



AWARDS of EXCELLENCE 2021/22

The Awards of Excellence recognise outstanding achievements and contributions across all aspects of Surf Life Saving.

This year's awards, which celebrate the accomplishments of members and clubs in the 2021/22 season, will be presented at the **Surf Life Saving Mid North Coast Newcastle Permanent Awards of Excellence function on Saturday 18 June 2022, at venue TBC.**

Online nominations must be in by 5pm FRIDAY 27 May 2022 for consideration and Branch winners to be forwarded to SLSNSW for consideration for the state award.

Following are the award categories, selection criteria, application questions and award nomination forms based on the 2021/22 SLSNSW Awards of Excellence circular 3706.

Any queries relating to this memo should be directed to Gary Hawkins Director of Member Services at memberservices@slsmnc.com.au

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1. Clubs/applicants are required to **complete and submit the [SLSMNC online nomination form](#)** by **5pm FRIDAY 27 MAY 2022**.
2. Online nominations **MUST** have relevant club endorsement. No nominations will be accepted via email or post.
3. SLSMNC will accept one award from each Club, per category to ensure the process is streamlined and transparent. It is recommended that you take time to click on the online nomination link and have a look before preparing your nominations.
4. **Applications must address the criteria for the nominated award** (found following)
5. 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.
6. SLSMNC Awards recognise voluntary contributions only.
7. All nominations will be considered within the guidelines of the criteria.
8. The selection panel reserves the right to cull a nomination or to not present an award if nominations are deemed inadequate.

No late nominations will be accepted and no correspondence will be entered into.

Selection Process at Branch

Upon receipt of completed endorsed nominations, the selection panel will consider all nominations (within the guidelines) and determine one branch winner for each award category.

Branch winners will be forwarded to SLSNSW for consideration of the state award.

This year's state awards will be presented at the SLSNSW Awards of Excellence to be held at Luna Park, Milsons Point Sydney on Saturday 27 August 2022.

▫ All nominees must be SLSA financial members (or affiliated organisations). Nominations should focus on activities during the 2021/22 Surf Life Saving season, from 1st July 2021 – 30th June 2022.

▫ Where ages are mentioned, this refers to the members age as at 30 September in the 2021/22 season.

SUMMARY of AWARDS and AWARD CRITERIA

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 21/22 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.

**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).*

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.

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.

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 21/22 season) who has achieved sporting excellence in Youth and/or Open Aged Competition.

***A youth aged competitor (i.e. aged 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.*

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 organisation's 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.

**** 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.*

Youth Volunteer of the Year - An impressive member (between the ages of 15-21 this refers to the members age as at 30 September in the 21/22 season) who has made a difference through their volunteering efforts.

Support Operations Member of the Year – A member involved in Support Operations (Duty Officer, RWC, 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.

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.

Masters Athlete of the Year - An athlete over the age of 30 who has achieved sporting excellence.

Surf Sports Team of the Year - An exemplary Surf Sports Team that has achieved notable success. Teams may represent any SLS sporting discipline as defined in the Surf Sports Manual.

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.

Recognition Award (recognised at the SLSMNC Awards of Excellence only)

Rookie of the Year - This award recognises and awards a member who has made an outstanding contribution(s) to surf lifesaving at a club or branch level by a member who **is new to surf lifesaving** this season.

NOMINATION PROCESS

Volunteer and Program/Innovation Awards

- Surf Lifesaver of the Year
- Youth Surf Lifesaver of the Year
- Volunteer of the Year
- Coach of the Year
- Official of the Year
- Trainer of the Year
- Assessor of the Year
- Community Education Program of the Year
- Innovation Award
- Youth Volunteer of the Year
- Support Operations Member of the Year
- Administrator of the Year
- Services Team of the Year
- Facilitator of the Year

To nominate for the above awards, complete the [online nomination form](#) and answer 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 2019/20, 2020/21, and 2021/22 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?

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.

When showcasing the **Official of the Year** nominations, you may want to consider the questions below to boost the quality of your nomination.

1. How long has the member been officiating and what level of accreditation do they hold
2. What events has the Official officiated at over the past 12 months, what roles did they under-take during that period

Input into Competition

- Give examples of the Officials interaction with Branch and/or State Referees
- How has the Official been involved in the training of new Officials – provide examples of your role
- How has the Official Mentored members to assist them in gaining their awards, provide examples of your role
- How has the Official been involved in Assessing candidates during the past year, provide examples of the Officials role

Training & 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 programs used for new and developing officials? How can they be improved?

When showcasing the **Coach of the Year** nominations, you may want to consider the questions below to boost the quality of your nomination...

1. Club, Branch, State and National coaching positions.
2. Results achieved due to the coach's influence for athletes coached for 90% of the season.
3. The capability of athletes and the coach's contribution to their development, both in and outside of surf sports.
4. Personal development undertaken to improve coaching performance e.g. participated in courses, conferences etc.
5. How the nominee has contributed to Coach Education e.g. presented at clinics, conferences, courses

Additional coaching information regarding the nominee.

Sport Awards

- Athlete of the Year
- Youth Athlete of the Year
- Masters Athlete of the Year
- Surf Sports Team of the Year

To nominate for the above awards, complete the online nomination form and answer the questions listed below (with each answer no more than 400 words).

1. How have they achieved sporting excellence? What were their results at major competitions (e.g. state, national, international)? For athlete awards, have they been part of a representative team and if so, how did they contribute to the success of that team?

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)?

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).

1. Tell us about the club.
2. What has been achieved?
3. Why and how it has made a difference, and to whom?
4. What are your plans for future development and continuous improvement?
5. 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.

LINK TO ONLINE NOMINATION FORM: [SLSMNC Awards of Excellence Nomination Form](#)