

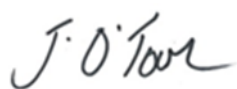
Circular

Title:	2026/27 Western Suns Ocean/Beach Interstate Team & WA Super Surf Teams League Teams - Representative Teams Selection Guidelines (Amended V2)
Date:	1 October 2026
Document ID:	27,2026/2027
Department:	Sport and Development
From:	Graham Snook, Surf Sports Officer – State Teams & Youth/Open Events Ph: 08 9207 6666 (SLSWA Office Hours Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5pm) Email: surfsports@slswa.com.au
Audience:	Club Administrators, Club Surf Sports Officers and Club Coaches and Club Competitors
Summary:	The circular outlines information and selection criteria relating to the following: 1. Western Suns Ocean/Beach Interstate Team (U17 – Open) 2. Super Surf Teams League Team – Scarborough Sunsets 3. Super Surf Teams League Youth (U17) Team – Broome Pearlers
Action:	Clubs and coaches are to advise competitors of the Western Suns & SSTL Team opportunities.

The information within this circular relates to the selection processes for the Western Suns Ocean/Beach Interstate Team, SSTL Open Team and the SSTL Youth (U17) Team.

This document is also now available on the SLSWA website and has been distributed widely to athletes, coaches, and administrators. It is the responsibility of all prospective team members and their coaches to read and make sure they understand the selection guidelines and how they operate.

If anyone has a specific query in relation to the intended meaning or operation of this Circular, they can contact Graham Snook on (08) 9207 6666 or gsnook@slswa.com.au. The Surf Sports Advisory Committee are the primary selectors of the teams and will be available through the season to answer selection related queries. These can be addressed to gsnook@slswa.com.au and they will be forwarded to the selectors.



James O'Toole
Chief Executive Officer

SELECTION PHILOSOPHY

The Western Suns Ocean/Beach Interstate Teams & SSTL will be selected with the primary objective of achieving the best outcome for Western Australia at the Super Surf Teams League and SLSA Interstate Championships while still developing the talent in Western Australia. The SLSA Interstate Championships & SSTL will be held from **8-10 January 2027**.

Location

Newcastle, NSW

Dates

Event date: SLSA Interstate Championships 8 January 2027
Super Surf Teams League 9 - 10 January 2027

Travel availability will be required from:

5 – 11 January 2027

* Note Athletes who wish to arrange their own travel on different dates will do so at their own cost.

TEAM COMPOSITION

The touring team composition will be based on SLSA's requirements for the Interstate Championships & SSTL, and SLSWA's intention to provide our U17 athletes with a competition opportunity in the SSTL. Those requirements are as follows:

The Western Suns team for the Interstate Championships will consist of the following:

1. **Open Team members** – 5 male and 5 female members in total from Open age categories (U17, U19 and Open)
2. **Youth Team members** – 5 male and 5 female members in total from the U17 age group.

Please note: Competitors will be selected to compete in either the Open or Youth Teams and are not permitted to compete in both Teams.

The SSTL will consist of the following:

Scarborough Sunsets – 4 male and 4 female members from the Open age categories (U17, U19 and Open)

Broome Pearlers – 4 male and 4 female members from the U17 age group.

Please note: These teams will be made up from members of Western Suns. The other members of the Western Suns will be reserves for the relevant SSTL.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

To ensure that SLSWA is aware of your availability and desire to participate as part of the Western Suns Interstate Team & SSTL Team, you are required to complete the online [Expression of Interest Form](#). Opening date for nominations is 08:00am Monday 7 September 2026. Closing date for nominations is 5:00pm 22 October 2026.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Only athletes qualified according to the terms of this section will be eligible for selection in the Western Suns Representative & SSTL Teams.

a) SLSWA general eligibility criteria:

1. Athletes must hold 2026/27 competitive rights within a SLSWA registered club.
2. Athletes must be available to compete in both the Western Suns and a SSTL team. Spanning 3 days of competition.

3. To be eligible for the Open Interstate/SSTL (Scarborough Sunsets) Teams, a member must be a minimum age of 15 years (based on midnight 30 September 2026 i.e., under 17 age group) and hold a proficient SLSA Bronze Medallion.
4. To be eligible for the Interstate Team (Youth)/SSTL (Broome Pearlys), a member must be a minimum age of 15 years (based on midnight 30 September 2026 i.e., under 17 age group) and hold a proficient SLSA Bronze Medallion.

b) SLSWA specific eligibility criteria:

1. Upon successful selection in the relevant Western Suns Team/SSTL, complete and sign the SLSWA Athlete Agreement which will be sent to the athletes after selection.
2. At all times abide by SLSA's Code of Conduct and act in a manner that does not bring the sport of surf lifesaving or the SLSWA Western Suns/SSTL Representative Teams into disrepute.

SLSWA SURF SPORTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The SLSWA Selection Panel consists of the Surf Sports Advisory Committee and will be responsible for the selection of the following touring teams:

- Western Suns Ocean/Beach Interstate Team
- Scarborough Sunsets & Broome Pearlys

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Where a member of the SLSWA Surf Sports Advisory Committee has a conflict of interest in relation to one or more athletes that have nominated for consideration for selection, the selector must declare that interest and stand aside from the process in relation to that athlete. The Chair of the Selection Panel has the right to appoint a proxy selector.

Perceived or actual conflict of interest may occur as a result of a selector's relationship to a participant including but not limited to

- i. Parent or child
- ii. Sibling or other family
- iii. Partner or de facto
- iv. Coach or athlete

A conflict of interest would not be perceived as a result of a selector being at the same club as a participant.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Athletes will be selected based upon a mix of objective and subjective selection criteria as defined by the SLSWA Surf Sports Advisory Committee (see below). This method allows the selectors to pick what, in their opinion, is the best possible team to represent and earn the highest points for Western Australia. The selectors have determined that the following criteria will apply:

Primary considerations for team selection will be based upon:

1. Performances at the WA Fuel to Go & Play Carnival Round 1 at Sorrento Beach on Saturday 24 October 2026;
2. Performances at the WA Fuel to Go & Play Carnival Round 3 at Trigg Beach on Sunday 22 November 2026;
3. Overall consistency of performance;
4. Individual strengths that may contribute to the performance of the team as a whole;
5. Willingness and ability to fill a role that may enhance Western Australia's medal potential; and
6. Additional non-performance-based traits considered beneficial to the team(s).

Please note it is highly recommended that members attend both Surf League events to give themselves the best chance of selection.

CONDITIONAL SELECTION

The SLSWA Surf Sports Advisory Committee maintains the ability to make the conditional selection of any athlete subject to the athlete meeting further conditions. Examples being:

- Achieving a particular result in a future race;
- Completing a fitness trial; or
- Any other condition that, in the opinion of the selection panel, is reasonable in the circumstances of the athlete.

REQUIREMENTS AFTER SELECTION

During the period between the announcement of the relevant team and the date of departure, athletes must demonstrate that they are physically fit, performing well and likely to compete at a level appropriate to the relevant national events, and uphold the standards as outlined with the SLSWA Athlete Agreement. If an athlete breaches the standards as outlined within the Athlete Agreement, they will face removal from the team. In this instance, SLSWA shall have the power to replace that team athlete, if necessary, at their discretion.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE WESTERN SUNS AND SSTL TEAMS

The Western Suns Interstate Ocean/ Beach Team and the SSTL will be announced on **Thursday 26 November 2026** via the SLSWA website and the SLSWA Facebook page. The Interstate & SSTL Team pack presentation will be held on **Saturday 5 December 2026** at Sorrento Beach, after the conclusion of the Surf League Event.

SLSWA CONTRIBUTION

SLSWA will cover team travel and accommodation expenses for every member of the Western Suns & SSTL Teams. Entry fees to events as part of the touring team will also be covered.

Please note, only **NEW** team members will be provided with a full State Team Uniform pack. Athletes who have represented the Western Suns representative team & SSTL in the last 18 months will receive new bathers. All other uniform items will be provided/replaced as required. This will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

All food, snacks and beverages are at the athlete's expense with the exception of a Teams Dinner on the Thursday night prior to competition. SLSWA representatives will assist youth team members as/if required.

APPEALS

There is no right of appeal against non-selection of an athlete in the 2026/27 Western Suns & SSTL Representative Teams.

POWER TO AMEND

SLSWA reserves the right to amend these guidelines at any time prior to the selection of the 2026/27 Western Suns & SSTL Representative Teams. The amended guidelines will be distributed to all clubs at the time of any amendment.

Please direct any queries relating to this circular to Surf Sports Team at Surf Life Saving Western Australia during office hours on (08) 9207 6666 or email surfsports@slswa.com.au