as Chief Judge, Referee, Area Referee, Sectional Referee or Course Supervisor... mentor other officials.” — SLSQ Sports Officials <https://lifesaving.com.au/sports-officials#>
- Dress code and officials structure adapted from ILS Competition Rule Book 2023, Section 2 – General Rules and Procedures, S2-6 to S2-9.