

Circular

Title:	2026 Western Suns Surf Boat Interstate Team Selection Information
Date:	18 September 2025
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Department:	Sport and Development
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Audience:	Club Administrators, Club Surf Sports Officers and Club Coaches and Club Competitors
Summary:	The circular outlines information and selection criteria relating to the 2026 Western Suns Surf Boat Interstate Team
Action:	Clubs and coaches are to advise competitors of the Western Suns Team opportunities. Crews to complete online expression of interest form.

The information within this circular relates to the Western Suns Representative Team selection guidelines for the Western Suns Surf Boat crews.

Location

Interstate Challenge at Wanda Beach, New South Wales

Date

Friday, 13th February

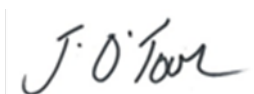
Team Composition

The Western Suns Surf Boat Team will comprise of one crew in each of the following divisions with the selection criteria listed below:

- Open Male
- Open Female
- Reserve Grade Male
- Reserve Grade Female
- Under 19 Male
- Under 19 Female
- Under 23 Male
- Under 23 Female

It is the responsibility of all prospective team members and their coaches to read and make sure they understand the selection criteria and how it operates.

For further information regarding selection for the 2026 Western Suns Surf Boat Team, please contact Blake Sawyer, Surf Sports Officer – Surf Boats on (08) 9207 6666 or surfsports@slswa.com.au.



James O'Toole
Chief Executive Officer

SELECTION PHILOSOPHY

The Western Suns Surf Boat Teams will be selected with the primary objective of achieving the best outcome for Western Australia at the Interstate Challenge while still developing the talent in Western Australia.

The Surf Life Saving Australia Surf Boat Interstate Challenge will be conducted in conjunction with the Australian Surf Rowers League (ASRL) Open event held 13-15 February 2026.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

To ensure that SLSWA is aware of your availability and desire to participate as part of the Western Suns Interstate Surf Boat Team, you are required to complete the online [Expression of Interest Form](#). Closing date for nominations is 20th November 2025.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

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

1. Athletes must hold 2025/26 competitive rights within a SLSWA registered club.
2. Age requirements will be as per the SLSA Surf Sports Manual 37th Ed. and subsequent updates.
3. All members must read and be familiar with the SLSA Interstate Rules and Entry Circular (when available).
4. Upon successful selection, all participants must complete and sign the SLSWA athlete agreement which will be sent to the athletes after selection.
5. At all times, team members must 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 Representative Teams into disrepute.

Crew composition

Crew members shall be the same in qualifying events and as nominated in the Expression of Interest. Should members be substituted post selection, SLSWA reserve the right to reassess selection decisions, e.g., injury, availability.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Athletes will be selected based on their performances at the Selection Carnival to be held at Secret Harbour on Sunday 23 November 2025. Multiple rounds will be used with points accumulated for results in each round.

- 5 races in each division (u19, u23 and open).
- Crews will drop their worst result (eg points accumulated from 4 races).
- Points allocated for each race as follows:
 - 1st – 10 points
 - 2nd – 9 points
 - 3rd – 8 points
 - 4th – 7 points
 - 5th – 6 points
 - 6th – 5 points
 - 7th – 4 points
 - DNF/ DQ – 3 points

A row off will occur if two crews finish on the same points.

This method is the fairest and most transparent and aligns with the selection process used for all SLSWA representative teams.

Should the Selection Carnival be cancelled, the selection panel can consider the following to complete the Team:

- the surf boat competition scheduled for Saturday 6 December 2025
- performances at the 2025 SLSA Australian Championships
- performances at the 2025 SLSWA Open Championships.

Divisions

- Age group racing will be considered as U19 and U23 independently. Crews in these age groups will only race in their age division, e.g., 5 rounds against their age group peers.
- Both Open and Reserve crews will be selected based on results from **Open Division racing**. The top crew will represent WA in the Open Division and the next best crew in the Reserve Division.
- If the first placed crew in any division is unable to attend the Australian Interstate Championship, the second placed crew within that division shall be offered the position. If the second placed crew is also unable to attend, then the position in the team will remain vacant.

SELECTION PANEL

The WA Surf Boat Panel.

COMPETITION

Normal competition rules apply to the selection events as per current SLSA Surf Sports Manual as well as any additional rules imposed by the event organiser.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE WESTERN SUNS SURF BOAT INTERSTATE TEAM

The Western Suns Surf Boat Interstate Team will be announced on **Friday 18 December 2025** via the SLSWA website, SLSWA Circular and the SLSWA Facebook page. Team presentation and uniform pack distribution will be at Surf Boat Carnival (Quinns Mindarie) on **Sunday 11th January 2026**.

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 within the SLSWA Athlete Agreement. If a team manager or athlete breaches the standards as outlined within the SLSWA Athlete Agreement, they will face removal from the team. In this instance, SLSWA shall have the power to replace that team manager or athlete, if necessary, at their discretion.

SLSWA CONTRIBUTION

Each selected member will receive a \$500 incl GST subsidy which will be distributed to the member's club post event. If an athlete doubles up (e.g., a sweep of multiple crews or sweep of one crew and rower in another), they are only eligible for a single subsidy.

Only new team members will be provided with a full State Team Uniform pack. Athletes who have represented the Western Suns representative team 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/crew in the 2025/26 Western Suns Representative Teams.

POWER TO AMEND

SLSWA reserves the right to amend this Circular at any time prior to the selection of the 2025 Western Suns Representative Teams. The amended policy will be distributed to all clubs at the time of any amendment.