



STOCKTON SLSC SURF SPORTS COMPETITION POLICY

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1. INTRODUCTION & PURPOSE

Stockton SLSC has achieved fantastic results at all major carnivals across multiple sections of Surf sports over the past few seasons.

Due to increased levels of competition, competitor numbers and disciplines being competed in there is a requirement to introduce procedures and policies to provide some guidance for competitors, coaches, officials and directors.

Additionally, over the years we have developed strong junior competitors only to see them transfer to bigger clubs for team and other opportunities.

This pattern is not a good outcome for our club as we lose great competitors and ultimately great patrol and all-round club people.

The intent of this policy is to develop junior competitors into long-term club members and create a strong and enduring team culture across all of our surf sports disciplines.

This policy outlines our procedures for all SLSC endorsed Surf Sports competition and applies to all financial active competition members of the club including:

- Juniors
- Under 15
- Under 17
- Under 19
- Opens
- Masters
- All surf boat rowing age categories
- All IRB age categories

This policy aims to help to ensure our club and competitors:

- Uphold the reputation of our club, our sponsors and partners; and
- Meet the requirements for competition eligibility

2. DEFINITIONS

DoSS – Director of Surf Sports

Surf Sports Strategy - an initiative designed to build the surf skills and fitness of members, establish pathways for life long members of our club and build a strong culture of comradery for the benefit of our club.

Surf Sports Sub-committee – Committee responsible for implementing required policy and ultimate decision making with regard to surf sports. Led by the DoSS and including the Craft Sectional Captain, Youth Development Coordinator, IRB Captain and Surf Boat Captain.

3. CODE OF CONDUCT

All competitors, coaches, officials, team managers, parents and supporters representing Stockton Surf Life Saving Club are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that upholds the values and reputation of the Club and Surf Life Saving.

All members must comply with the current policies of **Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA)**, **Surf Life Saving New South Wales (SLSNSW)** and **Stockton Surf Life Saving Club**, including but not limited to:

- The SLSA Code of Conduct;
- The SLSA Member Protection Policy;
- The SLSA Social Media Policy;
- The SLSA Child Safe Policy (where applicable);
- The SLSNSW Competition Manual and relevant Competition Policies; and
- Any additional Club policies, procedures or directives adopted by Stockton SLSC.

Competitors are expected to demonstrate respect, integrity, teamwork and sportsmanship at all times while training, competing, travelling, attending Club activities, participating in fundraising events, or engaging in online or social media activities associated with the Club.

Any breach of these policies may result in disciplinary action in accordance with the relevant SLSA, SLSNSW and Stockton SLSC disciplinary procedures and may affect a competitor's eligibility to represent the Club.

4. KEY COMPONENTS FOR SECTIONAL TEAMS

Juniors

Training will have a large focus on the development of the competitor as an athlete through an increase in more structured race focused training, as well as skill-based drills.

Youth U15-17

Youth members will receive the same benefits as junior members however a greater focus will be on the development of these members into the senior club as patrol members and prepare them for senior competition.

U19, Open and Masters – Craft Team

This group will play a special role in mentoring and role modelling for younger competing members.

Surf Boat & IRB Teams

The surfboat and IRB teams are a key component to the entire strategy.

5. CARNIVALS & CO-CONTRIBUTION

5.1 Key Components for all Surf Sports Sectional Teams

Each season the DoSS prepares a budget to assist with the following expenses:

- Carnival entry fees
- The provision of transport to carnivals where deemed appropriate and approved
- The transport of competitor craft to carnivals using the club trailers (dependent on the availability of resources) or via shipping container (for example SLSA Championships held in VIC, SA, TAS, WA)
- Support to Officials, IRB support crews, First Aid Officers and Water Safety personnel who assist at major Carnivals
- Provision and maintenance of Club Equipment
- The storage of Craft (dependent on the availability of space)

Our club currently directs funds towards these competition expenses, repairs and maintenance, travel costs and entry fees in a relatively unstructured way.

Each of these funding sources are outlined in clauses 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4.

5.2 Surf Sports Co-contribution

Competitors may choose to participate in the Surf Sports Co-contribution registration fee (competition levy). The competition levy covers gym membership, a team competitor shirt and all entry fees paid by the club for carnivals sanctioned by HSLS, the SLS NSW Championships and Australian Championships.

The competition levy will be set annually by the Executive Committee. For the 2026/2027 season the fee will be \$100.00.

5.3 Sponsorships

The club will pursue corporate sponsorships from companies to fund at minimum 30% of the total costs of the strategy.

The committee has developed a sponsorship proposal document that has a tiered structure of Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze categories.

These are outlined as follows:

- Platinum– has a value of \$7.5k per year
- Gold – has a value of \$5k per year
- Silver – has a value of \$2.5k per year
- Bronze – has a value of \$500.00 per year

Please refer to the SSLC 3 year Sponsorship Proposal that is located on our website for details of what these categories entail.

Sponsorship funds will generally be directed towards operational expenses such as maintenance, coaching and entry fees. However, the club may retain a portion of sponsorship funds to fund cross sectional expenses such as sponsorship decals/branding.

5.4 Sectional Fundraising Responsibilities

To support the ongoing sustainability of the Club's Surf Sports Program, all competitors and their families are expected to actively contribute to fundraising activities undertaken by their respective sectional teams and/or the club as a whole.

Funds raised contribute towards the costs associated with the delivery of the Club's competition program, including but not limited to:

- Competition entry fees and levies;
- Coaching and athlete development;
- Purchase, maintenance and repair of competition equipment and craft;
- Transport, storage and operational costs associated with competition equipment;
- Training resources and program delivery; and
- Other Surf Sports expenses as determined by the Executive Committee.

Each sectional team is expected to participate in and support fundraising initiatives throughout the season. Competitors who are unable to participate in a scheduled fundraising activity should make reasonable efforts to assist with an alternative fundraising activity or other approved volunteer contribution, in consultation with their Sectional Coordinator.

The Club reserves the right to consider a competitor's participation in sectional fundraising when determining eligibility for Club-funded competition benefits or financial assistance. This version encourages participation without being overly punitive, while giving the committee discretion to link fundraising support with access to subsidised competition benefits. It's a common and defensible approach in volunteer sporting organisations.

5.5 Governance of The Competitor Competition Levy

Ultimately the Club's executive committee will have responsibility of the strategy, however the Surf Sports Subcommittee will carry out the implementation.

This subcommittee should make recommendations for the executive committee to adopt, which may include as an example: team selections, gear and equipment purchase/repair/maintenance.

Importantly the subcommittee should recommend how funds are distributed throughout each portfolio and direct discretionary expenses such as coaching up skill funds where applicable.

5.6 Carnival Entries

The competitor's carnival entry must be lodged with the DoSS or representative 7 days prior to the event entry closing date to enable sufficient time to complete the entry for the event.

The DoSS or representative is responsible for submitting only the carnival entries within the SLSA Carnival Management System or any other SLS endorsed platform.

Any carnivals requiring prior event entries not listed on the SLSA carnival management system or any other SLS endorsed platform will be the responsibility of the competitor.

Carnival entry closing dates will be posted via the club's media channels.

No guarantees will be made for carnival entries lodged within 7 days of the closing date.

Under the Competitor Competition Levy the Club will be responsible for the payment of entry fees submitted via the carnival management system.

The Club is **not** responsible for payment of entries submitted on other third-party platforms. **Competitors not partaking in the Surf Sports Competitor Competition Levy** will need to pay carnival entry fees to the club prior to their entry being submitted.

The competitor's entry including the entry fee must be lodged/paid 7 days prior to the event entry closing date.

5.6.1 Carnival Late Entries – State and Australian Championships

Competitors/teams are responsible for ensuring their competition nominations are submitted by the published closing dates, including any applicable **Early Bird** entry deadlines for the State Championships and Australian Championships only.

Where a competitor fails to meet the Early Bird entry deadline and a higher standard entry fee applies, the competitor will be responsible for paying the difference between the Early Bird and standard or late entry fee.

Where a competitor's nomination is submitted after the official closing date and a late entry is accepted by the event organiser, any late entry fee or penalty charged to the Club will be the responsibility of the competitor. The Club will issue an invoice for reimbursement of all additional entry costs incurred, which must be paid within the timeframe specified on the invoice.

Failure to reimburse the Club for additional competition entry costs may result in future competition entries being withheld until all outstanding amounts have been paid.

5.6.2 Withdrawal or Failure to Compete

Competitors are required to notify the DoSS as soon as possible of their withdrawal from a carnival. Competitors will be required to reimburse the club entry fees in full for withdrawals of all carnivals after entries have closed (including all major carnivals).

Competitors will have the right of appeal to the request of reimbursement. Competitors with genuine reasons for late withdrawal or failure to compete will be granted exemption for entry fee reimbursement.

5.7 Transport of Competitor Craft to Carnivals

The club will endeavour to arrange to tow the club trailer/s to each major carnival for the transport of club & personal competition craft.

Any private vehicle that is used to tow the Club's trailer when transporting club & personal competition equipment to carnivals will be eligible for the reimbursement of fuel costs.

To receive reimbursement, they must provide the DoSS with receipts and their bank account details.

For interstate carnivals, the club may elect to hire a vehicle. This will be on a case-by-case basis.

Personal vehicles that tow club trailers should be registered and comprehensively insured by the owner/s.

Note: Private vehicles towing club trailers are covered by the Club's Insurance Policy to a limited extent, and any damage experienced while towing club trailers will be addressed via the club insurance policy on a case-by-case basis.

6. COMPETITION CRAFT & STORAGE

6.1 Club Craft

The Club has a limited amount of craft available for competitors to use at training and carnivals on a first-in-best-dressed basis. After having used club craft for a season competitors will be required to purchase their own. The DoSS is responsible for maintaining a Club Craft Register and ensuring that the clubs asset register is updated for insurances purposes.

6.2 Member Owned Craft

6.2.1 Member Owned Craft Ordering Process

Members who purchase their own craft for individual events (Boards & Skis) can do so either via the club or themselves. Some craft manufactures may require:

- Club purchase order form
- Purchase confirmation
- Upfront payment or deposit
- Combination of above.

In instances where any of the above is required, members shall notify the DoSS of their intention to purchase craft before placing an order.

When placing an order, members shall provide the club details and request an invoice be sent to the Director of Surf Sports. <mailto:surfsports@stocktonsurfclub.com>

6.3 Competition Craft Financial Assistance

The club acknowledges there are Surf Sports disciplines that require competitors to purchase their own custom-made craft.

At its discretion, the club may provide financial assistance for the purchase of gear and equipment to competitors.

Where any financial assistance is made available, the competitor must consult the DoSS before the equipment is purchased.

The competitor acknowledges they understand and agree to the club retaining ownership of the equipment up to the percentage of financial assistance.

The executive committee reserves the right to alter any financial assistance agreement at its discretion and through the recommendation of the subcommittee.

A member who has received financial assistance to purchase equipment/craft must not sell or dispose of that equipment/craft without the written approval of the DoSS.

The DoSS will report the sale of this equipment to the committee meeting immediately following the sale.

As the member and the club jointly own the equipment/craft, the member will receive her/his share of the sale price pro rata to her/his original contribution. E.g. if a ski is purchased for \$3,000 and the club and competitor contribute \$1,500 each (50%) and it is subsequently sold for \$2,000 then the competitor and the club receive \$1,000 each (50%).

Should a competitor seek further assistance without selling the previous piece of equipment then the competitor forfeits their share in the original item and it becomes the property of Stockton Surf Club.

6.3.1 Maintenance and Repair of Subsidised Gear and Equipment

Any damage caused to the craft or equipment should be repaired as soon as possible and the competitor should meet the cost of the repair.

Required repairs should be carried out in a professional manner by a person who has the appropriate knowledge and skills to do so – i.e. the equipment manufacturer.

The club acknowledges there will be instances where craft will incur damage requiring repairs during competition events.

Competitors who meet all of the following criteria can apply for the club to cover the cost of repairs:

- Was competing in a SLSA endorsed carnival or event when damage occurred.
- Have a consistent competition record with the Club.
- Have a consistent training record with the Club Coaching program.

Instances where an application for the club to cover the cost of repairs is successful, the member shall provide the club details and request an invoice be sent to the DoSS. <mailto:surfsports@stocktonsurfclub.com>

6.3.2 Other Types of Support

The executive committee may at its discretion make other types of support available to teams and individuals.

This type of support may include total or partial payment of team selection payment such as Interbranch team selection fee, fees for nomination for special awards etc.

The executive committee at the recommendation of the subcommittee may make other types of support available.

6.4 Craft Storage

The surf club's current facilities only provide for a limited amount of competition craft storage. The Surf Sports Subcommittee is responsible to ensure that they provide a fair and equitable system when allocating space for the storage of personal craft. Some guidelines are as follows:

- Club owned craft shall have priority for storage allocation.
- SSLSC competitors will not be charged for the storage of competition craft.
- The club is responsible for providing a structured and safe storage facility and will maintain a club contents insurance policy that covers personal competition craft stored in the club for fire, theft or damage.
- Members competing for SSLSC will be given priority for craft storage.
- Members who do not meet the Criteria points listed previously will not be guaranteed a spot for their craft and the allocation of space will be dependent on how much space is available.
- Due to the current limited space, it is a requirement to apply for storage of personal craft/equipment by use of the application form in Appendix B of this policy.
- It is the responsibility of all club members to ensure the craft storage area is kept tidy at all times.
- It is the responsibility of all club members to ensure their own craft is secure. The club will not be held responsible or liable for any non-authorised use by any third parties.

7. CLUB TEAM SELECTIONS

7.1 Team Selections and Eligibility to Compete

The objective of the team selection process is to achieve the best possible competition teams. This process applies to athletes, team managers and coaches.

Team selection will be based primarily on the following two objectives using a balanced view:

- **PARTICIPATION:** To encourage, recognise and reward maximum participation in and commitment to training and development as part of the SSLSC Surf Sports program. **Participation** will be the primary objective for team selections at the early stages of the season.
- **PERFORMANCE:** To select the strongest teams to represent SSLSC in each age group or category and to achieve the best possible results for SSLSC based on ability and expected performances of the competitors. **Performance** will be the primary objective for Championship carnivals (Branch, State and Australian Championships).

An athlete's eligibility to compete in carnivals and participate in individual and team events will follow the criteria set out in the latest published edition of the SLSA Surf Sports Manual.

The SLSA Surf Sports manual allows that athletes may be considered for selection in team events one age group above their nominal age. However, for Nipper age groups (U8 to U14), an athlete will not be selected into a higher age group team if doing so would displace an athlete who belongs to that age group.

7.1.1 Team Selection Criteria

Team selections will be judged by the following criteria, in order of weighting:

Performance

- Results at club endorsed carnivals in current season
- Results at Club championships and point score events
- Performance and ability demonstrated at training, as judged by coach
- Time trials: If there is a close call between two or more competitors (based on the above criteria) the subcommittee may elect for time trials to be held in race conditions at training.
- At the start of the season when there have not been many carnivals, team selection will be based on the previous season and/or preseason training.

Participation

- Attendance at training, ie Club endorsed training sessions
- Commitment, consistency and attitude to training
- Participation in carnivals

- Attendance at club competition (For Nippers, 60% attendance is considered prerequisite for age award and hence eligibility for competition.)

Other considerations

- Teamwork: Competitors' abilities to "work well together" in a team
- Injury / illness: Any injury / illness which could impair, inhibit or prevent the competitor from appropriate level of performance or represent an unacceptable risk
- Conditions: Expected conditions at the carnival venue and on the day. Also conditions during carnivals during the current season, which may have skewed performance results.
- Surf Sports Culture\Behaviour Expectations: Commitment and attitude to fellow club members and surf lifesaving in general i.e. represent Stockton SLSC professionally, respect officials, respect volunteers, respect coaches and support fellow competitors.

7.1.2. Selection Process

The Surf Sports Subcommittee will be responsible for team selection, taking into account the above criteria.

Team selections decided upon by the Surf Sports Subcommittee will be final and selectors are not required to disclose conditional deliberations.

This shall not prevent, limit or restrict the selectors (e.g. Head Coach or proxy) changing the selection of any team at any time, in the interest of club spirit and competitive focus and/or other relevant circumstances.

Any selector in the Surf Sports Subcommittee with a conflict of interest regarding an athlete must declare the conflict and abstain from that selection where appropriate.

7.2. Right of Appeal

If parents, carers or competitors wish to dispute a team selection they should NOT approach any other parent, carer or competitor.

Parents, carers or competitors should make first contact with the DoSS.

An appeal against team selection/s should be forwarded in writing to the DoSS 5 days prior to the carnival. <mailto:surfsports@stocktonsurfclub.com>

The DoSS will communicate the appeal with the Surf Sports Subcommittee and considerations will be made based on the specifics provided within the appeal.

An appeal should be backed with evidence in line with the Team Selection Criteria (7.1.1) Where a unanimous decision cannot be reached, the appeal will be passed onto an impartial panel to undertake an assessment and provide judgement.

7.3. Team Member Unavailable on Day of Competition

If a member of a competitive team becomes unavailable to participate for whatever reason then the Surf Sports Sub-committee must be consulted who will make a decision which changes are to be made to entered teams. If all members of the Surf Sports Subcommittee are not able to be contacted then a decision by a majority (at least 50%) of Surf Sports Subcommittee members must be obtained. No changes are to be made to teams affected by unavailable athletes until directed by the Surf Sports Subcommittee.

8. TEAM UNIFORMS

Competitors are required to purchase and wear “Stockton SLSC” branded swimwear and a club competition cap (Blue & Red Quartered) when representing the club at all SLSA endorsed competitions.

Appendix A - Storage of Personal Craft and Equipment Application

The surf club's current facilities only provide for a limited amount of competition craft storage.

The DoSS and the Surf Sports Subcommittee is responsible for providing a fair and equitable system when allocating space for the storage of personal craft.

This application is to be completed by a competitor who wishes to apply for storage of personal craft and equipment.

Please complete a separate application form for each individual item. (Please tick the applicable item):

SLS Craft – Ski / Double Ski

SLS Craft - Board

SLS Equipment (Other)

Equipment Type: _____

Details of The Craft / Equipment

SLSA Registration Number	
Description/Markings	
Purchase Price (\$)	
Date of Purchase	

Applicant Details

Name	
Application Date	
Season Joined The Club	

I, the above competitor, do hereby apply for allocation of storage for my personal craft/equipment described above at the club.

The craft/equipment storage spot is allocated to me for my exclusive use.

I agree if asked to remove my personal craft/equipment at the discretion of the DoSS, I will do so in a timely manner.

Should I decide to no longer represent the club in competition, the craft/equipment will be removed from the storage space and I will notify the club of no longer being an active competitor immediately.

I am a financial member of the club

I hold the bronze medallion qualification and am currently proficient, or I am an under 15 competitor holding the Surf Rescue Certificate.

I have completed the required patrolling hours as set by the club and SLSC for the calendar year

I am willing to participate in regular training session and club activities.

Competition This Season

I plan to compete for Stockton SLSC in the following competitions this season:

SLSC sanctioned carnivals outside the Hunter (HUN) Branch

HUN Branch carnivals, including the HUN Branch Championships

NSW State Championships

SLSC Australian Championships or SLSC Youth Championships

Competitors Signature	
Parent/Guardian's Signature (if the applicant is under the age of 18 yrs)	
Date:	

Storage Approved

DoSS Signature	
Date:	