POLICY: 007	
Board endorsed:	October 2026
Next review Date:	July 2027

COMPETITOR POLICY

1. PURPOSE

(a) This policy outlines the commitments required of Members should they wish to compete for Palm Beach Surf Life Saving Club (PBQSLSC or 'the Club') and the contributions the Club will make in return for Members meeting these commitments.

(b) This policy ensures that each Member is aware of both their Patrolling and/ or Fundraising obligations on behalf of the Club to be able to compete at carnivals and championship events.

2. AUDIENCE

(a) All staff and Members of the Palm Beach Surf Life Saving Club (PBQSLSC). It is a Members' responsibility to ensure that they understand and meet the obligations of this Policy.

3. DETAIL

(a) A Competitive Member (the 'competitor') is defined in this document as an active member who holds their competitive rights at PBQSLSC (the 'Club') and participates in carnivals associated with Surf Life Saving as a representative of the Club.

(b) Members must demonstrate and reflect our Club Values at all times: Respect, Unity, Inclusive and Involvement.

4. ELIGIBILITY TO COMPETE

(a) Eligibility to compete in carnivals is in accordance with the current edition of the https://sls.com.au/surf-sports/?highlight=sports%20manual

(b) The following conditions apply should a member wish to compete for the Club.

i. Financial
   - A. Members must be current and financially active members of the Club.

ii. Skills Evaluation
   - A. Junior members (U8s to 14s) must have completed the applicable Junior Preliminary Skills Evaluation (see Appendix 1) and Competition Skills Evaluation (Surf/Open Water).
   - B. Members from U15 up to and including Master's must be the holder of the appropriate SLSA award (e.g., Surf Rescue Certificate or Bronze Medallion) and be proficient at the time of close of entries.

iii. Competency
   - A. Members must demonstrate competency and capability to compete in their nominated event(s).

iv. Nipper Family Participation
   - A. Junior carnivals require a substantial volunteer workforce and can only be delivered with involvement from Nipper families. To be eligible to compete in a carnival, PBQSLSC Nippers must have at least one immediate family member as a qualified Age Manager or Committee member; or be (or able to supply) an Official, Water Safety or IRB personnel for the carnival.
   - B. Exemption to Nipper Family Participation:
     - i. The club does recognise at times there may be situations where Nipper Family Participation requirements may not be met.
     - ii. Members may apply for an exemption to the Nipper Family Participation requirement by submitting a written request to the Junior Activities Officer and Carnival Coordinator at least 7 days prior to club carnival entry closing date outlining your reasons.

iii. The Junior Activities Officer and Carnival Coordinator will submit to the Board of Management the application and recommendation for endorsement.
iv. The Board of Management will determine each application on an individual basis.
v. The Board of Management's decision is final.
vi. The Junior Activities Officer and/or Carnival Coordinator will communicate the decision of the Board of Management to the Member.

5. UNDERTAKE FUNDRAISING

(a) All Competitors must participate in a minimum of two Club sanctioned fundraising activities for the Club annually. Fundraising helps our Club remain financially viable and provide more value in terms of subsidies and quality equipment and coaching for our Members and Competitors.
(b) Fundraising Activities include, but are not limited to selling raffle tickets, participating in the Club's major fundraising raffle and supporting other Club-endorsed fundraising events. Members are encouraged to propose additional fundraising activities.
(c) Attendance at fundraising activities will be recorded on sign on sheets and records of this will be maintained by the Club Administrator.
(d) Where a family has two or more competitors, a minimum of three Club sanctioned fundraising activities are required per family.
(e) If competitors do not complete the relevant fundraising activities, or wish to opt out, a payment of $150 per competitor is required to be paid prior to nominating for Queensland State Championships or Australian Surf Life Saving Championships, in addition to any other fees outlined within this policy.
(f) The Board may exercise discretion regarding the Fundraising requirement in exceptional circumstances.

6. MINIMUM PATROL HOURS

(a) To compete in Championship events, Active members must complete at least 25 hours of personal patrols in the calendar year before the competition.
    i. SLSA Policy 5.04 - Competition Eligibility outlines the requirements of completing minimum Patrol hours and requirements to be able to compete https://hub.sls.com.au/members/document_library/1/media/934
    ii. SLSA Policy 5.04 Guidelines outlines in further detail of requirements to be able to compete https://hub.sls.com.au/members/document_library/1/media/1798
    iii. Competitors who have not completed the required patrol hours at the Club, but wish to compete for the Club, will be considered on a case-by-case basis, subject to a written request to the Board explaining why minimum hours couldn't be met. Requests must be submitted in writing to Club Secretary each year. Subject to Board approval, exemption approval from SLSQ Point Danger Branch (PDB) may then be sought. Final approval is at the discretion of PDBSLSQ.

7. OTHER SERVICE HOURS

(a) Subject to Club endorsement, Members may also be eligible to record hours through 'other service hours' (option B in the SLSA Competitor Eligibility policy – see the Service Hours input - Other Positions circular in the SLSQ App for full details).
(b) Other service hours can contribute up to 15 of a Members' 25 hours (for Active and Under 15 members) or 7 hours (for Life Members, Long Service or Reserve Active members) however the Club prefers Members to complete minimum hours through rostered patrols.
(c) Other Service Hours can be recorded through undertaking the following duties for the Club:
    i. Trainer (education delivery)
    ii. Assessor
    iii. Age Manager
    iv. Volunteer Coach
    v. Official
    vi. Committee Member
(d) These hours must be recorded by the Club into Surfguard. It is up to the Member to ensure hours are logged and submitted to the Club office for processing.

8. ENTRY NOMINATION

(a) Members must nominate to participate in a Carnival and specific events via the Club Carnival Nomination form sent to members electronically (entry form) by the due date. Verbal or email nominations will not be accepted.

9. PAYMENT OF FEES

(a) Members must be financial for the season as a Nipper or Competing Patroller, and for Championship events, have paid the relevant levy.

10. CLUB ATTIRE

(a) As per the club Uniform policy, Members must wear approved PBQSLSC swim attire and uniforms when competing for the Club.

11. TRANSPORTATION TO CARNIVALS AND CHAMPIONSHIPS

(a) Competitors are to arrange and pay for their own personal and equipment transport to and from any competition/carnival, as well as any accommodation and meals associated with the event.
(b) Where the Club arranges transport of equipment, the Club will cover reasonable and pre-approved costs associated with the transport.
(c) This may include fuel, tolls, parking, vehicle or trailer hire and freight charges.
(d) For interstate competitions, the Club may provide equipment transport subject to availability, cost and prior approval. The Club will not be responsible for additional or unexpected costs unless approved in advance.

12. COMPETITOR CARNIVAL ENTRY FEES

(a) The Club will cover competitor carnival entry fees <u>for carnivals and competitions that have been endorsed and approved by the Board.</u>
(b) Additional costs may apply during the season for members entering non-sanctioned carnivals as well as for Championship events.
(c) Championship Levy contributions will be decided once entry fee details are known and communicated to members in due course.

13. LATE ENTRY FEES AND NON-ATTENDANCE/WITHDRAWAL AND LIVE HEAT BANDS

(a) **Late entry fees**
   i. If an entry nomination is submitted after a carnival closing date, Clubs are charged Late Entry fees.
   ii. Once entries have closed with the coordinating carnival Branch or organiser, no late entries are able to be accepted or processed.

(b) **Member non-attendance or late withdrawal**
   i. If a competitor does not attend a carnival/competition paid for by the Club, or withdraws without an acceptable reason, the member is responsible to repay the full carnival entry fees to the Club.
   ii. Fees should be repaid within three weeks.

(c) Live Heat Bands
   i. When initially joining the club (nippers) will be provided with one band with the member purchasing replacement bands at their own cost.

14. CLUB ENDORSED EVENTS

(a) <u>The list of endorsed events will be determined by the Board each season and may be reviewed or amended as required.</u>
(b) The following carnivals are endorsed by the Club and entry fees will be covered by the Club*:
   i. QLD Enduro
   ii. Coolangatta Gold
   iii. Point Danger Branch U8 to 10s Team Carnival
   iv. Point Danger Branch U11-U13 Carnival
   v. Point Danger Branch Youth Championships (U11-14s)
   vi. Point Danger Branch U8 to 10s Championships
   vii. Qld Beach Series x 3
   viii. Oceans 38 Series x 3
   ix. Gold Coast Youth Titles (U11-15s)

x. Little Mates (U8-10s)

(c) The Board and Surf Sports Officer may approve additional events at their discretion and subject to interest.

(d) Members are encouraged to participate in other SLSQ/SLSA events. Entry fees, travel and any associated costs for these events are the responsibility of the competitor.

15. CHAMPIONSHIP LEVY – COMPETING AT QUEENSLAND STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS AND AUSTRALIAN SURF LIFE SAVING CHAMPIONSHIPS (AUSSIES)

(a) Competitors must pay a Championship Levy to be able to compete at either Queensland State (States) and/or Australian National (Aussies) Championships.

(b) This levy must be paid before the competition. Refer to club process on payment.

(c) The maximum Championship Levy will be confirmed and released by 31st December annually.

(d) To be eligible to compete at Aussies, Youth Competitive Members are required to first compete at States, Exemption to this is to be in writing to the Surf Sports Officer then to the board

a. Members may apply for an exemption to the Board of Management by submitting a written request Surf Sports Officer at least 7 days prior to club carnival entry closing date outlining your reasons
b. The Surf Sports Officer will submit to the Board of Management the application and recommendation for endorsement.
c. The Board of Management will determine each application on an individual basis.
d. The Board of Management's decision is final.
e. The Surf Sports Officer will communicate the decision of the Board of Management to the Member.

(e) U14 members must attend at least 50% of Saturday nipper sessions to be eligible for club endorsement for Queensland State Championships and Australian Surf Life Saving Championships (Aussies).

(f) Late withdrawals or non-attendance will result in repayment of the full amount of the carnival entry fee by the member to the Club.

(g) Championship Levy fees

a. All Championship levy fees will be communicated to members once the fees have been set by the event coordinator

Note: PBQSLSC reserves the right to determine or alter these fees should entry fees or costs increase during a season.

16. WORLD LIFE SAVING CHAMPIONSHIPS

(a) Individual members are responsible for paying their own entry fees and costs for this event. If members compete in States and Aussies for the relevant season, at the Board's discretion, consideration may be given to reimbursement of the early bird entry fee.

17. TEAM SELECTION

(a) To represent the Club and be available for team selection, members must have:

i. Fulfilled patrol requirements;
ii. Actively participated in the required fundraising activities (refer 'Eligibility to compete' above and *Fundraising & Sponsorship Policy*);
iii. Adhere to the SLSA code of conduct;
iv. Adhere to Club Values.

(b) The responsibility for selecting teams lies with the relevant Age Manager and Coach. Competitors will be informed before the competition/carnival on the week of the event. In the event of any dispute, the issue will be referred to the Team Manager whose decision will be final.

(c) Team selections will be determined on the following areas:

v. Attendance and results at Club Championship rounds (nippers);
vi. Attendance, attitude and performance at training;
vii. Attendance, attitude and performance at Saturday nippers;
viii. Previous carnival results.

(d) 'Ageing up' will be considered by the Age Manager, Surf Sports Officer and Coach but not at the expense of another competitor who will miss out in representing the club within their own age group.

(e) If a competitor is in a team event and is no longer able to attend the carnival or compete in the team event, they are to inform the Surf Sports Officer, Team Manager and Age Manager as soon as possible.
(f) Given the nature of the Board Rescue event, the Age Manager and Coach will work in conjunction with competitors' preferences before the final selection of pairs.
(g) Any required changes to teams on the day of the event will be made by the relevant Age Manager and Coach and all affected parties will be informed as soon as possible.
(h) Any entries made personally by a Member, may be cancelled at the Club's discretion.

18. CLUB TRAINING SESSIONS

(a) For club training sessions, all members are expected to:
    i. Follow the SLSA Hi-Vis policy at all times;
    ii. Arrive a minimum of 10 minutes before training and prepare and complete endorsed attendance sheet;
    iii. Actively participate, whilst enjoying the session and respecting the direction of the Coaches;
    iv. Report all damage to Club equipment to coaches immediately
    v. In the case of damage to Club equipment caused by reckless behaviour or misuse of the equipment, the Member may be liable for the associated costs.

19. OBLIGATIONS OF THE CLUB

(a) In return for Members meeting their fundraising and patrolling obligations, plus payment of all relevant fees, the Club will provide to Competitors (within financial means):
    i. Access to coaching and training facilities for all disciplines agreed to and supported by the board for the season.
    ii. Access to store the necessary equipment at the Club (for a nominal fee) where possible for the duration of the season. Refer to the 'Equipment Storage Policy'.
    iii. Service, maintenance and repairs to shared club equipment, ~~including IRBs~~ within the approved budget.
    iv. Further, in the case repairs exceed the budget, individual and /or team members may be required to contribute to the costs for repairs to Club equipment, at the discretion of the Surf Sports Officer and the Board of Management.
    v. Payment of competition entry fees for Club endorsed carnivals as listed above or at the discretion of the board.
    vi. Costs of transporting surf craft on Club trailers and IRB's via pre-approval from the board to endorsed carnivals within QLD and Nth NSW up to and including Far North Coach Branch clubs.
    vii. Costs for Interstate events and State representative carnivals will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the PBQSLSC Board. The PBQSLSC Board will make the necessary decision upon receiving a formal proposal with a minimum of two quotes attached for consideration.
(b) Each season, Championship competitors will be provided with a Championship representative pack. Additional Club approved apparel and merchandise may be purchased by Members and Supporters.