

## 2023/2024 SLS ILLAWARRA AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

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**Attention:** Club Executive, Members

**Date:** 12 April 2024

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<b>Summary</b>	<p>This circular outlines the information related to the Surf Life Saving Illawarra (SLSI) Awards of Excellence recognising the 2023/2024 season.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Section 1 – General Conditions</li><li>• Section 2 – Summary of Awards</li><li>• Section 3 – Nomination Process</li></ul>
<b>Objective</b>	<p>To recognise outstanding achievements and contributions from members and clubs in the 2023/2024 season.</p>
<b>Action</b>	<p>Club Executives are to endorse and submit nominations to SLSI Branch by 9am Monday 20<sup>th</sup> of May 2024.</p>

We all know them – members who care, give up their time and want to make a difference in the organisation.

The Surf Life Saving Illawarra Awards of Excellence celebrate the incredible people in our organisation and the impact they have on their clubs, its members and their local communities.

***The SLSI Awards of Excellence function will be held on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at the City Beach Function Centre in Wollongong.***

Award recipients (except SLS Illawarra awards only – see below) then progress onto the SLSNSW Awards of Excellence function that will be held on Saturday 24 August 2024 at Sofitel Sydney Wentworth, 61/101 Phillip St, Sydney, NSW.

### Changes for the 2023/2024 Awards

1. The Surf Sports Awards have revised questions and are outlined on page 7 and 8.
2. The Support Operations Member of the Year will not be nominated by clubs, but by SLSI branch and will be selected by a Branch panel.

## SECTION 1 – GENERAL CONDITIONS

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### General notes

- Clubs are to complete the online nomination form [2023/2024 SLS Illawarra Awards of Excellence Nomination form](#)<sup>[001]</sup>
- SLSI will accept one award from each club, per category to ensure the process is streamlined and transparent. Exception to this is Surf Sports awards where Clubs may nominate more than one member/team per category. Surf Sports nominees must compete for an Illawarra club.
- All nominees must be SLSA financial members and have correct awards/proficiencies for the awards they are nominated for. Nominations should focus on activities during the 2023/24 Surf Life Saving season, from 1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024.
- Where ages are mentioned, this refers to the members age as at 30 September in the 2023/24 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 Illawarra 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 Coach of the Year awards. All other awards recognise voluntary contributions only. Unless otherwise specified, these awards are in recognition of individual achievements, team submissions will not be considered.

#### Guidelines for submission

- Applicants are required to complete and submit the online nomination form **by 9am, Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024**. All nominations will only be accepted by online submission. [2023/2024 SLS Illawarra Awards of Excellence Nomination form](#)
- **Applicants must address the criteria for their nominated award** (*found in Section 3 of 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 high resolution. Please wear a club shirt or patrol uniform, no 'selfies'.**

#### Selection Process

- Finalists for the Surf Lifesaving Illawarra 'Surf Lifesaver of the Year', 'Volunteer of the Year', 'Youth Surf Lifesaver of the Year' and 'Youth Volunteer of the Year' **may be invited** to participate in an interview with SLSI panels.
- 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 invited to participate in an online interview, scheduled for the weekend of July 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, details of which will be available following the close of nominations. The SLSNSW selection panels 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 Illawarra Award Winners

- Winners of SLS Illawarra Awards listed in Group 1 and Group 2 will be nominated for the SLSNSW Awards of Excellence. All SLSI categories are aligned with SLSNSW selection criteria, and as such there should be no need for winners to re-do applications following the SLSI Awards of Excellence.

The SLSNSW Awards of Excellence function will be held on Saturday 24 August 2024 at Sofitel Sydney Wentworth, 61/101 Phillip St, Sydney, NSW. The SLSA Awards of Excellence will be held on Saturday 9 November 2024, location to be confirmed.

## SECTION 2 – SUMMARY OF AWARDS

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### Group 1 Awards

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*SLSI winners of these awards will progress onto the SLSNSW Awards of Excellence and if successful will then progress onto to SLS Australia Awards of Excellence.*

#### **Surf Lifesaver of the Year**

An active patrolling member who has made an outstanding contribution to the delivery and development of surf lifesaving frontline services.

#### **Youth Surf Lifesaver of the Year**

An active patrolling member (between the ages of 15-21, this refers to the members age as at 30 September in the 2023/24 season) who has made an outstanding contribution to the delivery and development of surf lifesaving frontline services.

#### **Volunteer of the Year\***

An impressive member who has made a difference through their volunteering efforts.

#### **Club of the Year**

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.

#### **Athlete of the Year\*\***

An athlete aged 15 or older who has achieved sporting excellence in Open Aged Competition.

#### **Youth Athlete of the Year\*\***

An athlete aged between 15-18 (this refers to the members age as at 30 September in the 2023/24 season) who has achieved sporting excellence in Youth and/or Open Aged Competition.

#### **Surf Sport Team of the Year**

The 37th edition of Surf Sport Manual defines a team as an event that is contested by more than one competitor from the same club or lifesaving unit who may either complete an event or race together as a discrete unit (e.g., boat race, IRB race, surf teams, R&R etc.) or separately (e.g., relay events, board rescue etc.).

#### **Coach of the Year**

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.

#### **Official of the Year**

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.

#### **Trainer of the Year**

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.

#### **Assessor of the Year**

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.

#### **Community Education Program of the Year**

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 organisations mission of saving lives, creating great Australians and building better communities.

### **Innovation Award\*\*\***

A well-researched concept, piece of equipment, program or event which is/has been implemented to improve any facet of Surf Life Saving.

*\*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).*

*\*\*A youth aged competitor (i.e. aged 15 to 18 years as at 30 September in the 2023/24 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.*

*\*\*\* 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.*

## **Group 2 Awards –**

***SLSI winners of these awards will progress onto the SLSNSW Awards of Excellence***

### **Youth Volunteer of the Year**

An impressive member (between the ages of 15-21, this refers to the members age as at 30<sup>th</sup> September in the 2022/23 season) who has made a difference through their volunteering efforts.

### **Patrol Captain of the Year**

A Patrol Captain who is passionate about improving the service their patrol offers to the community, or the experience it offers to members.

### **Support Operations Member of the Year**

A Member involved in Support Operations (Duty Officer, Rescue Water Craft, Jet Rescue Boat, Offshore Rescue Boat, UAV) who has made a difference through their volunteering efforts in support operations.

### **Administrator of the Year**

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.

### **Masters Athlete of the Year**

An athlete over the age of 30 who has achieved sporting excellence.

### **Facilitator of the Year**

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.

### **Services Team of the Year**

An outstanding team who have made a positive impact in Surf Life Saving or the community through their volunteer services.

## **Group 3 Awards**

***SLS Illawarra Awards only (do not progress to SLSNSW Awards of Excellence)***

### **Patrolling Club of the Year**

Clubs will be considered for Patrolling Club of the Year based on the following;

- Clubs contribution to branch patrolling needs, i.e.: Duty Officers, Support Operations, Patrol Audit Team, and provision of patrol resources to other clubs.
- Adherence to Life Saving Agreements
- Adherence to SLSNSW Compliance checklist (e.g. annual gear inspection)

Clubs are to provide online submission with support information (maximum 400 words) deemed reflective of their efforts in the above areas and other patrolling capabilities or initiatives.

### **Most Improved Club of the Year**

An improving SLS-affiliated club that has demonstrated improvement across areas of surf lifesaving, surf sports, education, member services and administration.

### **Most Improved Patrolling Club of the Year**

An improving SLS Affiliated club that has demonstrated improvements in life saving and patrolling activities year-on-year.

### **Junior Athlete of the Year**

An athlete up to the age of 14 (refers to the members age as at 30<sup>th</sup> September in the 2023/24 season) who has achieved sporting excellence in Junior Competition.

### **Junior Activity Volunteer of the Year**

An impressive member who has made a difference in our Junior Activities program throughout the season.

### **Surf Sports Club of the Year – this award will not be awarded this year due to the cancellation of water events at 2024 Branch Championships**

SLSI BlueScopeWIN Community Branch Championships determine this award (no need to nominate).

## **SECTION 3 – NOMINATION PROCESS**

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### **Volunteer and Program/Innovation Awards**

#### **SLSA Awards**

- Surf Lifesaver of the Year
- Youth Surf Lifesaver of the Year
- Volunteer of the Year
- Assessor of the Year
- Trainer of the Year
- Community Education Program of the Year
- Innovation Award

- Club of the Year

#### **SLS NSW Awards**

- Youth Volunteer of the Year
- Patrol Captain of the Year
- Support Operations Member of the Year
- Administrator of the Year
- Facilitator of the Year
- Services Team of the Year

#### **SLSI Awards**

- Junior Activity Volunteer of the Year
- Most Improved Club of the Year
- Patrolling Club of the Year
- Most Improved Patrolling Club of the Year

To nominate for the above awards, complete the online nomination form [2023/24 SLS Illawarra Awards of Excellence Nomination form](#) which includes answering the three questions below (with each answer no more than 400 words).

1. Tell us about the member/individual or program/innovation being nominated.
2. What has been achieved?
3. What impact has this had, and for whom?

*For Surf Lifesaver and Youth Surf Lifesaver of the Year awards, nominations require patrol hours to be uploaded for the 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 season (extracted from Surfguard).*

When showcasing members' achievements, you may want to consider the questions below to

boost the quality of your nomination...

- What relevant positions, roles, or responsibilities do they hold?
- Have they done something in response to an identified need or problem?
- Have they done something new or different to achieve results?
- Have they inspired others to think or to do things differently?
- Have they had to overcome any challenges to make a difference or achieve success?
- Do they model positive and supportive attitudes, behaviours and actions?

***For Program and Innovation awards:***

When showcasing the achievements of programs or innovations, you may want to consider the questions below to boost the quality of your nomination...

- What was the motivation or research which drove the program/innovation?
- What were the aims and objectives?
- What did it look like (location, duration, resources required etc.)?
- How was it evaluated to ensure it achieved its aims and objectives?
- Were there any challenges which needed to be overcome to achieve success?
- You may wish to attach photographs, include links to any promotional material created or media coverage received.

**Club of the Year**

To nominate for the Club of the Year award, complete [the online nomination form](#), attaching your club's strategic and/or operational plan, and answer the five questions below (with each answer no more than 400 words).

- Tell us about the club.
- What has been achieved?
- Why and how it has made a difference, and to whom?
- What are your plans for future development and continuous improvement?
- What is the ONE lesson that your club can teach and share with all other SLS clubs both here in Australia and internationally?

When showcasing club achievements, you may want to consider the questions below to boost the quality of your nomination...

- How does your club support the SLS 2025 Strategic Plan?
- 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?
- How does your club deliver a range of sustainability and improvement measures across areas of governance, leadership, development, community engagement (or community support initiatives), and delivery of lifesaving services?
- What, if any, challenges did the club had to overcome to achieve success?
- How does your club management team model positive and supportive attitudes, behaviours and actions?
- You may wish to attach any photographs, reference letters or media coverage to your nomination.

*Note: If your club has been a successful Club of the Year at a Branch, State or National level in the past five (5) years, please note this on your nomination.*

**Most Improved Club of the Year**

An improving SLS-affiliated club that has demonstrated improvement across areas of surf lifesaving, surf sports, education, member services and administration. It is improving the member experience within the

club, working with the community and developing/working towards a strategic plan to align with the Surf Life Saving Illawarra, Surf Life Saving NSW and Surf Life Saving Australia Strategic Plans.

NOTE: This is intended for clubs that have not won the Club of the Year Award in the past 3 seasons.

To nominate for the Most Improved Club of the Year award, [complete the online nomination form](#), attaching your club's draft strategic and/or draft operational plan, and your answer to the five questions below (with each answer no more than 400 words).

1. Tell us about the club
2. What improvements have been made
3. Why and how it has made a difference, and to whom?
4. What are your next steps that will take the club to the next level and be a potential Club of the Year?
5. What is the ONE program/strategy that has resulted in improvements in any area of the club you can share with other clubs locally, in Australia and internationally.

When showcasing club achievements, you may want to consider the questions below to boost the quality of your nomination...

- Improvement in patrolling numbers
- Increase in memberships
- Demonstration of member recruitment activities.
- Increase in new awards
- Demonstration self-sufficiency for award training, etc.
- Improvements in governance, board stability, compliance
- Strength of nippers
- Increase in Surf Sports participation
- Club funding/finances
- Challenges that have been overcome to drive the improvements
- You may wish to attach any photographs, reference letters or media coverage to your nomination.

### **Patrolling Club of the Year**

When showcasing the **Patrolling Club of the Year** nomination, you are required to any the following:

1. Club to provide submission (400 words) with support information deemed reflective of their club's efforts in patrolling
2. Clubs will be considered for Patrolling Club of the Year based on the following:
  - club's contribution to branch patrolling needs
  - adherence to Life Saving Agreements
  - adherence to SLS NSW Compliance checklist (e.g. annual gear inspection)
  - other patrolling capabilities or initiatives.

Clubs are to complete the [online nomination form](#) with supporting information (maximum 400 words) reflective of the club's patrolling commitment.

### **Most Improved Patrolling Club of the Year**

An improving SLS Affiliated club that has demonstrated improvements in life saving and patrolling activities year-on-year.

NOTE: This is intended for clubs that have not won the Patrolling Club of the Year Award in the past 3 seasons.

Clubs will be considered for Most Improved Patrolling Club based on the following,

- Improved adherence to Life Saving Agreements
- Improved adherence to SLSNSW Compliance checklist (eg. annual gear inspection)
- Improvement in number of patrolling members

- Resolution of patrolling issues ie. not requiring branch/other clubs support to meet patrolling obligations.
- Improvement and renewal of patrol equipment
- Increase in new awards and higher awards
- Strong ratio of rescues v. preventative actions

Clubs are to complete the online nomination form with supporting information (maximum 400 words) reflective of the club's improvements in patrolling.

## Sport Awards

### SLSA Awards

- Athlete of the Year
- Youth Athlete of the Year
- Surf Sports Team of the Year
- Official of the Year
- Coach of the Year

### SLSNSW Awards

- Masters Athlete of the Year

### SLSI Awards

- Junior Athlete of the Year
- Surf Sports Club of the Year

### Athlete of the Year

How to nominate for this award:

Complete the [online nomination form](#) and answer the questions listed below (with each answer no more than 400 words).

- Has the athlete competed in any representative teams (including international competition) during the 23/24 season? If so, please list the team and how they contributed to the success of the team?
- List the competition results achieved by the athlete in the 23/24 season at championship carnivals or major surf sports events?
- In the 23/24 season how is the athlete a positive role model, a good sportsperson and/or an ambassador for Surf Life Saving? How do they contribute to broader lifesaving activities and engage with other members (including juniors or mentoring)?
- Does the athlete hold any coaching and/or officiating qualifications?

### Youth Athlete of the Year

How to nominate for the above award:

Complete the [online nomination form](#) and answer the questions listed below (with each answer no more than 400 words).

- List the competition results achieved by the Youth Athlete in the 23/24 season at championship carnivals or major surf sports events?
- Has the Youth Athlete competed in any representative teams (including international competition, if relevant) during the 23/24 season? If so, please list the team and how they contributed to the success of the team?
- In the 23/24 season how is the youth athlete a positive role model, a good sportsperson and/or an ambassador for Surf Life Saving? Do they contribute to broader lifesaving activities and engage with other members (including juniors, mentoring, coaching or officiating)?



### **Surf Sport Team of the Year**

How to nominate for the above award:

Complete the [online nomination form](#) and answer the questions listed below (with each answer no more than 400 words).

- List the competition results achieved by the Team in the 23/24 season at championship carnivals or major surf sports events?
- Has the Team competed as a Branch/State or National representative team during the 23/24 season? If so, please list the events?
- In the 23/24 season how has the Team been positive role models and shown good sportsmanship and/or been good ambassadors for Surf Life Saving? Do they contribute to broader lifesaving activities and engage with other members (including juniors)?

### **Official of the Year**

How to nominate for the above award:

Complete the [online nomination form](#) and answer the questions listed below (with each answer no more than 400 words).

- What officiating qualification does the member currently hold, Core, Technical or Senior Official?
- List the member's officiating roles they have fulfilled during the season at Club, Branch, State, National and International level (where applicable).
- Describe the Officials achievements during the 23/24 season, including examples, areas of achievement may be in mentoring, training, documentation and process, new programs, solving problems etc.
- Please provide examples of how the official adheres to and is a role model of the values of SLSA, Surf Sports and the SLSA Match Fixing Policy.
- List any training or development the official has undertaken this season to improve themselves and their impact.

### **Coach of the Year**

How to nominate for the above award:

Complete the [online nomination form](#) and answer the questions listed below (with each answer no more than 400 words).

- What coaching qualification does the member currently hold, Foundation, Development or Performance Coach?
- What coaching roles has the member fulfilled during the 23/24 season at Club, Branch (where applicable), State, National and International Level?
- List the competition results attributed to the coach, where this member was the primary coach for the athlete and/or team, in the 23/24 season.
- Has the coach been involved in any mentoring and development of other coaches, creating of supporting documentation and/or programs. Please provide examples of where the coach has shown a positive and supportive attitude, behaviour and actions (including who it has impacted and how) in the 23/24 season?
- Has the coach undertaken any personal development to improve themselves as a coach in the 23/24 season?

### **Masters Athlete of the Year**

To nominate for the above award, complete the [online nomination form](#) which includes answering the two questions below (with each answer no more than 400 words).

- Has the athlete competed in any representative teams (including international competition) during the 23/24 season? If so, please list the team and how they contributed to the success of the team?

- List the competition results achieved by the athlete in the 23/24 season at championship carnivals or major surf sports events?
- In the 23/24 season how is the athlete a positive role model, a good sportsperson and/or an ambassador for Surf Life Saving? How do they contribute to broader lifesaving activities and engage with other members (including juniors or mentoring)?
- Does the athlete hold any coaching and/or officiating qualifications?

### **Junior Athlete of the Year**

To nominate for the above award, complete the [online nomination form](#) which includes answering the two questions below (with each answer no more than 400 words).

- List the competition results achieved by the Youth Athlete in the 23/24 season at championship carnivals or major surf sports events?
- Has the Youth Athlete competed in any representative teams (including international competition, if relevant) during the 23/24 season? If so, please list the team and how they contributed to the success of the team?
- In the 23/24 season how is the youth athlete a positive role model, a good sportsperson and/or an ambassador for Surf Life Saving? Do they contribute to broader lifesaving activities and engage with other members (including juniors, mentoring, coaching or officiating)?

### **Surf Sports Club of the Year- As 2024 Branch Championships water events were cancelled this year, this award will not be presented this season.**

SLSI BlueScopeWIN Community Branch Championships determine this award (no need to nominate).

- **End of Document** -