

Circular

Title:	2026 Western Suns Ocean/Beach Pathway (U14/U15) Representative Team Selection Guidelines
Date:	4 September 2025
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Department:	Sport and Development
From:	Graham Snook, Surf Sports Officer – Youth/Open Events Ph: 08 9207 6666 (SLSWA Office Hours Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5pm) Email: gsnook@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 Pathway (U14/U15) Interstate Team
Action:	Clubs and coaches are to advise competitors of the Western Suns Team opportunities.

The information within this circular relates to the selection processes for the Western Suns Ocean/Beach Pathway (U14/U15) Interstate 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 Pathway Interstate Team will be selected with the primary objective of achieving the best outcome for Western Australia at the SLSA Interstate Pathway Championship while still developing the talent in Western Australia. The SLSA Interstate Pathway Championship will be held on Tuesday 24 March 2026 after the conclusion of the Australian Youth Surf Life Saving Championships.

Location

North Kirra Beach
Gold Coast, QLD

Athletes would be required to remain on the Gold Coast and be available to compete for the Western Suns Pathway Team following the 2026 Australian Youth Surf Life Saving Championships. Athletes will be required to arrange their own accommodation and travel to and from the Championships.

TEAM COMPOSITION

The touring team composition will be based on SLSA's requirements for the Interstate Pathway Championship. **The Western Suns Pathway Team will consist of 16 athletes from the following age groups:**

1. **U14 members** – 4 male and 4 female members
2. **U15 members** – 4 male and 4 female members

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

To ensure that SLSWA is aware of your availability and desire to participate as part of the Western Suns Pathway Team you are required to complete the online <https://www.trybooking.com/DDMTV> Closing date for nominations is 11.59pm Thursday 23 October 2025

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Only athletes qualified according to the terms of this section will be eligible for selection in the Western Suns Pathway Team.

a) SLSWA general eligibility criteria:

1. Athletes must hold 2025/26 competitive rights within a SLSWA registered club.
2. To be eligible for the Pathway Team, a member must be a minimum age of 13 years (i.e., Under 14 age group) and a maximum age of 15 years (i.e., under 15 age group) on or before midnight 30 September 2025 They must hold a proficient SLSA Surf Rescue Certificate (U14 and U15).

b) SLSWA specific eligibility criteria:

1. Upon successful selection in the relevant Western Suns Pathway Team, 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 Pathway Team into disrepute.

SLSWA SURF SPORTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The SLSWA Selection Panel consists of the Surf Sports Advisory Committee.

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 State Selection Carnival Round 1 at Trigg Beach on 1 November 2025.
2. Performances at the WA State Selection Carnival Round 2 at Secret Harbour on 15 November 2025.
3. Overall consistency of performance at Selection Carnivals.
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 *Please note it is highly recommended that members attend both Selection Carnivals 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 Pathway Team will be announced on **Thursday 20 November 2025** via the SLSWA website and the SLSWA Facebook page. The Pathway Team pack presentation will be held on **Wednesday 10 December 2025** at SLSWA, 7 Delawney Street, Balcatta, at **6.15pm**.

SLSWA CONTRIBUTION

SLSWA will provide a \$1,200 subsidy to assist with travel and accommodation expenses for every member of the Western Suns Pathway Team. Entry fees to events as part of the touring team will also be covered. Team members will be provided with team apparel.

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.

APPEALS

There is no right of appeal against non-selection of an athlete in the 2026 Western Suns Pathway Team.

POWER TO AMEND

SLSWA reserves the right to amend these guidelines at any time prior to the selection of the 2026 Western Suns Pathway Team. The amended guidelines will be distributed to all clubs at the time of any amendment.

Please direct any queries relating to this circular to Graham Snook at Surf Life Saving Western Australia during office hours on (08) 9207 6666 or email gsnook@slnwa.com.au