

# Surf Life Saving Australia – Bulletin

September 2011

## AMENDMENTS TO SLSA SURF SPORTS MANUAL 33rd (Revised) EDITION

**Document id:** 03/11-12

**Department:** Surf Sports

**Audience:** State Associations,  
Branches  
Clubs  
Officials  
Team Managers  
Coaches  
Competitors

### Summary

This bulletin details amendments to SLSA Surf Sports Manual 33rd (Revised).

The changes, which are detailed in this bulletin, reflect the ongoing development of SLSA's Surf Sports rules to ensure the continued safe and fair delivery of competition for its members.

The changes were made after consultation with competitors, officials, coaches, subject matter experts, other interested parties and appropriate levels of SLSA membership and have been endorsed by SLSA's Sport Standing Committee.

The new rules come into effect from the date of this bulletin.

As soon as practicable changes will be made to the Surf Sports Manual 33rd (Revised) Edition which is located on SLSA's website at [www.slsa.asn.au](http://www.slsa.asn.au).

A paper based Manual will also be produced in due course.

The following are the changes to be made to the Manual:

#### 1. GENERAL CONDITIONS

**1a)** It is clarified that Section 2.4 (Competitors with Disabilities) is intended to assist competitors with permanent limiting disabilities to participate in SLSA competition and not competitors who have incurred an injury.

The new wording will read:

“(a) Upon application to the Competition Committee at an event an allowance may be considered for a competitor with a permanent limiting disability but only if there is no disadvantage to other competitors in the event. The decision of the Competition Committee shall be final and shall not be subject to protest.

**Note:** This section is not to assist competitors who have suffered an injury. The section is intended to assist members with a permanent limiting disability to participate in SLSA competition.”

**1b)** Additional wording has been included in Sections 2.5.1 and 2.5.4.to:

- Detail the safety rationale with the wearing of brightly coloured vests;
- Highlight the need to identify individuals and/or teams in events;
- Outline procedures for clubs and/or individuals wishing to wear their own “lycras” in events; and
- Better link the Surf Sports Manual with SLSA's Competition Sponsorship Policy.

The new wording for Section 2.5.1 will read:

"Competitors may be required to wear distinctive coloured rash shirts/vests (including fluorescent colours such as pink, orange and/or yellow) and/or caps to assist with safety identification and for judging purposes and/or event sponsorship purposes. The latter apparel will be supplied by SLSA. Should competitors wish to wear their own rash shirts/vests these must meet the requirements of the SLSA Competition Sponsorship Policy 5.8 and be approved by the Competition Committee for the event."

The new wording for Section 2.5.4 will read:

"(a) Caps, rash shirts/vests and/or arm markings identify an individual competitor and/or team and provide a starting point should the necessity arise to identify an individual.

(b) Where a club enters more than one team in an event the competitors in each team shall either:

(i) All wear caps with distinguishing numbers or letters; or

(ii) All wear distinguishing numbers or letters marked on their upper arms; or

(iii) All wear rash shirts/vests with distinguishing colours or distinguishing numbers or letters.

(c) Also refer Section 3 for Lifesaving events.

**Note 1:** In events such as surfboat races, double ski races or board rescue races Rule 2.5.4 (b) shall not apply if the team can be identified because of the craft they are using.

**Note 2:** If competitors are required to wear distinctive coloured vests (as detailed in Section 2.5.1) Rule 2.5.4 (b) (iii) shall not be an option for team identification".

- 1c)** To assist with the fair conduct of SLSA competition a change has been made to Section 2.13 (Draws) to specify the minimum number of competitors that may progress through a round into the subsequent round or finals stage(s) of competition.

A new paragraph (f) has been drafted and will read:

"(f) To assist with the fair conduct of competition if there is an even number of competitors in a heat at least half the competitors who correctly complete the course should progress to the next round of the event (e.g. if there are 16 starters in a race at least 8 who correctly compete the course should qualify for the next round of the event). If there is an uneven number of competitors in a heat at least half the competitors less one who correctly complete the course should progress to the next round of the event (e.g. if there are 9 starters in a race at least 4 who correctly compete the course should qualify for the next round of the event). For Beach Flag events please refer to Section 9. Note: Officials should be mindful of confirmed entries when determining the number of rounds required to conduct an event through to a final and also to, as far as practicable, have an equal number of competitors in each heat. As a result of this new paragraph all subsequent paragraphs in this section are to be renumbered.

- 1d)** To ensure that the fair conduct of SLSA competition is maintained a change has been made so that only the Competition Committee or the Referee may approve an increase in the maximum participants in events as detailed in the Competitor Limitations Section 2.14.

The new wording will read:

"The Referee or Sectional Referee shall decide whether events shall be conducted in heats, rounds, quarter-finals, semi-finals or straight out finals. Unless directly approved by the Competition Committee or the Referee, the numbers in any individual or team event shall not exceed the following, taking into account safety aspects and the conditions:"

## **2. LIFE SAVING EVENTS**

- 2a)** To ensure that Champion Life Saver event demonstrates competitor competency in the physical, lifesaving and knowledge areas competitors must complete 50% of the physical events and attempt all theory and resuscitation tasks in order to be eligible for a place.

Section 3.4.4 (b) (Procedure) has been amended to read:

“b) The three sections that comprise the Champion Lifesaver event and allocated maximum points are:

- (i) Physical Skills 40 points
- (ii) Questionnaire 40 points
- (iii) Resuscitation 40 points

Competitors must complete 50% or more of the physical events and attempt all theory and resuscitation tasks in order to be eligible for a place. If competitors do not meet these requirements they will be disqualified from the event.”

- 2b)** To ensure that Patrol Competition event demonstrates competency in the physical, lifesaving and knowledge areas teams must complete 50% of the physical events and attempt the scenario, theory and resuscitation tasks in order to be eligible for a place.

Section 3.5.2(a) (General) has been amended to read:

“a) The Patrol Competition is divided into four sections:

- (i) Physical Skills 20 points maximum
- (ii) Theory 20 points maximum
- (iii) Resuscitation 20 points maximum
- (iv) Scenario Task 40 points maximum

The total of all four sections is 100 points maximum.

Teams must complete 50% or more of the physical events and attempt all theory, resuscitation and scenario tasks in order to be eligible for a place. If teams do not meet these requirements they will be disqualified from the event.”

### 3. SURF BOAT EVENTS

The last sentence of the note at the bottom of Section 5.2.5 (The Turn) has been clarified to refer only to a situation where one boat has caused another boat in a race to overturn.

The amended sentence will read:

“**Note:** Should a boat in a race cause another boat to overturn the Referee may assess the circumstances and shall decide whether the affected crew may progress to the next round. However, there shall not normally be a re-run of the final in such circumstances.”

### 4. BEACH SPRINT EVENTS

- 4a)** To address common practice in beach sprint events a change has been made to of Section 9.1.2(d) (Procedure) to read:

“(d) Competitors are permitted to flatten, level and/or mark the sand in their lane but must comply with the directions of the Referee or Sectional Referee.”

- 4b)** To assist with fair conduct and judging of beach sprint events particularly when timing gates are used an additional note has been added current Section 9.2.1(m) clarifying that arms are not to be extended forward at the finish.

The amended clause will read:

“(m) Competitors are required to finish the event on their feet. The finish is judged only on the chest of the competitor when crossing the finish line on their feet.

**Note 1:** falling across the line is not deemed to have finished the event.

**Note 2:** Competitors who attempt to record a timing gate finish result by deliberately using their arms or another part of their body other than their chest to record a finish result may be disqualified.”

## 5. BEACH RELAY EVENTS

- 5a) To clarify and address common practice in beach relay events a new Clause (b) has been added to Section 9.2.2 (Procedure) to read:

“(b) Competitors are permitted to level, flatten and/or mark the sand in their lane but must comply with the directions of the Referee or Sectional Referee.”

As a result the clauses following in Section 9.2.2 will be renumbered.

- 5b) To assist with fair conduct judging of beach relay finishes particularly when timing gates are used an additional note has been added current Section 9.2.3 (current) Clause (h) clarifying that arms are not to be extended forward at the finish . The amended clause will read:

“(i) Competitors are required to finish the event on their feet carrying their baton. The finish is judged only on the chest of the competitor when crossing the finish line.

**Note 1:** falling across the line is not deemed to have finished the event.

**Note 2:** Competitors who attempt to record a timing gate finish result by deliberately using their arms or another part of their body other than their chest to record a finish result may be disqualified.”

## 6. BEACH FLAGS

- 6a) To assist with safety and fairer conduct of SLSA competition a change has been made to Section 9.4.2 (b) (General Conditions) to specify that, with the exception of a break elimination or disqualification, no more than two competitors may be eliminated in each run through of the first and second rounds of an event and that no more than one competitor can be eliminated per run through from the quarter final stage onward.

The amended clause will read:

(b) “With the exception of disqualifications or break eliminations no more than two competitors shall be eliminated in each run through of the first and second rounds of competition. In subsequent rounds and at all quarter final, semi-final and final stages of competition no more than one competitor shall be eliminated in any one run through.

**Note:** While the above provides for a maximum of two eliminations per run through, wherever practicable competition should proceed with a maximum of one elimination per run through in all rounds.”

- 6b) To improve event presentation it has been decided that if a contested flag has been “lost” in the sand a runoff shall be conducted between the competitors involved. Such a decision shall be a “finish judge” decision and is therefore not be subject to appeal.

To effect this a new clause will be added to Section 9.4.2 and will read:

“(e) If it is apparent that a flag has been “lost” (in the sand) the Finish Judge shall signal that the flag is “lost” and that the run through is finished. This signal shall be given either whistle signal or by word. A run-off shall then occur only between the competitors involved in the search for the flag.”

As a result the clauses following in Section 9.4.2 will be renumbered.

- 6c) To avoid confusion the Section 9.4.2 (current) Clause (e) has been amended to specify that if two or more competitors hold the same baton run-offs are to continue between the competitors involved until it is decided who progresses in the competition and/or placings are awarded.

The amended clause will read:

“(f) If two or more competitors hold the same baton and the Finish Judges are not able to determine which competitor's hand grasped the baton first, the Finish Judges shall advise the Sectional Referee who shall decide whether there shall be a run-off between the competitors involved. If, after one run off to determine who

progresses in an event or to determine a final placing result and the competitors still cannot be separated, run-offs shall be continued until an elimination and/or placing result is achieved.”

- 6d)** To ensure the competitors have a fairer chance in beach flag events a minimum of four competitors must progress from each heat into subsequent rounds.

A new clause (h) has been added to Section 9.4.2 (General Conditions) and will read:

“(h) If heats are conducted in Beach Flag events a minimum of four competitors must progress from each heat into each subsequent round of the event unless there is a disqualification or elimination in the last run-through of the round.”

- 6e)** To recognise that beach flags is a fast and dynamic event it has been agreed that competitors are to be eliminated from the event rather than disqualified for deliberate or other impedance providing that the relevant SLSA Codes of Conduct and/or Competing Unfairly clauses are not breached.

Section 9.4.3 (Deliberate Impedance) has been reworded to read:

**“Section 9.4.3 Competing for Flags/Deliberate Impedance**

- (a) A competitor may otherwise use his or her body to improve their position to compete for a flag. A competitor may negotiate the shoulder and or body in front of an opponent, but may not use hands, arms, feet or legs to obtain or remain in this position. If a competitor legally obtains this front position and maintains normal running action, the competitor behind is obliged to go around the competitor in front. A competitor may cross over in front of a slower competitor.
- (b) Deliberate impedance is defined as “the deliberate use of hands, arms, feet or legs to impede another competitor’s progress”.
- (c) Any competitor who commits deliberate impedance on another competitor will be eliminated from the event. If two or more competitors are guilty of deliberate impedance, the competitor who first deliberately used arms, shoulder, hands, legs or feet will be eliminated.
- (d) If it is deemed that competitor has breached the relevant SLSA Code of Behaviour and/or Competing Unfairly clauses contained in Section 2 the competitor(s) involved may be disqualified.”

- 6f)** To clarify that it is permitted for the toes to be dug into the sand at the start of the beach event a note has been added to the Clause (b) has been added to Section 9.4.5 (Procedure) to read:

“(b) When directed by the Starter, competitors shall lie face down with their toes on the start line, heels or any part of the feet together, hands on top of each other with fingertips to wrists and with the head up. Elbows should be extended 90 degrees to the body’s midline and hips and stomach must be in contact with the sand. The body’s mid-line should be 90 degrees to the start line. Competitors may level, flatten, and compress their starting area but no scooping or digging of the sand is permitted.

**Note:** It is permitted to dig the toes into the sand at the start line.”

- 6g)** To ensure that beach flag competitors are equally spaced both for 1 and 2 competitor eliminations per run-through, that the course is properly squared and that end competitors have sufficient room the current beach flags diagram (Figure 2 on Page 9.9) has been amended and an additional diagram will be inserted to reflect two competitor eliminations.

**7. OFFICIALS AND COMPETITOR OATHS**

At major events SLSA selects an official and a competitor to recite oaths on behalf of all officials and athletes involved in competition. These oaths are now included in the Surf Sports Manual in Section 12 (Competition Administration) for ease of reference.

The wording in a (new) Section 12.5 is as follows:

#### **“12.5 OFFICIAL AND COMPETITOR OATHS**

At major SLSA competitions it may be appropriate for oaths to be recited at an Opening Ceremony or at the commencement of competition. The selection of the competitor and official to read the oaths will be responsibility of the Organising Committee for the event. The Oaths are as follows:

##### **12.5.1 Officials Oath**

On behalf of all appointed competition officials at these (insert name) Championships, I declare that we will carry out our separate duties in an honest and impartial manner.

We declare that we will treat each athlete competing at these Championships in a fair and reasonable manner and without personal prejudice or bias.

We understand that our appointment to these Championships is made on the basis of our acceptance of the responsibility given to us as representative of Surf Life Saving Australia.

##### **12.5.2 Competitors Oath**

On behalf of all athletes competing at these (insert name) Championships, I declare that we will compete to the best of our ability in a manner that is fair to all athletes in our field of competition.

We declare that we will abide by the rules of competition and will comply with all oral and written instructions given to us by the appointed Championship officials.

As athletes, we understand our responsibility to uphold the traditions of Surf Life Saving Australia.

Note: The wording in these Oaths may be modified to meet the requirements of the event.”

#### **Further Information:**

Please contact SLSA for further information.