



# Surf Life Saving Australia - Circular

Title:	2026 Australian Surf Life Saving Championships Adaptive Surf Sports Events Entry Circular
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Audience:	State Sport Managers, Officials, Competition, State and Clubs Presidents, Secretaries and State and Club Directors of Surf Sports
From:	Sport
Date:	2 December 2025
Summary:	Entry information for the 2026 Australian Surf Life Saving Championships Adaptive Surf Sports Events (for competitors with a disability)

## EVENT DETAILS

Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA) will again be offering Adaptive Surf Sport events for competitors with a disability. The Aussies 2026 Adaptive Surf Sports Events will take place on Saturday, 28 March 2026 at North Kirra Beach on Australia's Gold Coast.

To continue to build out the event, a selected program will be on offer as participation events. Events will feature adaptations and modifications to maximise participation and ensure an accessible and enjoyable opportunity for all competitors.

Whilst numbers continue to build nationally for Adaptive Surf Sports events 2026 will again be a participation event and as such no Championship medals or points will be awarded. There will be Adaptive Surf Sports medals on offer for placegetters.

Date:	Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> March, 2026
Location:	North Kirra Beach
Pre-Event Briefing	8:20am – including team managers, water safety, handlers & carers/supporters
Marshalling:	8:45am
Start:	9:00am

## EVENTS

As per previous years, distances will be set as per the current [Surf Sports Manual](#). All event distances are dependent on conditions and may be further modified as required, based on final entries and competitor needs.

Events and age groups may be combined to ensure viable events based on number of entries per event/age group. Age will be calculated as per the current Surf Sports Manual, i.e. age as at 30 September 2025.

Event	Age Groups
500m Beach Runs	Youth (13 to 14 years) Under 17 (15 to 16 years) Open (17+ years) Masters (30+ years)
Beach Sprints	
Beach Flags	
Wade	
Surf Race	
Board Race	

Note: Athletes with disability may additionally or alternatively enter any other non-adaptive event if they hold the required awards and meet required proficiencies. For 2026 there are only individual events on offer, with team events to be introduced as participation continues to grow.



## ENTRIES

All Adaptive Surf Sport Competitors must submit entries via Liveheats '2026 Australian Championships - Adaptive Surf Sports': <https://liveheats.com/events/446933>

Competitors, parents or team managers can enter individuals directly into Liveheats. Instructions for entries can be found via the following [Liveheats Guide](#).

Price Level	Dates	Competitor Category	Price (incl. GST)*
Early Bird Entry Fee	10:00am Wednesday, 3 December 2025 — Thursday, 29 January 12:00pm AEST 2026	Adaptive Events	\$66.00
		Handler	Free
Normal Entry Fee	Thursday, 29 January 12:01pm AEST - Friday, 13 March 2026	Adaptive Events	\$77.50
		Handler	Free

For any assistance with entries, please reach out to the SLSA Event team at [events@slsa.asn.au](mailto:events@slsa.asn.au)

## ELIGIBILITY

### GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

All competitors must be a current financial member of a Surf Life Saving Australia affiliated surf club. There are no patrol hours requirements for Adaptive Surf Sport Competitors. All competitors must additionally meet the event eligibility requirements below.

### BEACH SPRINT/RUN/FLAGS ELIGIBILITY

There are no prerequisite requirements to enter these events, however the competitor must be capable of completing the required skills/distance with or without their handler's assistance.

### SURF SWIM/WADE/BOARD ELIGIBILITY

Competitors who hold a proficient Surf Rescue Certificate or proficient Bronze Medallion may enter surf events.

Competitors who do not hold a proficient Surf Rescue Certificate or proficient Bronze Medallion may enter surf events however **must have a mandatory water safety handler with a minimum requirement of a proficient SRC or Bronze Medallion (minimum 1:1 ratio)** and must be capable of completing the required skills/distance with or without handler assistance.

## CLASSIFICATION

Classification is the process of grouping competitors based on their diagnosed health condition and impact of impairment on sport participation. It is designed to ensure fair and meaningful competition for athletes with a disability.

To be eligible, the competitor must have a permanent health condition or impairment which causes activity limitation or participation restriction. Including, but not limited to:

- Intellectual impairment
- Autism
- Down syndrome
- Hearing loss/Deafness
- Vision loss/Blindness
- Muscle power impairment (e.g. spinal cord injury, muscular dystrophy, post-polio syndrome and spina bifida)
- Passive range of movement impairment (e.g. arthrogryposis and contracture resulting from chronic joint immobilisation or trauma affecting a joint)
- Limb deficiency/Loss (e.g. amputation, congenital limb deficiency)



- Short stature (e.g. achondroplasia, growth hormone dysfunction, and osteogenesis imperfecta)
- Hypertonia, Ataxia, Athetosis (e.g. cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, stroke, multiple sclerosis)
- Transplant recipient (e.g. solid organ, bone marrow or stem cell recipients)

SLSA seek to make the process of classification eligibility as simple as possible and as such athletes will be required to submit an eligibility application via the link below, however no medical evidence will be required.

You will be asked to provide the following information:

- Diagnosis or medical condition details
- Related impairment type details
- Individual accessibility needs
- Individual support needs
- Other sport specific classification details

Collecting this information will assist SLSA to:

- a. Identify individual accessibility and support needs for implementation during competition.
- b. Identify specific event modifications that may need to be implemented during competition.
- c. Further refine and develop formal categorisation for future years.

**Please complete the [Classification Form](#) prior to Friday, 13 March 2026.** This must be submitted by the due date to allow for event modifications based on categories submitted should it be required.

## LIVEHEATS

At the Aussies 2026 SLSA will be utilising LiveHeats wristbands for marshalling and recording processes across water and beach events.

All competitors who have an existing LiveHeats wristband from any Surf Sport event are to bring these wristbands to Aussies 2026. **If you have already been issued a wristband and require a new one, you will be charged \$10 for a new one.**

**Competitors must wear their own liveheats band in every race.** You can check if it is your wristband by scanning the QR code on the underside of the wristband.

Competitors can view all draws and results via the SLSA page on the LiveHeats website:  
<https://www.liveheats.com/slsa>

Refer to the [LiveHeats Cheat Sheet](#) for all you need to know prior to coming to the event.

## HANDLERS

Any competitor may optionally employ one or more handlers to provide reasonable and necessary assistance during any event.

A handler is mandatory for all competitors entered into water events who do not hold a proficient Surf Rescue Certificate or proficient Bronze Medallion.

A handler must be a current financial and active SLSA member and hold a proficient Surf Rescue Certificate or proficient Bronze Medallion.

**Handler registration is included in the [Classification Form](#) and must be completed prior to Friday 13 March 2026.**

## CARERS/SUPPORT WORKERS

All competitors are encouraged to engage their own carer/support worker to provide additional individual



assistance during competition, if required. If your carer/support worker is required to enter the competition arena they must be registered as a Handler as part of the competition entry process.

## **ACCESSIBILITY AND OTHER SUPPORTS**

### **SENSORY AREA**

SLSA will aim to provide a sensory area in close proximity to the Adaptive Sport arena, available to all competitors and spectators who may require it. Competitors with specific needs related to sensory support, please detail this in your eligibility application form.

### **MOBILITY AIDS**

SLSA will work to ensure competition areas are as accessible as possible and will work to accommodate individuals who use mobility aids. A dedicated mobility aid storage area will be provided in close proximity to the Adaptive event arena. In addition SLSA will provide on beach transport options should they be required (e.g. beach wheelchair, ATV). Competitors with specific needs related to mobility aids and venue access, please detail this in your eligibility application form.

### **ASSISTANCE ANIMALS**

Assistance animals are welcome in all areas of the Aussies 2026 event and SLSA will work to accommodate individuals who are accompanied by an assistance animal. Competitors with specific needs related to assistance animals please detail this in your eligibility application form.

### **AUSLAN INTERPRETERS**

AUSLAN interpreters may be available during Adaptive event briefings and onsite at the Adaptive event arenas if required. Competitors with specific needs related to AUSLAN or visual and auditory communication supports, please detail this in your eligibility application form.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

For further information please contact [events@slsa.asn.au](mailto:events@slsa.asn.au)