

To: Presidents Trainers, Assessors and Facilitators
Chief Trainers

From: Tom Reed, Lead Coordinator – Member Training
Emergency Management Capability and Response

Date: 29 July 2026

Action: Read and distribute to all trainers and relevant members

Skills Maintenance 2026-27 Season

Life Saving Victoria is pleased to announce that skills maintenance for the coming season is now live for clubs and members use. Please see a detailed breakdown of the changes for both the practical and theory requirements for the 2026-27 season below.

For the 2026/27 season the following Skills Maintenance is in place for the awards listed below and should be completed annually unless stated otherwise:

Lifesaving Award	eLearning	Practical Activities	Licence Check
Surf Rescue Certificate	Yes	Yes	No
Bronze Medallion	Yes	Yes	No
Radio Operators Certificate*	No	Yes	No
Silver Medallion Aquatic Rescue	No	Yes	No
Silver Medallion Patrol Captain**	Yes	No	No
Gold Medallion	No	Yes	No
Advanced Resuscitation Techniques	Yes	Yes	No
Side-by-Side Vehicle Operator	No	No	Yes
Inflatable Rescue Boat Crew	No	Yes	No
Silver Medallion Inflatable Rescue Boat Driver	No	Yes	Yes
Rescue Watercraft Operator	Yes	Yes	Yes
**First Aid (On Patrols)	Yes	Yes	No

**There is no standalone Skills Maintenance for Radio Operator Certificate this season. Radio skills maintenance can be conducted alongside Bronze/SRC Lifesaving CPR practical.*

***Due to the focus on First Aid Scenarios in Bronze/SRC for this season's Skills Maintenance, patrolling members who only hold a First Aid award can complete practical and eLearning Skills Maintenance this season, however this will not renew the base First Aid award.*

Skills Maintenance app

The Skills Maintenance app has now been updated for the start of the season, including practical checklists and eLearning. This season there are several changes, summarised below, to make the Skills Maintenance process easier for clubs. We advise all personnel to read the requirements carefully.

Theory & eLearning Requirements

Please see the outline below of the eLearning Requirements. Many of these are videos outlining updates or key changes.

Lifesaving Award	e-Learning
Bronze Medallion & Surf Rescue Certificate:	2 x video update outlining changes to Skills Maintenance requirements and any changes to SLS procedures of ANZCOR Guidelines, as well as a short video on learnings from last season's Lifesaving CPR roll out. <u>Bronze Medallion must also complete the following components:</u> 3 x videos outlining First Aid Instructions for three specific scenarios: Spinal Management, Orthopaedic Injuries and Cardiac Problems.
Silver Medallion Patrol Captain	1 x Branching Scenario eLearning package. This eLearning package is focused on leadership and decision making, it involves the learner making decisions by answering questions in an online module that goes through an emergency response scenario.
Advanced Resuscitation Techniques (ART)	1 x video on learnings from last season's Lifesaving CPR rollout and leadership within ART operators in Lifesaving CPR scenarios.
Non-Bronze/SRC Holders (without a First Aid Cert.	With the addition of First Aid Scenarios this year, patrolling members who do not hold a Bronze or SRC but do hold First Aid can also complete this eLearning under a tile called First Aiders on Patrol.

Practical Requirements

Please see below changes and requirements for the practical delivery of Skills Maintenance for each award.

Lifesaving Award	Practical Requirements
Bronze Medallion & Surf Rescue Certificate:	• Run-Swim-Rescue: Candidates complete a 100m run, a 100m swim (in 3:30 minutes or less) out to a patient in the water. Once they reach the patient the timed component will finish and the candidate must complete a tube rescue of a conscious patient into the shore. Swim fins are optional for the swim leg. • Board Rescue: Demonstrate a minimum of one board rescue of a patient (conscious) in accordance with SLSA operating procedures in the current SLSA Public Safety and Aquatic Rescue training manual. The rescue must include the following: ▪ Navigate the surf zone. ▪ Securing the patient ▪ Returning to shore with the patient ▪ Calling for assistance. • Lifesaving CPR demonstration: including 1, 2 and team CPR scenarios on a patient demonstrating Primary Assessment (DRSAB-) on a live patient and then DRSABCD on a mannikin for 1, 2 and team Lifesaving CPR. Team CPR scenario must demonstrate proper AED placement, BVM use and ART coaching. Candidates must also demonstrate simulated handover to emergency services using IMIST AMBO. • Signals: Must demonstrate knowledge of at least 4 signals. <u>Bronze Medallion must also complete the following components:</u> • First Aid Skills: Participate in First Aid Scenarios likely to be encountered on patrol, ties in with the eLearning. Scenarios for 26/27 will focus on: ○ Spinal Management (wet) ○ Orthopaedic Injuries (soft tissue and fractures) ○ Cardiac conditions
Silver Medallion Aquatic Rescue	• Must hold current Bronze Medallion • Must completed a timed swim of 400m in 8 minutes or less in a pool of no less than 25m.

Advanced Resuscitation Techniques (ART)	• Lifesaving CPR: See Bronze & SRC Lifesaving CPR practical. • Advanced Resuscitation: Team CPR scenario including primary assessment (DRSABCD) – to include resuscitation methods using a resuscitation mask or face shield, AED, oropharyngeal airways and oxygen supplement (oxygen cylinder connected to bag-valve-mask resuscitator on an unconscious patient). • Oropharyngeal Airways: Demonstrate the correct measurement and insertion of an oropharyngeal (OP) airway and an understanding of when and why an OP airway is introduced. • Bag-Valve-Mask Resuscitator: Correct setup, check and use of bag valve mask resuscitator.
IRB Crew and Silver Medallion IRB Driver	• IRBC must demonstrate the below for the practical: ○ Conscious/Assisted patient pick up ○ Bounce method patient pick up • IRBD must demonstrate the below for the practical: ○ 2 o'clock wave negotiation ○ Conscious/Assisted patient pick up ○ Bounce method patient pick up • Both Crew and Driver will be asked to demonstrate an understanding of patient prioritising in mass rescue scenario. • Both Crew and Driver will be asked to demonstrate awareness of the new Powercraft Code of Conduct through a discussion with the TAF as part of their Skills Maintenance. Drivers must also present a current Marine Licence. • IRB Drivers must also present their valid marine licence.
Side by Side Vehicle Operator	• <i>Please note that for Side-by-Side Vehicle Operator skills maintenance, members must provide evidence of a current driver's licence. This can be checked and authorised by any trainer involved in the Skills Maintenance on the day and does not need to be covered off by an SSV Facilitator.</i>
Radio Operator	• <i>Please note the Radio Operator Certificate does not have any specific Skills Maintenance practical but can be demonstrated through the Lifesaving CPR practical component of Bronze/SRC.</i>

Gold Medallion	• Timed Swim: Candidates must complete a timed swim of 800m in 14 minutes or less in a swimming pool no less than 25m in length. This must be completed before any of the other components can be completed. • Mission Test (time): Candidates must complete a timed mission comprised of 400m swim, 800m run, 400m board paddle and 800m run in a time of 25 minutes or less. • Rescue: Demonstrate a board and a tube rescue. For the board rescue the patient should be 200m out to sea and for the tube 100m out. Fins should be used for the tube rescue. • Complex Rescue Scenario: Demonstrate a complex rescue scenario as set by the delegated assessor according to the SLISA operating procedures in the current SLISA Public Safety and Aquatic Rescue training manual. The rescue must comprise the following events for assessment: ○ Negotiating the surf zone ○ Securing the patient/s ○ Returning to shore without losing the patient/s ○ Calling for assistance ○ Performing emergency care as required by the patient/s.
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For further detail regarding changes to Skills Maintenance or for tips on how to complete processing through the app, please access the Skills Maintenance Guide linked [HERE](#). We have also included in the guide scenarios that trainers may wish to use to engage their members in skill demonstrations outside of what has been set above. These are optional for clubs to use.

For those wishing to complete Skills Maintenance for RWC, please note information regarding this process will be follow shortly.

For additional details on this circular please contact:

Member Training on 9676 6980 or email membertraining@lsv.com.au