

Surf Boat Participation Pathway - Overview

Surf Boat Pathway – for recruiting and retaining new, existing and current Bronze Medallion holders

Overview

This resource is designed to give clarification on the Surf Boat Participation Pathway. It will explain the process of recruiting new surfboat rowers and prerequisites requirements for 'Come and Try' recruitment campaigns, club training and competition.

Why?

Surf Life Saving Tasmania have been issued an exemption to the current surf sports regulations to allow participation in surf boat rowing by unqualified individuals for the purpose of increasing participation in surf boat rowing in technical and skills based training and specifically the Endurance Series (as a Special Event). This exemption will effect;

1. New Crews – Individuals who wish to form completely new crews (with a qualified Sweep)
2. Returning rowers – Previous members who have held a Bronze Medallion award in the last 3 years
3. New Rowers – Individuals who wish to add to an existing crew with other qualified rowers

Current situation

Currently all participation in surf boat rowing is regulated by terms of the Surf Sports Manual and Special Events procedures. Clubs whose committee have identified the need to recruit more rowers and patrolling members will submit a Special Event Application and Risk Management Plan/ Assessment for non-members to participate in a 'Come and Try' type activity supported by dedicated water safety personnel. These non-members are required to obtain a Bronze Medallion award before continuing to train or compete in competition of any nature, including all SLST endorsed activity (Endurance Series and Statewide Carnivals) in flat water or within the surf zone.

Considerations

Currently individuals who wish to get involved in surf life saving sport in activities that stipulate that they must hold a proficient Bronze Medallion are presented with the challenge to complete their Bronze Medallion between November and April the following year. This means the individual has just 6 months to obtain the award and cannot engage in training in the ocean until 1st November. This has become a barrier to recruiting new surf boat rowers before the Endurance Series races. SLSA's Insurance brokers JLT has accepted the exception to allow non-qualified rowers in surfboats, however a number of conditions apply including satisfying pre-requisite age requirements and restricting participation in appropriate venues and conditions that are deemed lower identified risk compared to the surf zone (highest risk) for both training and competition.

However, if Pool Proficiencies were removed from the normal pre-season procedures, clubs would be able to offer training and requalification opportunities to their new and existing members earlier than the 1st November and lengthen the timeframe to enable members to complete new awards or proficiencies.