

COMPETITION ELIGIBILITY – POLICY 5.04

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



November 2016

BACKGROUND

In October 2016, the SLSA Board approved changes to Competition Eligibility to enable Clubs to enter members into Surf Sport Competition who have performed service hours.



What is Competition Eligibility - Policy 5.04?

SLSA Policy 5.04 outlines proficiency and patrol hour requirements for all members wishing to be eligible to compete at SLS Championship Events.

Why was Competition Eligibility reviewed?

In 2015/16, SLSA undertook a national review of surf sport. Feedback from the membership identified that SLSA policies were restrictive in relation to competition eligibility and that greater flexibility was required.

Members were looking for SLSA to reduce the barriers to competition, which included, but was not limited to, recognising a member's 'service contribution' beyond just patrol hours.

It was acknowledged that greater participation in surf sports would lead to more active lifesavers who would be better equipped to meet the physical demands placed on them in emergency situations.

What changes have been made?

The intent of the change is to give affiliated Clubs greater flexibility to work with their members to deliver on the Club's Service Level Agreement (SLA) while being able to broaden what is deemed 'service' to surf lifesaving so that members can contribute in ways that align to their skills/experiences and motivation.

The revised Policy now allows Clubs to take a great leadership role in working with their members with greater flexibility around what is deemed 'service' in order to ensure they deliver on their SLA. This position is reflected in clause 4.1 in the new policy wording.

Service Hours now includes:

- Club Executive Committee Member,
- Accredited Club Coaches (non-paid), and
- Club training officers and assessors.

Do members still need to be proficient lifesavers in order to participate in surf sports?

Yes.

Do members still need to provide volunteer service in order to participate in surf sports?

Yes.

Is there a risk that members won't volunteer to patrol if they can have hours recognised for other volunteer activities?

The decision to recognise 'service' more broadly sits with the Club. The Club has a SLA to deliver a certain level of patrol service each season. Some Clubs may opt to maintain the status quo approach in only recognising volunteer patrol service. Other Clubs may consider recognising service more broadly (for instance, an excellent board paddler who runs a series of workshops on board rescue with volunteer lifesavers could have those hours recognised – but only if the Club deems that appropriate and notes that that individual and those service hours will count towards competition eligibility within the club's minutes – Section 4.2).

Who has the final say on whether my volunteer hours are recognised for the purposes of achieving the "minimum service" threshold for competition eligibility?

The Club where the member has their competitive rights aligned to.

When will I be able to include my service hours?

Service hours will be included as part of your competition eligibility from 1st January 2016.

