

# Australian Life Saving Team - Circular

Title:	2025 Battle of the Tasman Selection Information & Athlete EOI
Document ID:	Circular 58/24-25
Audience:	ALT athletes, ALT development athletes, ALT pathway athletes, coaches, State/Territory Surf Sport Managers and Directors
From:	High Performance and Pathways
Date:	28 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
Summary:	This Circular contains the relevant information to inform and support the selection of the Australian Life Saving Team for the 2025 Battle of the Tasman in August 2025. The <a href="#">Athlete Nomination Form</a> <b>must be completed before 11:59pm on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2025.</b>

## BACKGROUND

Battle of the Tasman is a new event, first held in 2023 on the Gold Coast. It was created to provide developmental racing opportunities for pool, ocean and beach athletes in a non-World Championships year.

The event provides international racing experience for developing youth and pathway athletes who will be Youth and Open Team eligible for the 2026 Lifesaving World Championships. The *Battle of the Tasman* provides a developmental opportunity for our talent pathways and also has a focus on athletes making the sizable transition from youth to open competition.

The Battle of the Tasman also provides an opportunity for coach, management and support team succession planning and valuable introduction to the ALT. Nominations for coaching and support positions will open soon.

## BATTLE OF THE TASMAN

Where: Gold Coast

When: 28<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2025

## ELIGIBILITY

Team eligibility is outlined in detail in the [Selection Guidelines](#).

In addition to other listed eligibility requirements, age eligibility is defined below.

Youth Team: Competitors who turn 15,16,17 or 18 years of age on or before 31/12/2026 (i.e. born 2008 to 2011).

Pathways Team: Competitors turning 19 years or older on or before 31/12/2026 are eligible for selection for the Battle of the Tasman event (i.e. born in 2007 or later). However, Youth eligible athletes (as above) may also be included within the Pathways Team at the discretion of the Selectors.

Competitors demonstrating an upward performance trajectory across a variety of events will be prioritised for selection on this team.

## TEAM COMPOSITION / SIZE

The Youth Team (Green) comprises of 12 athletes (6 males and 6 females).

The first Pathways Team (Navy) comprises of 12 athletes (6 males and 6 females).

The second Pathways Team (Gold) comprises of 12 athletes (6 males and 6 females).

## 36 positions in total



Each team must contest beach, pool and ocean events. The winning team will be based on cumulative point score across all events. This format will simulate the World Championships format.

For athletes to increase their chances of selection, it is advisable that they provide selectors with an opportunity to review performances and results across multiple disciplines (beach, ocean, and pool) where possible.

An initial program for Battle of the Tasman has been drafted below to enable competitors to experience racing heats and finals with a view to simulate the World Championships program. The following events will comprise the Battle off the Tasman Program.

Pool Events
50m Manikin Carry – M & F (HEATS)
100m Manikin Tow – M & F (HEATS)
4 x 50m Obstacle Relay – M & F (TIMED FINAL)
100m Manikin Carry – M & F (HEATS)
200m Super Lifesaver – M & F (HEATS)
4 x 25m Manikin relay – M & F (TIMED FINAL)
50m Manikin Carry – M & F (FINALS)
100m Manikin Tow w Fins – M & F (FINALS)
4 x 50m Medley Relay (TIMED FINAL)
100m Manikin Carry (FINAL)
200m Super Lifesaver (FINAL)
4 x 50m Mixed Relay (TIMED FINAL)
Ocean Events
Iron (M Shape) M & F
Taplin Relay M & F
Beach Sprints M & F
Beach Relay M & F
Surf Race M & F
Single Ski M & F
Mixed Board Relay
Mixed Ski Relay
Mixed Surf Teams
Board Race M & F
Beach Flags M & F
Rescue Tube Rescue M & F
Board Rescue M & F
Mixed Taplin

*N.B. The program is subject to change.*

The Battle of the Tasman Program has been designed to prepare athletes for the World Championships Program, it is essential to select athletes who can perform across multiple disciplines i.e. an ocean athlete to perform in pool relays or a pool athlete to perform in a beach relay or ocean event etc.



### POINT SCORE

The number of points on offer at the beach and in the pool are equal i.e. a 50m Manikin Carry attracts the same number of points as an Iron event.

Athletes are required to compete at a minimum of heats and finals (depending on events) and each event is scored in the following way.

1 <sup>st</sup>	20 points		9 <sup>th</sup>	8 points
2 <sup>nd</sup>	18 points		10 <sup>th</sup>	7 points
3 <sup>rd</sup>	16 points		11 <sup>th</sup>	6 points
4 <sup>th</sup>	14 points		12 <sup>th</sup>	5 points
5 <sup>th</sup>	13 points		DNS	0 points
DSQ	0 points		DNF	0 points

In events where 3 competitors per team are entered, only the top two times in the pool and places (ocean and beach) are considered within the point score.

The winning team comprises the most points are the end of both ocean and pool competition.

### KEY SELECTION EVENTS

As outlined in 3aa of the [2025-26 Selection Guidelines](#): When considering athletes potential for selection to the Battle of the Tasman, the Selection Panel may (but is not obligated) to consider performances in all age categories at the following events where applicable,

- 2025/26 SLSA Australian Surf Life Saving Championships and 2025/26 SLSA Australian Surf Life Saving Youth Championships (as applicable);
- 2025/26 SLSA and/or RLSSA respective State Championships;
- 2024/25/26 SLSA and/or RLSSA National Pool Life Saving Championships;
- 2025 RLSS Commonwealth Lifesaving Championships;
- 2024 Life Saving World Championships; and
- 2024/25 World Ocean Series.
- In recognition of the diverse ability required for this team, the Selection Panel may consider performances at additional approved swimming meets, including State, National and International Championship events.

### EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

**All athletes wishing to be considered for selection must complete the [Athlete Nomination Form](#) by no later than 11:59pm on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April.**

### TEAM ANNOUNCEMENT

The Battle of the Tasman Team will be announced officially on 5<sup>th</sup> May. Team members selected for the Team will be contacted by the Chair of the Selection Panel prior to this date.

### SELECTION PANEL AND COLLABORATIVE PANEL

The Collaborative Panel is made up of SLSA and RLSSA Operational Staff Members. The role of this panel is to provide governance to the appointment and selection process. They also appoint the National Selection Panel. The National Selection Panel is made up of a Chair along with two panel members. SLSA and RLSSA are represented on this panel.

The National Open and National Youth Coach along with the SLSA High Performance and Pathways Manager will sit with the National Selection Panel in an advisory capacity as part of the selection process.



### **TEAM MEETINGS**

Information relating to team activities will be supplied to team members upon selection.

### **TEAM LEVY**

A team levy of \$500 will be applied for members selected in the Youth and Pathways Team.