

To:	Trainers and assessors Chief training officers	Club captains Area training & assessment officers
From:	Volunteer training	
Date:	24 July 2024	
Action:	Existing award holders - Plan for upskill activities. Chief Training Officers - Consider for course planning.	

New IRB Crew and Driver Courses - Impact Summary

New SLSA IRB Crew and Driver award curriculums will shortly be released by SLSA. This circular provides a high-level overview of the key changes, as well as an impact summary on Trainers/Assessors/Facilitators (TAFs) and existing/future award holders.

Background

The new SLSA IRB Crew and IRB Driver training curriculums and award structures have been under development since early 2022. The reviews have been comprehensively undertaken and include extensive member consultation. The output is the creation and release of new training and assessment materials, a revised delivery model and several changes to content and techniques.

LSV members have been involved in this project through advisory and working groups. This involvement covered key aspects such as training techniques, assessment requirements, course delivery, requalification requirements, rollout, and impact/expectations of existing IRB Crew and IRB Driver award holders.

This member engagement included informal contribution (e.g., member surveys and subject matter expert engagement) as well as more formal engagement, including but not limited to:

- Education Advisory Committee.
- Lifesaving Advisory Committee.
- Powercraft Course Design Working Group.
- Powercraft Manual Review Working Group.
- Powercraft Advisory Group.

The following information represents a high-level summary of key changes.

New Award courses

- The courses are inclusive of revised skills and techniques, not previously taught in Victoria. These will be detailed in the new course resources, which will be released shortly. It will also be covered in more detail with TAFs as part of upskill activities.

- The courses are to be delivered in a blended mode, including mandatory eLearning and face-to-face components.
- The face-to-face component of the IRB Crew course must be a minimum of 20 hours. It must include a minimum of 8 hours hands-on training (50% of which must be in the IRB) for each member. The course should be delivered across a minimum of three days and across varying conditions (including flat water and surf).
- The face-to-face component of the IRB Driver course must be a minimum of 30.5 hours. It must include a minimum of 12 hours hands-on training (50% of which must be in the IRB) for each member. The course should be delivered across a minimum of five days and across varying conditions (including flat water and surf).
- The delivery ratio for IRB Crew and IRB Driver courses is 1:6.
- Consideration must be given to the amount of available equipment, to allow for the minimum in-boat hours to be achieved.
- A minimum of 20 hours of in-boat operational experience is required following completion of the IRB Crew course and prior to enrolment in the IRB Driver course.

Getting started

1. New awards

The below steps out the process for members to enrol into and complete the new award courses.

- **IRB Crew award**

Step 1 - Hold a current SLSA Bronze Medallion as the course pre-requisite

Step 2 - Enrol into the course using the member training portal

Step 3 - Complete course eLearning (incl. theory assessment)

Step 4 - Attend face-to-face course component (incl. 8hrs in-boat & practical assessment)

- **IRB Driver award**

Step 1 - Hold a current SLSA Bronze Medallion and IRB Crew as the course pre-requisites

Step 2 - Complete and document 20 hours of in-boat IRB operations

Step 3 - Enrol into the course using the member-training-portal

Step 4 - Complete course eLearning (incl. theory assessment)

Step 5 - Attend face-to-face course component (incl. 12hrs in-boat & practical assessment)

2. Current award holders

- All current award holders will need to complete/demonstrate theory (eLearning) and practical assessment activities. These activities will be built into the normal skills maintenance process and should be completed ahead of 30 December 2024. These additional activities will extend the duration of skills maintenance activities for this season.

- For future skills maintenance, there will be a requirement for all award holders to demonstrate a minimum number of practical hours in an IRB for the 12-month period ahead of skills maintenance each year.

Existing Trainers, Assessors and Facilitators

- All existing endorsed TAFs will need to complete an eLearning upskill module including:
 - SLSA TAF upskill presentation video
 - SLSA IRBC and IRBD Operations modules
 - SLSA IRBC and IRBD Rescue modules
 - SLSA IRB Crew (skills maintenance) theory questions
 - SLSA IRB Driver (skills maintenance) theory questions

These resources will detail how to train and assess the new award curriculums. The content will be provided in a single eLearning titled *IRB TAF Upskill 2024* and will be customised to Victorian members.

- Following the eLearning, TAFs will undertake a range of practical activities built into the skills maintenance process. A custom Skills Maintenance card titled *IRB TAF Upskill 2024* should be used to capture evidence of completion. All completed cards should be returned to volunteertraining@lsv.com.au for award processing and TAF endorsement.
Important note: Neither *Form 14's* nor the *Skills Maintenance App* should be used to record nor process evidence of the one-off *IRB TAF Upskill 2024*.
- Completion of the new eLearning and practical activities detailed above for TAFs will represent the IRB TAF upskill as well as IRB Crew and Driver skills maintenance for the year.
- LSV will revert to a single IRB endorsement for Trainers, Assessors and Facilitators. Previously there were separate endorsements for IRB Crew and IRB Driver awards.

It is strongly recommended that TAFs coordinate their skills maintenance early in the season and work with fellow IRB TAFs to ensure a shared and consistent understanding of the new curriculums. This will enable the successful delivery of the new award courses and future skills maintenance.

For new TAFs wanting to be endorsed in IRB for the first time, the normal on-boarding process applies. This onboarding should occur in partnership with a TAF who has completed the upskill requirements outlined above.

The new IRB Crew and Driver awards will be a key inclusion at the Pre-season Forum. TAFs and Chief Training Officers are strongly encouraged to attend.

New course, skills maintenance and upskill resources will be made available via the Clubs Gateway and the eLearning via the member-training portal from 1 September 2024.

For additional details on this circular please contact:

Volunteer Training on 03 9676 6980 or email volunteertraining@lsv.com.au