

# School Surf League

## Handbook 2026



Sport

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## Acknowledgement of Country

Life Saving Victoria respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land and waterways in which we swim, explore, play and meet – at LSV head office, the Bunurong people of the South Eastern Kulin Nation and our event location, the Wadawurrung People of the Wathaurong nation. We pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging, and any Aboriginal Elders of other communities who may be involved in the event.

## About the Competition

Life Saving Victoria's (LSV) School Surf League is an exciting summer event that encourages Victorian secondary school students to participate in Surf Life Saving events.

This year we will host one event on **Tuesday 17 February 2026 at Fisherman's Beach, Torquay.**

The School Surf League will provide students with an opportunity to test their endurance, strength, speed and agility in Life Saving sports. The ultimate aim of the School Surf League is to encourage students to join a Life Saving Club, increasing Victorian club patrolling and competition team members, whilst also providing the opportunities for schools to align and develop partnerships with a Life Saving Club.



## Competition Details

### Contact Information

- Event Coordinator: Tim Watson
- Email: [sport@lsv.com.au](mailto:sport@lsv.com.au)
- Phone: (03) 9676 6714

### Eligibility

- The competition is open to all Victorian Secondary Schools
- Each school can enter students from Years 7-12 (including any combination of year levels and boys/girls)
- There is no restriction on the number of students each school can enter

### Locations/Dates

- Tuesday 17 February 2026 – Fishermans Beach, Torquay

### Entry Fees

- The entry fee is \$40.00\* (GST inclusive) per student. (i.e., 4 students will cost 4 x \$40 = \$160)
- Schools will be invoiced a \$200 non-refundable deposit.
- Final invoices will be sent after the carnival.

### Team Entries

- Schools are encouraged to register their interest in competing in School Surf League by completing the form: [Lifesaving education program booking form \(jotform.com\)](https://jotform.com)
- Entries will close on Thursday 15 January 2026.

## **Event Timetable**

**Schools arrive between 8am-8.30am – provide all community membership forms on arrival (if not already provided) to LSV Admin to ensure events can begin on time**

**Team Manager meeting (key contact per school): 8:45am – meet at LSV Admin Area**

Competition Start Time: 9am-9.15am

Finishing Time: 2.00pm (regardless of how many events have been completed)

## **School Responsibilities – Officials/Water Safety**

- Schools are required to provide 1 official for every 15 students (If a school has 12 students, they will need 1 official, 30 students require 2 officials, 31 students requires 3 officials).
- School based officials will be required for basic tasks including Marshalling, Recording, Starting, finish judging, entering results etc.
- Schools are required to provide 1 water safety person for every 15 students (If a school has 10 students, they will need 1 water safety personal, if they have 28 students, they will need 2 water safety personnel, if 31 students, they will need 3 water safety personnel)
- Water Safety personal must have their Bronze Medallion or Community Surf Life Saving Certificate
- It is recommended that the water safety personnel be appropriately attired and wear a suitable wetsuit ensuring their own personal health, safety and comfort for a two-hour period in the water.

## **School Equipment/Competition Requirements**

In order for schools to fulfil their equipment requirements to be able to compete in School Surf League, we encourage all schools to contact a Life Saving Club to see if borrowing of equipment or a partnership can be organised.

If you are having difficulty organising suitable equipment, please contact the LSV sports department on 9676 6714 by Monday 3 February 2025 to make alternative arrangements.

### **Schools' requirements:**

Schools will need to ensure that they have their own competition equipment in accordance with LSV rules, including:

- Every competitor will be required to wear a high visibility pink vest while competing in water events. (LSV will have available)
- Competition caps – each school are required to supply their own competition caps for safety purposes and to identify students, these may be school competition caps, school swimming caps or other caps all the same colour.
- Competition Boards (full size racing mals, nipper boards if no other option available)
- Water safety personal are required to wear an orange rash vest and orange cap (LSV will supply)
- Each school is requested to bring 1 rescue board and/or rescue tubes for water safety personal if available
- Shade shelter/tent
- First Aid kit

### **Competitors requirements:**

- Bathers (school bathers if available)
- High visibility pink vest (LSV can provide)
- Competition Cap (or swimming caps- same colours per school)
- Towel
- School Sports Uniform
- Wide brimmed hat
- SPF 30+ sunscreen
- Sunglasses
- Water bottle
- Plenty of food, snacks and drinks to have between events.
- Wetsuit (optional – Wetsuits will be permitted for every event)
- Jackets/ blankets/ warm clothing and spare towel (in the case of cool weather)

## Event Plan

- Students from Year 7 to Year 12 are able to compete.
- The competition consists of separate Male and Female Events
- Competition age groups will be Year 7&8, Year 9&10 and Year 11&12
- Events will be run as heats only followed by finals (
- Students may only compete in their age groups for individual events, competitors may compete up an age group for team events
- Mixed teams (male and female) are allowed but must compete in the Male Division.
- Schools may combine to form a team for team events. This is in order to encourage participation; however, they will not be awarded points.
- Competitors can only participate in every event once only (i.e., cannot compete in 2 x board races, or 2 surf races)
- Points will be awarded for top 5 placings in each heat
- Overall winners will be awarded medals/prizes
- Events will include the following:

<b>Event</b>	<b>Competing as Individual or Team</b>
Flags	Individual
Beach Sprints	Individual
Beach Relays	4 per team
Swim	Individual
Wade Relay	3 per team
Board Race	Individual
Aqua Cameron Relay	4 per team
Super Relay	4 per team

- The schedule of events will be finalised after the close of entries

- The Event Coordinator and Area Managers/Chief Referee reserve the right to modify or cancel any events and have the right to change the order of events, on the day of competition, if safety, weather conditions, time or other conditions warrant.

## Rules & Regulations

- LSV Sport operates in accordance with the *37<sup>th</sup> Edition (Revised November 2024) Surf Sports Manual* and has done so when determining the rules and regulations of the School Surf League event. An online copy of the manual can be found [HERE](#).

## Summary of Rules & Regulations from the *37<sup>th</sup> Edition (Revised November 2024) Surf Sports Manual*:

### ❖ **Starting of Events (Section 2.19):**

The process of starting events (excluding Beach Flags) will be as follows:

1. 'Competitor's Ready'
  2. 'Set'
  3. A start signal (whistle or starter's gun)
- Start Lines will be established with a designated line, drawn in the sand or with a cord, between two poles and/or with flags
  - Competitors toes shall be on or behind the line but parts of the body (or parts of craft i.e. Boards) may overhang the line

### ❖ **False Starts (Section 2.19)**

- In all events and all age categories one false start per race shall be allowed
- The first competitor who breaks after the first false start has been declared shall be disqualified except in beach Flags where that competitor shall be eliminated
- If one competitor false starts, others may follow. Any competitor who follows will not be deemed to have false started
  - **Note:** If in the opinion of the Starter/Area Manager/Chief Referee, the start was not fair because of a technical defect or other matter not caused by competitors, the Starter must recall all competitors and recommence the starting process

#### ❖ **Completion of Courses (Section 2.20)**

- Competitors/teams must compete fairly and adhere to the courses and rules as detailed in this Competition Manual and as directed by the relevant Officials conducting the specific events
- If a competitor/team misses a turning buoy or turning flag they may, without penalty, alter their direction and return to correct the course error and continue to finish the event
- If a competitor/team misses a turning buoy or turning flag but fails to return and correct the error, the competitor/team will be disqualified from the event
- In events where it is required to cross a line to finish, should a competitor or team incorrectly cross the finish line as described in Section 2.22, they may recover and correctly re-cross the finish line to have their place recorded
- Where a competitor or team fails to correctly complete the prescribed course, compete fairly or incorrectly cross the finish line, they may be penalised or disqualified by the Area Manager/Chief Referee

#### ❖ **Change-Over (Tagging in relay events) (Section 2.21)**

- In all relay events (excluding the Beach Relay where a hose piece is required), changeovers shall be effected by a competitor 'tagging' the next competitor
- Tagging is defined as the incoming competitor, after completing the course, using either of their hands to visibly touch the outgoing competitor on either the hand or other part of the body
- The outgoing competitor shall have toes on or behind the line, but parts of the body/craft may overhang the line

#### ❖ **Finish of Events (Section 2.22)**

- All events shall be judged, and placing's decided by designated finish Judges.
- Where decals indicating allocated finish positions are issued to competitors/teams, it is the responsibility of the competitor to return the decal to the Recording Official to have their school/team and finish place recorded
- In events where competitors run to and cross a finish line, the finish of the race is judged when the competitor crosses the line on their feet. The finish is judged on the chest of the competitor when crossing the finish line **Note:** Falling across the finish line is not deemed to have finished the event

### 1. **First Aid**

- Schools are required to bring a first aid kit to be used for students with minor injuries such as cuts, abrasions, sand in eyes and minor jellyfish stings, etc. **NOTE:** Please ensure to have several ice packs available.
- Life Saving Victoria will handle first aid for all major first aid incidents.

## 2. Sun Protection

- The Cancer Council Australia and LSV recommends Victorians take five steps to protect against sun damage when the Sun Smart UV Alert indicates the UV Index is at 3 or above:
  - ✓ Slip on some sun-protective clothing - that covers as much skin as possible
  - ✓ Slop on SPF30+ sunscreen - make sure it is broad spectrum and water resistant. Put it on 20 minutes before you go outdoors and every two hours afterwards. Sunscreen should never be used to extend the time you spend in the sun
  - ✓ Slap on a hat - that protects your face, head, neck and ears
  - ✓ Seek shade - LSV will provide a shade shelter where available
  - ✓ Slide on some sunglasses - make sure they meet Australian Standards

## Location Map

