



Surf Life Saving Australia Circular

Title	2026 Shaw and Partners Iron Series Next Gen – Entry Circular
Document ID	Circular 49/25-26
Date	14 December 2025
Department	Sport
Audience	State/Territory Surf Sport Managers, Directors, Club Secretaries, Branches, State/Territory CEO's Sport Standing Committee, Team Managers
Summary	This circular contains relevant details for U19 competitors in the 2026 Shaw and Partners Iron Series Next Gen.

The Shaw and Partners Iron Series Next Gen is a dedicated unique pathway event purely for individual U19 competitors. To be eligible to compete in the 2026 Shaw and Partners Iron Series Next Gen all competitors must be eligible to compete in the 2025/26 season as individuals in the U19 age group only (as per the rules in the current SSM). U17 competitors are not permitted to enter.

The overall winner of the respective male and female Shaw and Partners Iron Series Next Gen will be awarded automatic qualification into the 2026/27 Shaw and Partners Iron Series.

If you require additional information, please reach out to events@slsa.asn.au

DATES & LOCATIONS

ROUND	FORMAT	DATE	LOCATION
1	Enduro*	Friday, 30 January 2026	Miami Beach, QLD
2	Specialist*	Saturday, 31 January 2026	Miami Beach, QLD
3	Eliminator*	Sunday, 1 February 2026	Miami Beach, QLD

*Formats subject to change based on entry numbers

ENTRIES

- Entry into the Shaw and Partners Iron Series Next Gen can be done via Liveheats: <https://liveheats.com/events/451521>
- Entries for Shaw and Partners Iron Series Next Gen will close at 11:59pm on Monday, 26 January 2026.
- Entries will not be accepted after these dates or on the day of competition.
- Entry fees for 2026 Shaw and Partners Iron Series Next Gen will be \$72.00 (incl. GST and fees).

FORMATS

The final formats and starting times for the Next Gen rounds will be dependant on entry numbers and will be confirmed closer to the commencement of Round 1.

Formats could include either traditional style iron racing or M-shape racing across Enduro, Specialist or Survival formats. Once entry numbers and timetables are confirmed, formats and start times will be published.

In the event of surf and/or weather conditions and/or TV broadcast requirements SLSA reserves the right to amend or change a scheduled format. This may include (but not limited to) the nature of the format itself and/or the discipline order and/or the introduction of further rules in the interest of safety and/or fairness.

In the event of any change of format SLSA will (in all best endeavours) consult with coaches and athletes in a timely and appropriate manner to provide as much advance notice as is reasonably possible.



POINT SCORE SYSTEM

The Shaw and Partners Iron Series Next Gen will be conducted with the following point score to ensure individual round winners are recognised and rewarded. It will also provide an overall leader board where consistency is recognised and rewarded.

Every round will be a 20 to 1 point score for the Shaw and Partners Iron Series Next Gen. However, if an athlete fails to finish, disqualified or chooses not to take part in a round they will receive NIL points for that round. If there are more than 20 competitors in the race, if competitors are outside the top 20 placings, they will receive nil points for that round.

Following the conclusion of three rounds the male and female athlete with the highest overall point score total will be awarded automatic qualification into the 2026/27 Shaw and Partners Iron Series. A minimum of two rounds of the Shaw and Partners Iron Series Next Gen must be completed in order for final results and pointscores to stand. If less than two rounds are completed no positions will be awarded for athlete qualification into 2026/27 Shaw and Partners Iron Series.

COUNTBACK

In the event athletes are tied at the conclusion of the series a countback based on each athlete's highest placing in each of the 3 rounds will be conducted as follows:

1. If both athletes are tied on points. i.e. if 2 athletes are tied on 55 points and athlete A has the following places R1 – 1st, R2 – 3rd, R3 – 4th, he/she will prevail over athlete B with the following places R1 – 2nd, R2 – 4th, R3 – 2nd
2. If both athletes were again tied after this process the countback will continue to their next best place. i.e. if 2 athletes are tied on 55 points and athlete A has the following places R1 – 1st, R2 – 2nd, R3 – 5th, he/she will prevail over athlete B with the following places R1 – 3rd, R2 – 4th, R3 – 1st.
3. If athletes cannot be split on points or positions across all 3 rounds – the athlete with the highest place in the 3rd Round will prevail. i.e. if both athletes are tied on 55 points and Athlete A has the following places R1 – 2nd, R2 – 5th, R3 – 1st, he/she will prevail over Athlete B who has recorded the following places R1 – 1st, R2 – 2nd, R3 – 5th.

HANDLERS

Each competitor will be allowed one handler per event. Duties will be to assist in the deployment, and collection of the competitor/s equipment. Handlers are permitted access into the competition arena if they are dressed in the correct attire.

Each competitor must provide their own fluro handler bib for their handler and this must always be worn by the handler in the competition area when assisting a competitor. No handler will be allowed within the competition area without their bib.

Handlers must not provide a competitive edge for any competitor. If a handler appears to be doing so, they could front a Carnival Disciplinary Committee and could have that athlete removed from competition.

Handlers when not assisting competitors MUST stay in the designated area on beach and are not allowed to wander around the competition area.

Note: Infringements incurred by handler, coach or other person in a competitor's team in this rule will be applied to the competitor as if the competitor had committed the infringement.

COMPETITION BRIEFINGS

A briefing for coaches and key officials will be conducted by the Event Referee the morning of each round on beach approx. 45 minutes prior to the beginning of racing each day.

Clubs should have a minimum of one and maximum of two personnel attend the briefing.



TEAM MANAGERS

Team Managers are asked to complete the following team managers form to ensure they receive up-to-date information: [2026 Shaw and Partners Iron Series Next Gen - Team Manager Form – Fill out form](#)

DRAWS

Once entries close, random draws will be created via LiveHeats.

LYCRA PICK UP

Competitor hi-vis pink lycras will be available for collection at check in on the first round. SLSA asks that all athletes use the same lycra given to them at the first round.

RACE START

Unless otherwise advised, all races shall be started on the beach approximately 15 metres from the water's edge (run start). Craft will be placed in front of the start line and as close as practicable to the water's edge. Handlers are not required for the start of events.

RACE FINISH

Unless otherwise advised, all races shall finish as per the Iron Series races (run finish). Craft and paddles may be abandoned after rounding the last turning buoy of the swim course. Handlers are to be used to remove craft and paddles from the course.

PROTEST AND APPEALS

In the event of a protest by a competitor in the 2026 Shaw and Partners Iron Series Next Gen there will be no right of appeal as the Referee's decision, in consultation with the Deputy Referee shall be final.

In dealing with the protest – the Referee has the discretion to (**but not obligated to**):

- Speak to any further person he/she believes is appropriate and /or
- View any video or broadcast footage that may assist in his/her decision

All Placings are deemed final upon the Referee declaring the results as confirmed. No protest can be lodged after the confirmation of the results.

CRAFT SCRUTINEERING

Boards and surf skis must meet current specifications of SLSA.

All competitor craft are subject to scrutineering at any time prior to, during or after the event. Competitors and/or handlers must comply with the directions of the event scrutineer and present their crafts for scrutineering prior to the commencement of each Round. Times to be confirmed.

PERSONAL SPONSORSHIP

No personal sponsors are permitted to be advertised on athlete swimwear or bodies as part of Next Gen. Please be aware that the following National Sponsors have exclusivity in the following categories for the 2025 Shaw and Partners Iron Series Next Gen:

COMPANY	EXCLUSIVITY CATEGORY
Shaw and Partners Financial Services	Financial Services
DHL	Logistics
Isuzu	Automotive
QANTAS	Airline
Westpac	Financial Services
Engine	Swimwear
BRP	SeaDoo water craft & Can-Am/Power craft
Bond University	University



TEMPORARY TATTOOS

All temporary tattoos are confined to the Event Sponsors for the Shaw and Partners Iron Series – no other temporary tattoos displaying a sponsor will be permitted.

Temporary tattoos are confined to the following sponsors outlined in the above table.

PRESENTATIONS

During any presentations or media appearances, competitors must wear the event lycra race singlet, branded cap, and/or a supplied Event shirt. No other personal sponsor branding can be worn at these times.

SAFETY

All Competitors and Officials are referred to the Introduction on page (i) of the current edition of the SLSA Surf Sports Manual and in particular but not only paragraphs (d), (e) and (f). Paragraph (d) states:

“Surf lifesaving can be inherently dangerous. Serious accidents can and often do happen which may result in property damage, physical injury and even death. All members are assumed to have voluntarily read and understood this warning and accept and assume the inherent risks in surf lifesaving.”

Water safety as part of the competition, is ultimately the responsibility of the Safety and Emergency Committee and Competition Committee, based on the advice of the Safety and Emergency Management Coordinator (SEMC), the Event Referee and Officials in determining postponement or cancellation of any or all events, or relocation to an alternate venue in accordance with Section 1 - Competition Safety, of the current edition of the SLSA Surf Sports Manual.

The Event Referee and SEMC will conduct safety briefings to Officials and Competitors before commencement of competition and during the event as required.

Risk assessors have been appointed to assist the SEMC to provide ongoing assessment of conditions and safety across the event area. They will create an effective communications channel to the SEMC and Competition Committee. Those Officials may seek advice from competitors and competitor representatives to ensure an informed opinion is provided and can be acted upon where appropriate.

ANTI DOPING

Surf Life Saving Australia supports the Australian Government, the Australian Sports Commission, the Australian Olympic Committee, and Sports Integrity Australia (SIA) in their efforts to eradicate the use of drugs in sport. SLSA has published an anti-doping policy, which will be adhered to for this event.

Please be aware that random drug testing could take place during the Shaw and Partners Iron Series Next Gen.

It is highly recommended all competitors and club members (including coaches, handlers, and support personnel) complete the SIA online e-learning program to ensure all personnel are aware of contemporary issues pertaining to anti-doping. The link to access this e-learning program is: <https://elearning.sportintegrity.gov.au/>. Further to this, it is highly recommended that each team, under the direction of the management, undergo at least one anti-doping education and awareness activity as a group.

It is recommended all competitors and club member (including coaches, handlers, and support personnel) utilise the SIA [Check Your Substances](#) reference site, or phone 1300 027 232.

THEFT

Any person/s found stealing signage or any equipment owned by Surf Life Saving Australia, the hosting authority, states or another individual may be immediately reported to the police and that person/s be brought before a SLSA Disciplinary Committee.



COMPETITION MANIPULATION

The SLSA National Policy on Competition Manipulation and framework covers all SLS Events that are conducted by SLSA, State Centres, Branches and Clubs including special events, conducted by third parties sanctioned by an SLS entity and any event, competition or series connected with Surf Lifesaving. Please refer to Policy Document 5.11 for further details.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK

Coaches for Next Gen athletes are also required to provide evidence they have a valid Working with Children Check.

If you require additional information, please reach out to events@slsa.asn.au