

Circular

Title:	2026/27 HIGH-VISIBILITY LYCRA VESTS FOR NIPPERS, YOUTH, OPEN AND MASTERS COMPETITORS
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Department:	Sport & Development
From:	Surf Sports Team Email: surfsports@slswa.com.au
Audience:	Club Administrators, Club Competition Directors/Officers and Competitors
Summary:	This document provides information on the use of high-visibility lycra competition vests during SLSWA water-based competitions.
Action:	1. Clubs are to purchase high-visibility lycra competition vests for their water-based Youth, Open and Masters competitors who compete in SLSWA Surf Sports events. 2. Clubs are required to ensure their Nippers wear the provided Woodside Nippers vests when competing in SLSWA Surf Sports events. 3. Clubs are required to ensure that these vests are worn by their competitors at applicable events.

BACKGROUND

The provision of a safe environment at all SLSWA competitions is paramount. All competitors in water-based surf lifesaving events held by SLSWA in 2026/27 will be required to wear a fluorescent yellow high-visibility lycra competition vest for competitor identification as outlined in the details below.

A. HIGH-VISIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR SLSWA EVENTS – YOUTH, OPEN & MASTERS

As a condition of entry, all Youth, Open and Masters competitors are required to wear the approved fluorescent yellow high-visibility vests that conforms with the requirements of this Circular. Any athletes wearing non-compliant vests at SLSWA events will be requested to change the vest prior to racing. Finishing results and points may be withheld from competitors who do not conform with the requirements of this Circular.

This applies to all water-based individual and team events contained within the:

- Youth/Open Ocean/Surf Boat Carnivals
- R&R events (all participants)
- Youth, Open and Masters Championship events
- WA Selection Carnivals & Surf League

SLSWA water-based events are defined within the current SLSA Surf Sports Manual. Vests must be worn by all competitors and handlers entering the water beyond knee depth. In addition, competitors warming up prior to their events and within 30 minutes of the commencement of the program must wear a competition vest and have suitable water safety provided by their club until the rostered water safety period commences, as well as when cooling down between events.

Handlers

Any member assisting competitors as handlers, with boards or skis, is required to wear either a compliant vest as stated below or a high-visibility yellow or orange velcro safety vest.

Other event-branded high-visibility vests

Vests promoting other events are not permitted to be worn, e.g., Aussies, Coolangatta Gold, Shaw & Partners Series. Competitors may be asked to change, remove or wear their vests inside out.

Surf Boat Competitors

In relation to Surf Boat events, SLSWA has been advised that the ASRL have changed/updated the colour of their competition vest to fluorescent pink. For Surfboat rowers only the following now applies:

- Competitors in WA Surf Boat Championship events must wear the fluorescent yellow vests prescribed in the section above for Youth, Open & Masters competitors
- Competitors in WA Surf Boat Series - may wear either the fluorescent yellow vests prescribed in the section above for Youth, Open & Masters competitors or the fluorescent pink ASRL vests
- Competitors in the ASRL events must follow ASRL requirements

For the following SLSWA events high-visibility vests are not required but if they are worn they must comply with the competitor requirements set out in this Circular:

- IRB Series (given competitors must wear an approved PFD)
- Beach events
- March Past Competition
- First Aid Competition
- Reel persons in Belt races (lines persons are not exempt)
- Pool Rescue events
- Board Riding events (competitors are provided with different coloured judging vests)

For club-based ocean activities involving youth, open and master's members SLSWA highly recommend the wearing of high visibility vests.

B. PURCHASE OF VESTS BY CLUBS FOR YOUTH, OPEN & MASTERS MEMBERS

Clubs may purchase these vests from a supplier of their choice. SLSWA recommend official SLSWA apparel supplier, [Engine Swimwear](#).

As the vest design and colour have not changed from the 2025/26 season, clubs and their competitors may continue to wear these vests, provided they are in good condition and are not faded.

All clubs are encouraged to order their required vests as soon as possible, to ensure they are available for the commencement of the 2026/27 season.

Vest Design

As per the diagram below, vests worn in SLSWA competitions:

- Must be high-visibility yellow.
- Must NOT have any sponsor branding/printing on the FRONT of the vest.

Should clubs wish to print additional logos on their vests, the following allocations have been made:

- Club Logos - Clubs may print their Club logo on the FRONT of their competition vests. They may utilise the FRONT middle position of the vest with an overall size no larger than 300cm², i.e. 20cm x 15cm logo.
- Club Sponsors - Approved sponsors are permitted on the BACK only of vests. A club sponsor logo may utilise the BACK middle position of the vest for the promotion of SLSWA-approved club sponsor logos with an overall size no larger than 225 cm², i.e., a 15cm x 15cm logo.
- Club Name - Clubs may utilise the BACK lower position of the vest for the club's name – **lettering may be no higher than 2cm**, and single line is preferable (no 'SLSC').

Note: if a sleeved lycra vest is used, the colour and branding requirements remain the same; otherwise a compliant vest must be worn over the sleeved vest.

Club Sponsors

If a club would like to have a sponsor printed on their competition vests, as per the specifications outlined above, sponsor approval would need to be sought to avoid potential conflicts with national & state partners. Please contact Marketing & Partnerships Coordinator, Minda Penn (mpenn@slswa.com.au) in writing for sponsor approval.

Printing

Clubs wishing to apply any of the aforementioned logos to their vests must provide print proofs showing logo placements and sizing, prior to printing, to mpenn@slswa.com.au for final approval.



Note: The image above displays the Engine branding. Should vest be purchased from another supplier their branding maybe displayed in a similar way.

C. HIGH-VISIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR SLSWA EVENTS – NIPPERS

Each Woodside Nipper is provided with a free high-visibility vest through the SLSWA Woodside Partnership. This vest is to be worn for all nipper activities including participation in SLSWA Surf Sport competition. Age Managers please ensure your Nippers are wearing the correct vests when they compete. Previous seasons Woodside Nippers vests may also be worn if they are in good condition and not faded.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Should you or any of your members have queries regarding the information contained in this circular please contact the Surf Sports Team on (08) 9207 6666 or surfsports@slswa.com.au



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