



# CIRCULAR

SUBJECT	ISSUE DATE	NUMBER
SLSS 2023 Awards of Excellence Nomination and Criteria V2	Monday 13 March 2023	32/22-23 V2

To	Clubs, Presidents, Secretaries, Captains, Chief Training Officers, Surf Sports Coordinators, Junior Development Coordinators, Members Services, Interested Parties
From	Director Member Services
CC	BOM, LSOC, EC, SSC, JDC, MSC

**AMENDMENT:** A separate jot form nomination link has been created for the purposes of Surf Life Saving Sydney (SLSS) Support Operations service groups, for those members of that group to nominate their peers. The award categories are: Services Team of the Year, ORB Member of the Year, RWC Member of the Year, Support Operations Member of the Year, UAV Member of the Year and Duty Officer of the Year

Clubs can also still nominate its members for any support operations award categories via the clubs link.

**Process:** There are two (2) jot form links in this Circular V2.

Clubs Nominations - <https://form.jotform.com/230587598605873>

Support Ops Nominations - <https://form.jotform.com/230660563683863>

**Summary** Outline of the award categories, selection criteria and application processes for the Surf Life Saving Sydney (SLSS) Branch Awards of Excellence 2023.

**Objective** To recognise outstanding achievements and contributions from members and clubs in the 2022/23 season.

**Key Strategy Ref. No.** 2. Develop and Support Our People

**Action** Clubs are invited to submit ONE nomination per category to SLSS by **11.59 pm Thursday 20 April 2023**

The Awards of Excellence recognises outstanding achievements and contributions across all aspects of Surf Life Saving. This year's awards presentation, which celebrates the accomplishments of members and clubs in the 2022/22 season, will take place on Saturday 20 May 2023 at Randwick Racecourse with further details to follow.

**The Sydney Branch Awards Briefing session for all Sydney Clubs will be held via Teams on 14 March 2023 at 7.00pm. (Refer Circular 34). We hope that all Clubs will send a representative, so everyone is up to date with the Awards. Please email [admin@surflifesavingsydney.com.au](mailto:admin@surflifesavingsydney.com.au) to register.**

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**Changes have been made for the 2022/23 awards as advised by SLSNSW (pending the issue of their Circular)**

Removal of Branch of the Year, removal of Support Operations Team of the Year at State level, Sydney Branch will be keeping the award Category Support Operations Team of the Year as a Branch recognised award this season. An Inclusion Award may be added for this year, pending Surf Life Saving Australia & NSW notification. Additional information on this award category will be advised when known.

Clubs should consider collectively their nominees ensuring they meet the criteria of the specific award the Club wishes to nominate them for. **It is important to note only one application will be accepted per club for each award category.**

**Nomination form Link for Clubs:** [SLSS 2023 AOE Clubs Nomination Form](#)

**Support Operations Nomination form:** [SLSS 2023 AOE Support Operations Nomination Form](#)

Any queries relating to this Circular can be directed to Branch Office or **Doug Hawkins** [director\\_memberservices@surflifesavingsydney.com.au](mailto:director_memberservices@surflifesavingsydney.com.au)

## Section 1 - General Conditions

### General notes

- All nominees must be SLSA financial members (or affiliated organisations). Nominations should focus on activities during the 2022/23 Surf Life Saving season, from 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023.
- Where ages are mentioned, this refers to the members age as at 30 September in the 2022/23 season.
- Winners may be called upon to act as ambassadors of Surf Life Saving, both within the organisation and to external audiences.
- Surf Life Saving NSW State team events or teams will not be considered for nomination for these awards.
- Paid employees at any level may apply for the awards listed. However, paid service will only be counted if applying for the Lifeguard of the Year or Coach of the Year awards. All other awards recognise voluntary contributions only. Unless otherwise specified, these awards are in recognition of individual achievement tea submissions will not be considered

### Guidelines for submission

- Applicants are required to complete and submit an online nomination form by **11.59pm Thursday 20 April 2023** for all award categories.
- Nominations will not be accepted via email or post. Applicants to contact Branch Office asap if they experience issues with the JotForm link.
- Applicants must address the criteria for their nominated award (found in Section 2 of this Circular).
- Nominations are to include a digital profile image of the nominee (for individual awards) or logo (for group/team awards) via the online nomination form. Please ensure all nominee photographs are from the shoulders up and are of high resolution.

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## Selection Process

- Finalists for the 'Surf Lifesaver of the Year', 'Volunteer of the Year', Youth Surf Lifesaver of the Year' and Youth Volunteer of the Year' will be required to participate in an online or face to face interview following the close of nominations. Details of which will be available following the close of nominations.
- The selection panel will determine a winner from both a review of the application and the interview.
- Finalists from the remaining awards will be determined by a volunteer selection panel and will involve a review of applications.

## SLS Sydney Winners

- Winners of Awards listed in the 'SLSS Awards' list will be nominated for the SLSNSW Awards of Excellence. All SLSS categories are aligned with SLSNSW/SLSA selection criteria, and as such winners are not expected to re-do applications following the SLSNSW Awards of Excellence.

**Next pages Section 2 Summary of Awards and Nomination Process**

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## Section 2 – Summary of Awards & Nomination Process

Award	Recognising	Nomination Process	Questions/ Selection Criteria	When showcasing achievements, consider	SLS SYD Award	SLS NSW Award	SLSA Award
<b>Club and Community/Program Awards</b>					Where applicable: Branch Winners progress to SLSNSW AOE and State Winners to SLSA AOE		
<b>Club of the Year</b>	An outstanding SLS affiliated club that is committed to improving the experience of its members, providing a safer environment for the community, and improving club operations.	ALL Sydney Branch Clubs are invited to nominate by completing the online nomination form, attaching your club's strategic and/or operational plan, and answering the five SLSNSW questions ( <u>each answer no more than 400 words</u> ) and one SLSS question ( <u>answer no more than 500 words</u> ).	<p><u>SLSNSW Questions:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tell us about the club.</li> <li>2. What has been achieved?</li> <li>3. Why and how it has made a difference, and to whom?</li> <li>4. What are your plans for future development and continuous improvement?</li> <li>5. What is the ONE lesson that your club can teach and share with all other SLS clubs both here in Australia and internationally?</li> </ol> <p><u>SLS Sydney Question:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. During Season 2022-2023, which had major external impacts, how did your Club purposefully engage with your membership to ensure members had a sense of belonging and engagement and what was the outcome?</li> </ol> <p><u>Other criteria:</u></p> <p>Key statistics from season 2022-2023*</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How does your club support the SLS 2025 Strategic Plan?</li> <li>• What new initiatives, programs or events did your club implement last season that furthered your strategic objectives? How did you identify the need for this?</li> <li>• How does your club deliver a range of sustainability /improvement measures across areas of governance, leadership, development, community engagement (or community support initiatives), and delivery of lifesaving services?</li> <li>• What, if any, challenges the club had to overcome to achieve success?</li> <li>• How does your club management team model positive and supportive attitudes, behaviours and actions?</li> <li>• You may wish to attach any photographs, reference letters or media coverage to your nomination.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> If you Club has been a successful Club of the Year at a Branch, State or National level in the past five (5) years note this on your nomination</p>	•	•	•
<p>* Key statistics from season 2022-2023 will be reviewed by the assessment panel in their evaluation of the nomination. These statistics are gathered by Branch office and will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scoring in patrol audits</li> <li>• Gear inspection outcomes</li> <li>• Award and proficiency numbers proportional to membership</li> <li>• Sporting achievement proportional to membership</li> <li>• Retention of membership</li> <li>• General administration compliance and attendance at Branch Council meetings</li> <li>• General participation with officials, assessors, facilitators and age managers proportional to membership</li> </ul> <p>A general healthy club culture and a focused management/governance philosophy will also be considered.</p>							

## Section 2 – Summary of Awards & Nomination Process

Award	Recognising	Nomination Process	Questions/ Selection Criteria	When showcasing achievements, consider	SLS SYD Award	SLS NSW Award	SLSA Award
<b>Club and Community/Program Awards continued</b>					Where applicable: Branch Winners progress to SLSNSW AOE and State Winners to SLSA AOE		
<b>Innovation Award**</b>	A well-researched concept, piece of equipment, program or event which is/has been implemented to improve any facet of SLS.	Complete the online nomination form and answer the three questions ( <u>each answer no more than 400 words</u> ).	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tell us about the member/individual or program/innovation being nominated.</li> <li>2. What has been achieved?</li> <li>3. What impact has this had, and for whom?</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What was the motivation or research which drove the program/innovation?</li> <li>• What were the aims and objectives?</li> <li>• What did it look like (location, duration, resources required etc.)?</li> <li>• How was it evaluated to ensure it achieved its aims and objectives?</li> <li>• Where there any challenges which needed to be overcome to achieve success?</li> <li>• You may wish to attach photographs, include links to any promotional material created or media coverage received.</li> </ul>	•SAFE 365 Innovation of the Year	•	•
<b>Community Education Program of the Year</b>	A non-commercial activity or program that is targeted to non-members who are an identified at-risk group within the community. The purpose should contribute significantly to the organisation's missions of saving lives, creating great Australians and building better communities.				•	•	•
<b>Administrator of the Year</b>	An Administrator who consistently goes the extra mile to make the lives of other members easier, or to make the services and programs delivered by the club run smoother.				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What relevant positions, roles, or responsibilities do they hold?</li> <li>• Have they done something in response to an identified need or problem?</li> <li>• Have they done something new or different to achieve results?</li> <li>• Have they inspired others to think or to do things differently?</li> <li>• Have they had to overcome any challenges to make a difference or achieve success?</li> <li>• Do they model positive and supportive attitudes, behaviours and actions?</li> </ul>	•	•
**The innovation may have been developed in conjunction with an external body/sponsor but must be owned by a member or group of members of an affiliated SLS Club.							

## Section 2 – Summary of Awards & Nomination Process

Award	Recognising	Nomination Process	Questions/ Selection Criteria	When showcasing achievements, consider.	SLS SYD Award	SLS NSW Award	SLSA Award
<b>Lifesaving and Volunteer Awards</b>					Where applicable Branch Winners progress to SLSNSW AOE, and State Winners to SLSA AOE		
<b>Surf Lifesaver of the Year</b>	An active patrolling member who has made an outstanding contribution to the delivery and development of surf lifesaving frontline services.	Complete the online nomination form and answer the three questions ( <u>each answer no more than 400 words</u> ).	1. Tell us about the member/individual being nominated.  2. What has been achieved?  3. What impact has this had, and for whom?  For Surf Lifesaver, Youth Surf Lifesaver and U15 Lifesaver of the Year awards, nominations require patrol hours to be uploaded for the, 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23 season (extracted from SurfGuard).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What relevant positions, roles, or responsibilities do they hold?</li> <li>• Have they done something in response to an identified need or problem?</li> <li>• Have they done something new or different to achieve results?</li> <li>• Have they inspired others to think or to do things differently?</li> <li>• Have they had to overcome any challenges to make a difference or achieve success?</li> <li>• Do they model positive and supportive attitudes, behaviours and actions?</li> </ul>	•	•	•
<b>Youth Surf Lifesaver of the Year</b>	An active patrolling member (between the ages of 15–21 as at 30 September in the 22/23 season) who has made an outstanding contribution to the delivery and development of surf lifesaving frontline services.				• <b>Betty's Burgers Youth Surf Lifesaver of the Year</b>	•	•
<b>U15 Surf Lifesaver of the Year</b>	This award recognises and rewards patrolling members 13–15 years who have made an outstanding contribution to the delivery and development of surf lifesaving activities. It is aimed at members who represent the culture and core values of surf lifesaving.				• <b>Betty's Burgers U15 Surf Lifesaver of the Year</b>		
<b>Volunteer of the Year**</b>	An impressive member who has made a difference through their volunteering efforts.				•	•	•
<b>Youth Volunteer of the Year</b>	An impressive member (between the ages of 15-21, this refers to the members age as at 30 September in the 22/23 season) who has made a difference through their volunteering efforts.				•	•	
<b>Patrol Captain of the Year</b>	A Patrol Captain who is passionate about improving the service their patrol offers to the community, or the experience it offers to members.				•	•	
<b>Patrol of the Year</b>	An exemplary Patrol that is a shining example of what a patrol should do (the service it provides), and how it should do it (the behaviour and attitude of its members).				•		
**Applications that focus on significant achievements in one particular area may not be considered if this area is also covered by other awards (e.g. Lifesaver, Coach, Official, Trainer and Assessor of the Year).							

## Section 2 – Summary of Awards & Nomination Process

Award	Recognising	Nomination Process	Questions/ Selection Criteria	When showcasing achievements, consider.	SLS SYD Award	SLS NSW Award	SLSA Award
<b>Education Awards</b>					Where applicable Branch Winners progress to SLSNSW AOE, and State Winners to SLSA AOE		
<b>Assessor of the Year</b>	An endorsed Assessor who is passionate about building the skills of others, consistently delivers a positive and supportive assessment experience, and who encourages other members to engage in training or assessment.	Complete the online nomination form and answer the three questions ( <u>each answer no more than 400 words</u> ).	1. Tell us about the member/individual being nominated.  2. What has been achieved?  3. What impact has this had, and for whom?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What relevant positions, roles, or responsibilities do they hold?</li> <li>• Have they done something in response to an identified need or problem?</li> <li>• Have they done something new or different to achieve results?</li> <li>• Have they inspired others to think or to do things differently?</li> <li>• Have they had to overcome any challenges to make a difference or achieve success?</li> <li>• Do they model positive and supportive attitudes, behaviours and actions?</li> </ul>	•	•	•
<b>Trainer of the Year</b>	An endorsed Trainer who is passionate about building the skills of others, consistently delivers a positive learning experience, and who encourages other members to engage in the delivery of training.				•	•	•
<b>Facilitator of the Year</b>	A Facilitator who encourages members to engage in training or assessing, is passionate about building the skills of others, and consistently delivers a positive learning experience.				•	•	•

## Section 2 – Summary of Awards & Nomination Process

Award	Recognising	Nomination Process	Questions/ Selection Criteria	When showcasing achievements, consider.	SLS SYD Award	SLS NSW Award	SLSA Award
<b>Support Operations Awards</b>					Where applicable Branch Winners progress to SLSNSW AOE, and State Winners to SLSA AOE		
<b>Services Team of the Year</b>	An outstanding team who have made a positive impact in Surf Life Saving or the community through their volunteer services.	Complete the online nomination form and answer the three questions ( <u>each answer no more than 400 words</u> ).	1. Tell us about the member/individual or team being nominated.  2. What has been achieved?  3. What impact has this had, and for whom?  For ORB, RWC, UAV, Duty Officer and Support Operations Member of the year awards, any further supporting evidence that may assist nominees for consideration + a photo of nominee in uniform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What was the motivation or research which drove the team?</li> <li>• What were the aims and objectives?</li> <li>• What did it look like (location, duration, resources required etc.)?</li> <li>• How was it evaluated to ensure it achieved its aims and objectives?</li> <li>• Were there any challenges which needed to be overcome to achieve success?</li> </ul>	•		
<b>ORB Member of the Year</b>	Patrol hours performed; completed all rostered patrols; external training or buddy system training; out of hours participation to call outs			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What relevant positions, roles, or responsibilities do they hold?</li> <li>• Have they done something in response to an identified need or problem?</li> </ul>	•		
<b>RWC Member of the Year</b>	Patrol hours performed; completed all rostered patrols; external training or buddy system training; out of hours participation to call outs.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have they done something new or different to achieve results?</li> </ul>	•		
<b>Support Operations Member of the Year</b>	A member involved in Support Operations (Duty Officer, Rescue Water Craft, Offshore Rescue Boat, UAV) who has made a difference through volunteering efforts in support operations.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have they inspired others to think or to do things differently?</li> <li>• Have they had to overcome any challenges to make a difference or achieve success?</li> </ul>	•	•	
<b>UAV Member of the Year</b>	A UAV Pilot or Operator who has shown an outstanding commitment to the development of themselves and the UAV program, completing regular patrols, participating in training events/exercises and contributing to the development and innovation of the operations within Sydney Branch.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do they model positive and supportive attitudes, behaviours and actions?</li> </ul>	•		
<b>Duty Officer of the Year</b>	A Duty Officer or Rescue Coordinator who has performed above and beyond the required standard and commitment required, representing SLS Sydney in a professional and well-regarded capacity at emergency incidents, training events/exercises and/or Emergency Operations Centre.				•		



## Section 2 – Summary of Awards & Nomination Process

Award	Recognising	Nomination Process	Questions/ Selection Criteria	When showcasing achievements, consider.		SLS SYD Award	SLS NSW Award	SLSA Award
<b>Surf Sports Awards</b>						Where applicable Branch Winners progress to SLSNSW AOE, and State Winners to SLSA AOE		
<b>Coach of the Year</b>	An accredited coach who has made a significant contribution to athlete performance at a state, national and/or international level, to the development of athletes in SLS activities outside of surf sports, and to the educational development of other coaches in SLS.	Complete the online nomination form and answer the three questions ( <u>each answer no more than 400 words</u> ).	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tell us about the member/individual being nominated.</li> <li>2. What has been achieved?</li> <li>3. What impact has this had, and for whom?</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What relevant positions, roles, or responsibilities do they hold?</li> <li>• Have they done something in response to an identified need or problem?</li> <li>• Have they done something new or different to achieve results?</li> <li>• Have they inspired others to think or to do things differently?</li> <li>• Have they had to overcome any challenges to make a difference or achieve success?</li> <li>• Do they model positive and supportive attitudes, behaviours and actions?</li> </ul>	<p><i>When showcasing the <b>Coach of the Year</b> nominee you may want to consider the questions below to boost the quality of your nomination.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Club, Branch, State and National coaching positions.</li> <li>• Results achieved due to the coach's influence for athletes coached for 90% of the season.</li> <li>• The capability of athletes and the coach's contribution to their development, both in and outside of surf sports.</li> <li>• Personal development undertaken to improve coaching performance e.g., Participated in courses, conferences etc.</li> <li>• How the nominee has contributed to Coach Education e.g., Presented at clinics, conferences, courses.</li> <li>• Additional coaching information regarding the nominee.</li> </ul>	•	•	•
<b>Official of the Year</b>	An accredited surf sports official who has made a significant contribution to both officiating at a state, national and/or international level, and to the educational development of other officials in SLS.				<p><i>When showcasing the <b>Official of the Year</b> nominee you may want to consider the questions below to boost the quality of your nomination.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How long the member has been officiating and what level of accreditation do they hold.</li> <li>• What events has the official officiated at over the past 12 months, what roles did they undertake.</li> <li>• Input into Competition - Provide examples of Officials interaction with Branch and/or State Referees, how has the official been involved in the training of new officials, how the official mentored members to assist them in gaining their award, how the official has been involved in assessing candidates during the past year.</li> <li>• Training &amp; Education - What qualities does the official bring to surf sports events to facilitate competition? How does the official believe we can encourage club members to become and stay accredited officials, Is the official satisfied with the training program used for new and developing officials? How can they be improved?</li> </ul>	•	•	•

## Section 2 – Summary of Awards & Nomination Process

Award	Recognising	Nomination Process	Questions/ Selection Criteria	When showcasing achievements, consider.	SLS SYD Award	SLS NSW Award	SLSA Award
<b>Surf Sports Awards continued</b>					Where applicable Branch Winners progress to SLSNSW AOE, and State Winners to SLSA AOE		
<b>Athlete of the Year***</b>	An athlete aged 15 or older who has achieved sporting excellence in Open Aged Competition.	Complete the online nomination form and answer the two questions ( <u>each answer no more than 400 words</u> ).	<p>1. How have they achieved sporting excellence? What were their results at major competitions (e.g. state, national, international)? Have they been part of a representative team and if so, how did they contribute to the success of that team?</p> <p>2. How are they a positive role model, a good sportsman and/or an ambassador for Surf Life Saving? How do they contribute to broader lifesaving activities and engage with other members (including juniors)?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What relevant positions, roles, or responsibilities do they hold?</li> <li>• Have they done something in response to an identified need or problem?</li> <li>• Have they done something new or different to achieve results?</li> <li>• Have they inspired others to think or to do things differently?</li> <li>• Have they had to overcome any challenges to make a difference or achieve success?</li> <li>• Do they model positive and supportive attitudes, behaviours and actions?</li> </ul>	•	•	•
<b>Youth Athlete of the Year***</b>	An athlete aged between 15-18 (this refers to the members age as at 30 September in the 22/23 season) who has achieved sporting excellence in Youth and/or Open Aged Competition.				•	•	•
<b>Surf Sports Team of the Year</b>	An exemplary Surf Sports Team that has achieved notable success. Teams may represent any Surf Life Saving sporting discipline as defined in the Surf Sports Manual.				•	•	<i>NB this may be a SLSA award this season – awaiting confirmation</i>
<b>Masters Athlete of the Year</b>	An athlete over the age of 30 who has achieved sporting excellence.				•	•	
<b>U15 Athlete of the Year</b>	The purpose of this award is to recognise and reward young athletes 13 – 15 years who have demonstrated sporting excellence as well as contributed to the area of surf sports within SLS.				•		
<p>***A youth aged competitor (age 15 to 18 years as at 30 September in a season) may be nominated for both the Athlete of the Year and Youth Athlete of the Year. However, only results achieved in Open Age Events and Open Age Team representation are considered for Athlete of the Year Award.</p>							

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<b>Junior Development Awards</b>					Where applicable Branch Winners progress to SLSNSW AOE, and State Winners to SLSA AOE		
<b>JD Team of the Year</b>	The outstanding achievements made by a team in respect to surf lifesaving performances at any level (club/branch/state). Teams may include (but are not limited to) surf sports teams, lifesaving teams, support services teams, developments teams, management as well as education and training teams.	Complete the online nomination form and answer the three questions ( <u>each answer no more than 400 words</u> ).	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tell us about the member/individual or team being nominated.</li> <li>2. What has been achieved?</li> <li>3. What impact has this had, and for whom?</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What relevant positions, roles, or responsibilities do they hold?</li> <li>• Have they done something in response to an identified need or problem?</li> <li>• Have they done something new or different to achieve results?</li> <li>• Have they inspired others to think or to do things differently?</li> <li>• Have they had to overcome any challenges to make a difference or achieve success?</li> <li>• Do they model positive and supportive attitudes, behaviours and actions?</li> </ul>	•		
<b>JD Age Manager of the Year</b>	Age Managers who have demonstrated excellence as well as significant contribution to the area of Junior Development within SLS.				•		
<b>JD Athlete of the Year (9-10 yrs) MALE</b>	Young athletes (male and female) who have demonstrated sporting excellence within their respective age category as well as contributed to the area of surf sports within SLS.				•		
<b>JD Athlete of the Year (9-10 yrs) FEMALE</b>					•		
<b>JD Athlete of the Year (11-12 yrs) MALE</b>					•		
<b>JD Athlete of the Year (11-12 yrs) FEMALE</b>					•		
<b>JD Athlete of the Year (13-14 yrs) MALE</b>					•		
<b>JD Athlete of the Year (13-14 yrs) FEMALE</b>		•					