



SURF SPORTS COMPETITION POLICY STOCKTON SLSC

1. INTRODUCTION & PURPOSE

The Stockton SLSC has achieved solid performances at all major carnivals across multiple sections of Surf sports over the past few seasons.

Firstly, due to increase levels of competition, competitor numbers and disciplines / sections competed in; there is a requirement to introduce procedures and policies to provide some guidance for competitors, coaches, officials and directors.

Secondly, over the years we have developed strong junior competitors only to see them transfer to bigger clubs for team and other opportunities.

This pattern is not a good outcome for our club as we lose great competitors, and ultimately great patrol and all round club people.

The intent of this policy is to develop junior competitors into long-term club members and create a strong and enduring team culture across all of our surf sports disciplines.

This policy outlines our procedures for all SLSC endorsed Surf Sports competition and applies to all financial active competition members of the club including:

- Under 15
- Under 17
- Under 19

- Opens
- Masters
- All surf boat rowing age categories
- All IRB age categories

This policy will help to ensure our club and competitors:

- Upholds the reputation of our club, our sponsors and partners.
- Meet the requirements for competition eligibility

1.1 Key Components For Sectional Teams

Juniors

As part of the Policy, juniors will have their swim training subsidised and board training costs covered for the duration of the season.

Training will have a much greater focus on the development of the competitor as an athlete.

They will receive the team-clothing package and have all of their carnival entry fees covered.

Each competing junior will form part of the Stockton Youth Development Squad, which will be led by Joey Dryden.

The Development Squad will receive informative talks from content experts such as competition experts, role models and club mentors.

The Development Squad will also participate in fun activities and events throughout the season such as overnight and day trips for training camps, laser tag, Wet'n'Wild amongst others.

Youth U15-17

Youth members will receive the same benefits as junior members however a greater focus will be on the development of these members into the senior club as patrol members and prepare them for senior competition.

These members will have their swim training subsidised and board training costs covered for the duration of the season.

Their club membership and gym fees are included along with the team-clothing package and all of their carnival entry fees covered.

This includes State and Australian championship carnivals.

Youth members will form part of the Development Squad too and will play an integral role in mentoring younger members of the squad.

U19, Open and Masters – Craft Team

Members in this broad category will have their swim training subsidised and on water training costs covered for the duration of the season.

While many of the members in this category may not participate in structured swim squad training and likewise most of the on water training may be on a ski, funds can be credited towards procuring training programs from professional coaches for example.

Members under this category will have their club membership and gym fees included along with the team clothing package and all of their carnival entry fees covered.

This group will play a special role in mentoring and role modelling for younger competing members.

As this group do not have club supplied gear and equipment, as part of the strategy members under this category will have access to a tiered Gear and Equipment Subsidy program.

Overall the program means that members who meet particular criteria will receive a subsidy on any gear and equipment they require. Further details on this program are outlined below.

Surf Boat & IRB Teams

The surfboat and IRB teams are a key component to the entire strategy.

They will have included in their competitor co-contribution their membership and gym fee, team-clothing package, carnival entry fees – along with land and water based coaching programs.

As the supply, repair and maintenance of gear and equipment is supplied by the club these sectional teams will have the ability to direct funds towards training program procurement, coach development or other tools and resources deemed necessary.

2. Carnivals & Co-Contribution

2.1.1 Key Components for all Surf Sports Sectional Teams

Each season the Director Of Surf Sports prepares a budget to assist with the following expenses:

- Carnival Entry Fees
- The provision of transport to carnivals where deemed appropriate and approved.
- The transport of competitor craft to carnivals using the club trailers (dependent on the availability of resources) or via shipping container (SLS Championships held in VIC, SA, TAS, WA)

- Accommodation when approved at some events for Competitors, Management and Officials (some subsidies may also be available for competitor organised accommodation).
- Support to Officials, IRB support crews, First Aid Officers and Water Safety personnel who assist at major Carnivals.
- Provision and maintenance of Club Equipment.
- The storage of Craft (dependent on the availability of space).

Our club currently directs funds towards these competition expenses, repairs and maintenance, travel costs and entry fees in a relatively unstructured way.

This policy will put greater structure around that process.

The general rule of thumb being a split of 40% expenses paid for by the competitor through the Surf Sports Co-contribution, 30% raised through sponsorships and 30% raised through fundraising activities.

Each of these three funding sources is outlined below.

2.1.2 Surf Sports Co-contribution

The co-contribution that each competitor is required to pay is a 3-year tiered fee and is shown in the table below.

	(U10-17)	U19/Open/Master - Craft	Surf Boat	IRB
Year 1	\$300	\$250	\$350	\$300
Year 2	\$250	\$200	\$300	\$250
Year 3	\$200	\$150	\$250	\$200

This means that each competitor will pay a one-off amount in the first year and a lesser amount in the second and third years.

This is a result of clothing only being reissued every 3 years.

If a new member joins Stockton in year 2 of the co-contribution cycle, they will still be required to pay the year 1 co-contribution fee for the initial outlay and will pay other years as per the co-contribution cycle.

Co-contribution funds will be directed towards operational expenses such as coaching and entry fees with the addition of team uniform.

2.1.3 Sponsorships

The club will pursue corporate sponsorships from companies to fund at minimum 30% of the total costs of the strategy.

The committee has developed a sponsorship proposal document that has a tiered structure of Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze categories.

These are outlined as follows:

- Platinum – has a value of \$25k per year
- Gold – has a value of \$15k per year
- Silver – has a value of \$10k per year
- Bronze – has a value of \$5k per year
- Supporter – any value less than \$5k

Sponsorship funds will generally be directed towards operational expenses such as coaching and entry fees. However the club may retain a portion of sponsorship funds to fund cross sectional expenses such as sponsorship decals/branding.

2.1.4 Fundraising Activities

Each season the club will host 4-5 major fundraisers. Each sectional team will be required to organise one of these fundraisers.

The club's social committee will assist each section in the organisation and delivery of the event however the specific details of the event will be arranged and decided upon by the sectional team.

Other key factors such as getting attendees, ticketing, start times etc. will be delivered by the sectional team.

Fundraisers may include, as an example, football grand final party, themed night, cocktail night etc.

From each fundraiser the profit will be delivered back to the team who organised the fundraiser to fund the activities and expenses under that section.

The club will retain a portion of the funds raised, which will be put back into the strategy to fund cross sectional expenses.

If the section that is organising the fundraiser is eligible for a gear and equipment subsidy the club will direct a portion of the 'club retained funds' towards that outcome.

2.1.5 Governance Of The Competitor Co-contribution Policy

Ultimately the Club's committee will have responsibility of the strategy, however a surf sports sub-committee will carry out the implementation.

The Director of Surf Sports will lead the sub-committee and include the craft sectional captain, youth development coordinator, IRB captain and surf boat captain.

This sub-committee should make recommendations for the management committee to adopt, which may include as an example: team selections, gear and equipment purchase/repair/maintenance.

Importantly the sub-committee should recommend how funds are distributed throughout each portfolio and direct discretionary expenses such as coaching up skill funds where applicable.

2.2 Carnival Entries

The competitor's carnival entry must be lodged with the Director Of Surf Sports or representative 7 days prior to the event entry closing date to enable sufficient time to complete the entry for the event.

The Director Of Surf Sports or representative is responsible for submitting only the carnival entries within the SLSA Carnival Management System or any other SLS endorsed platform.

Any carnivals requiring prior event entries not listed on the SLSA carnival management system or any other SLS endorsed platform will be the responsibility of the competitor.

Carnival entry closing dates will be posted via the clubs media channels.

No guarantees will be made for carnival entries lodged within 7 days of the closing date.

The Club will be responsible for the payment of entry fees submitted via the carnival manger system.

The Club is **not** responsible for payment of entries submitted on other third party platforms.

Competitors not partaking in the Surf Sports Competitor Co-Contribution will need to pay carnival entry fees to the club prior to their entry being submitted.

The Competitors Entry including the Entry Fee must be lodged/paid 7 days prior to the event entry closing date.

2.2.1 Carnival Late Entries

Competitors will be responsible for any late entry penalties incurred for entries that are lodged and successfully submitted within 7 days of the closing date.

An invoice from the club will be sent to competitors for the purpose of reimbursement.

Where late entries are submitted at an event and the club is invoiced, it will be the responsibility of the competitor to meet the costs.

An invoice from the club will be sent to competitors for the purpose of reimbursement.

2.2.2 Withdrawal/Failure to compete

Competitors are required to notify the Director Of Surf Sports as soon as possible of their withdrawal from a carnival.

Competitors will be required to reimburse the club entry fees in full for late withdrawals of all carnivals (including all major carnivals).

Competitors will have the right of appeal to the request of reimbursement.

Competitors with genuine reasons for late withdrawal or failure to compete will be granted exemption for entry fee reimbursement.

2.2 Transport Of Competitor Craft To Carnivals

The club will endeavour to arrange to tow the club trailer/s to each major carnival for the transport of club & personal competition craft.

Any private vehicle that is used to tow the Club's trailer when transporting club & personal competition equipment to carnivals will be eligible for the reimbursement of fuel costs.

To receive a reimbursement, they must provide the Director of Surf Sports with receipts and their bank Account details.

Personal vehicles that tow club trailers should be registered and comprehensively insured by the owner/s.

For interstate carnivals, the club may elect to hire a vehicle. This will be on a case-by-case basis.

Private vehicles towing club trailers are **not** covered by the Club's Insurance Policy, and the club will **not** be liable for any damage incurred during transportation.

2.4 Accommodation At Interstate Carnivals

The Club will endeavour to organise group accommodation for major carnivals (when available and/or appropriate).

When the club has organised group accommodation – ALL Competitors, Management, Officials and Support crews (e.g. IRB / First Aiders) will be included.

3. Competition Craft & Storage

3.1 Club Craft

The Club has a limited amount of craft available for competitors to use at training and carnivals. However, all competitors are encouraged to purchase their own. The club in respect to the use of club craft has adopted the following rules:

- The Director of Surf Sports is responsible for maintaining a Club Craft Register and ensuring that the clubs asset register is updated for insurances purposes.
- All competitive members who wish to maintain the sole use of a Club owned craft (i.e. board and ski) must apply for this privilege by completing the Club Craft Allocation Application (Appendix A). The Craft will always remain the property of the Club.

- The Club Coach / Craft Captain has the authority to allow a competitor to use an already allocated club owned craft, if the person allocated that craft is not at training or competition. It is the responsibility of the competitor borrowing the club owned craft for any damage incurred while under their use.
- Competitors who have been allocated club owned craft are responsible to pay for all repair expenses for this craft. The competitor must notify the club craft captain and Director of Surf Sports immediately of any damage.

3.2 Club Craft Allocation Criteria

All club owned craft will be listed on the club's craft inventory and competitors who meet the following criteria can apply for the allocation of club owned craft for the current SLS season:

- Must be a financial active member of the club within the current season.
- Must be proficient and hold the Bronze Medallion qualification. Under 15 competitors must be proficient and hold the Surf Rescue Certificate.
- Must have completed the required number of patrolling hours as set by the club and SLSA for the season of competition within the relevant timeframe.
- Must be active in fundraising activities for the club.
- Have a consistent and proven training record with the Club Coaching program (The club's priority will be to support the

Stockton Competitors who train regularly with the Club's Coaches).

3.3 Member Owned Craft

3.3.1 Member Owned Craft Ordering Process

Members who purchase their own craft for individual events (Boards & Skis) can do so either via the club or themselves. Some craft manufactures may require:

- Club purchase order form
- Purchase confirmation
- Upfront payment or deposit
- Combination of above.

In instances where any of the above is required, members shall notify the Director of Surf sports of their intention to purchase craft before placing an order.

When placing an order, members shall provide the club details and request an invoice be sent to the Director of Surf Sports.

<mailto:surfsports@stocktonsurfclub.com>

3.4 Competition Craft Financial Assistance

The club acknowledges there are Surf Sports disciplines that require competitors to purchase their own custom made craft.

The club may provide financial assistance for the purchase of gear and equipment to competitors in the junior/youth/opens/masters - craft section who qualify under the criteria set out below.

The financial assistance program is tiered into three categories which includes:

Level 1/Gold

Financial Assistance Available	75% of the total cost of the required craft
Qualifying Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have been a member of Stockton SLSC for at least three seasons • Complete all club patrol obligations (if applicable) • Compete in all of the identified round of the club championships • Compete in the identified 'Target Carnivals' as prescribed by the Surf Sports sub-committee • Attend the sectional teams designated fundraiser for the current season
Level 2/Silver	
Financial Assistance Available	50% of the total cost of the required craft
Qualifying Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have been a member of Stockton SLSC for at least two seasons • Complete 75% club patrol obligations (if applicable) • Compete in 75% of the identified round of the club championships • Compete in 75% identified 'Target Carnivals' as prescribed by the Surf Sports sub-committee • Attend the sectional teams designated fundraiser for the current season

Level 3/Bronze	
Financial Assistance Available	25% of the total cost of the required craft
Qualifying Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have been a member of Stockton SLSC for at least two seasons • Complete 75% club patrol obligations (if applicable) • Compete in 50% of the identified round of the club championships • Compete in 50% identified 'Target Carnivals' as prescribed by the Surf Sports sub-committee • Attend the sectional teams designated fundraiser for the current season

Where any financial assistance is made available, the competitor must consult the Director of Surf sports before the equipment is purchased.

The competitor acknowledges they understand and agree to the club retaining ownership of the equipment up to the percentage of financial assistance.

The committee reserves the right to alter the above-mentioned amounts / criteria at its discretion and through the recommendation of the sub-committee.

3.4.1 Disposal of Subsidised Equipment

A member who has received financial assistance to purchase equipment/craft must not sell or dispose of that equipment/craft without the written approval of the Director of Surf Sports.

The Director of Surf Sports will report the sale of this equipment to the committee meeting immediately following the sale.

As the member and the club jointly own the equipment/craft, the member will receive her/his share of the sale price pro rata to her/his original contribution.

E.g. if a ski is purchased for \$3,000 and the club and competitor contribute \$1,500 each (50%) and it is subsequently sold for \$2,000 then the competitor and the club receive \$1,000 each (50%).

Should a competitor seek further assistance without selling the previous piece of equipment then the competitor forfeits their share in the original item and it becomes the property of Stockton Surf Club.

3.4.2 Maintenance and Repair of Subsidised Gear and Equipment

Any damage caused to the craft or equipment should be repaired as soon as possible and the competitor should meet the cost of the repair.

Required repairs should be carried out in a professional manner by a person who has the appropriate knowledge and skills to do so – i.e. the equipment manufacturer.

The club acknowledges there will be instances where craft will incur damage requiring repairs during competition events.

Competitors who meet the following criteria can apply for the club to cover the cost of repairs:

- Was competing in a SLSA endorsed carnival or event when damage occurred.
- Have a consistent competition record with the Club.
- Have a consistent training record with the Club Coaching program.

Instances where an application for the club to cover the cost of repairs is successful, the member shall provide the club details and request an invoice be sent to the Director of Surf Sports.

<mailto:surfsports@stocktonsurfclub.com>

3.4.3 Multiple Assistance

A competitor may request multiple assistance from the financial assistance program. This includes in the instance where a competitor wishes to purchase more than one piece of equipment in one season. Multiple assistance may be granted only to Level 1/Gold supported competitors and must be requested in writing to the committee, through the Director of Surf Sports.

The Policy allows the purchase of more than one but different piece of equipment in a season. For example a board and ski, however both amounts are taken into consideration and the financial assistance will not exceed the maximum percentage identified in the table above for each level of support.

3.4.4 Other Types of Support

The committee may at its discretion make available other types of support to teams and individuals.

This type of support may include; total or partial payment of team selection payment such as Interbranch team selection fee, fees for nomination for special awards etc.

The committee at the recommendation of the sub-committee may make other types of support available.

3.5 Craft Storage

Our current facilities only provide for a limited amount of competition craft storage. The Surf Sports Committee is responsible to ensure that they provide a fair and equitable system when allocating space for the storage of personal craft. Some guidelines are as follows:

- Club owned craft shall have priority for storage allocation.
- Stockton SLSC competitors will **not** be charged for the storage of competition craft.
- The club is responsible for providing a structured and safe storage facility and will maintain a club contents insurance policy that covers personal competition craft stored in the club for fire, theft or damage.
- Members competing for Stockton SLSC will be given priority for craft storage.
- Members who **do not** meet the Criteria points listed previously will **not** be guaranteed a spot for their craft and the allocation of space will be dependent on how much space is available.
- Due to the current limited space, it is a requirement to apply for storage of personal craft/equipment (Appendix B).
- It is the responsibility of all club members to ensure the craft storage area is kept tidy at all times.
- It is the responsibility of all club members to ensure their own craft is secure. The club will **not** be held responsible or liable for any non-authorized use by any third parties.

4. Club Team Selections

4.1 Team Selections

The objective of the team selection process is to achieve the best possible competition teams. This process applies to athletes, team managers and coaches.

Team selection will be based primarily on the following two objectives using a balanced view:

- **Performance:** To select the strongest teams to represent SSLSC in each age group / category and to achieve the best possible results for SSLSC, based on ability and expected performances of the competitors.
- **Participation:** To encourage, recognise and reward maximum participation in and commitment to training and development as part of the SSLSC Surf Sports program.

4.1.1 Team Selection Criteria

Performance will be judged by the following criteria, in order of weighting:

- Results at club endorsed carnivals in current season
- Results at Club championships and point score events
- Performance and ability demonstrated at training, as judged by coach
- Time trials: If there is a close call between two or more competitors (based on the above criteria) the sub-committee may elect for time trials to be held in race conditions at training.

At the start of the season when there have not been many carnivals, team selection will be based on the previous season and/or preseason training.

Participation

- Attendance at training, ie Club endorsed training sessions
- Commitment, consistency and attitude to training
- Participation in carnivals
- Attendance at club competition (For Nippers, 60% attendance is considered prerequisite for age award and hence eligibility for competition.)

Other considerations

- Teamwork: Competitors' abilities to "work well together" in a team
- Injury / illness: Any injury / illness which could impair, inhibit or prevent the competitor from appropriate level of performance or represent an unacceptable risk
- Conditions: Expected conditions at the carnival venue and on the day. Also conditions during carnivals during the current season, which may have skewed performance results.
- Surf Sports Culture': Commitment and attitude to fellow club members and surf lifesaving in general.

4.1.2 Selection Process

The Surf Sports sub committee will be responsible for team selection, taking into account the above criteria.

The Surf Sports sub committee will be lead by the Director of Surf Sports and include the Youth Development Coordinator/s, Craft Sectional Captain, IRB Captain and Surf Boat Captain.

Team selections decided upon by the Surf Sports sub committee will be final.

This shall not prevent, limit or restrict the selectors (e.g. Head Coach or proxy) changing the selection of any team at any time, in the interest of club spirit and competitive focus and/ or other relevant circumstances.

4.2 Right of Appeal

If parents / carers and/or competitors want to dispute a team selection they should NOT approach any other parent / carer or competitor.

Parents / carers and/or competitors should make first contact with the Director of Surf sports.

An appeal against team selection/s should be forwarded in writing (e.g. by email) to the Director of Surf Sports 10 days prior to the carnival. <mailto:surfsports@stocktonsurfclub.com>

The Director of Surf Sports will communicate the appeal with the Surf Sports sub committee and considerations will be made based on the specifics provided within the appeal.

An appeal should be backed with evidence in line with the Team Selection Criteria (4.1.1)

Where a unanimous decision cannot be reached, the appeal will be passed onto an impartial panel to undertake an assessment and provide judgement.

5. Team Uniforms

Competitors are required to purchase and are to wear “Stockton SLSC” branded swimwear and a club competition cap (Blue & Red Quartered) when representing the club at all SLSA endorsed competitions.

Appendix

Appendix A - Club Craft Allocation Application

This application is to be completed by a competitor who wishes to apply for the allocation of club owned craft (please tick the applicable item):

- SLS Craft - Ski
- SLS Craft - Board
- SLS Equipment

Please provide particulars of SLS Equipment below (e.g. rescue fins):

Applicant's Details

Name	
Age Group	
Application Date	
Season Joined the Club	

I am a financial member of the club

I hold the bronze medallion qualification and am currently proficient, or I am an under 15 competitor holding the Surf Rescue Certificate.

I have completed the required patrolling hours as set by the club and SLSA for the calendar year

I have assisted with the following fundraising activities for the club

1.
2.
3.
4.

Competition this Season

I plan to compete for Stockton SLSC in the following competitions this season:

Hunter (HUN) Branch carnivals, including the HUN Branch Championships

Ocean 6 Series

NSW State Championships

SLSA Australian Championships or SLSA Youth Championships

Designated Craft

Please specify below the craft/equipment that you are applying to use (refer to the Surf Sports Craft Register for details of all club craft).

Craft Registration Number	
Craft Description	
Other Equipment	

Note: Competitors that have been allocated club owned craft/equipment are responsible to pay for the repair expenses of the craft if damaged.

The craft/equipment will always remain the property of the Stockton SLSC who maintains their rights to first option on resale of the item.

Note: The Club Coach / Craft Captain have the authority to allow a competitor to use an already allocated club owned craft, if the person allocated that craft is not at training or competition.

It is the responsibility of the competitor borrowing the craft for any damage incurred while under their use.

Appendix B - Storage of Personal Craft and Equipment Application

Our current facilities only provide for a limited amount of competition craft storage.

The Director of Surf Sports and the Surf Sports Committee is responsible for providing a fair and equitable system when allocating space for the storage of personal craft.

This application is to be completed by a competitor who wishes to apply for storage of personal craft and equipment.

Please complete a separate application form for each individual item. (Please tick the applicable item):

SLS Craft – Ski / Double Ski

SLS Craft - Board

SLS Equipment (Other)

Equipment Type: _____

Details Of The Craft / Equipment

SLSA Registration Number	
Description/Markings	
Purchase Price (\$)	
Date of Purchase	

Applicant's Details

Name	
Application Date	
Season Joined The Club	

I, the above competitor, do hereby apply for allocation of storage for my personal craft/equipment described above at the club.

The craft/equipment storage spot is allocated to me for my exclusive use.

I agree if asked to remove my personal craft/equipment at the discretion of the Director of Surf Sports, I will do so in a timely manner.

Should I decide to no longer represent the club in competition, the craft/equipment will be removed from the storage space and I will notify the club of no longer being an active competitor immediately.

I am a financial member of the club

I hold the bronze medallion qualification and am currently proficient, or I am an under 15 competitor holding the Surf Rescue Certificate.

I have completed the required patrolling hours as set by the club and SLSA for the calendar year

I am willing to participate in regular training session and club activities.

Competition This Season

I plan to compete for Stockton SLSC in the following competitions this season:

- Hunter (HUN) Branch carnivals, including the HUN Branch Championships
- Ocean 6 Series
- NSW State Championships
- SLSA Australian Championships or SLSA Youth Championships

Competitors Signature	
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If the applicant is under the Age of 18 Years:

Parent/Guardian's Signature	
Date:	

Storage Approved

Director of Surf Sports Signature	
Date:	