

Circular

Title:	2023-24 SLSSA Awards of Excellence Nominations
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From:	SLSSA
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Summary:	This circular contains information about the 2023/24 Awards of Excellence for nominees and selection panels. The circular provides links to online forms for SLSSA Clubs to complete for their category winners.

The purpose of these awards are to recognise and reward members and clubs who have made an outstanding contribution to surf lifesaving or whom have demonstrated excellence, innovation or outstanding performance.

The date set for the Surf Life Saving SA (SLSSA) Awards of Excellence is **Saturday, 15th June 2024**.

Time 6:30pm for a 7:00pm start – 11:30pm (formalities conclude at 9:30pm)
Venue Panorama Ball Room | Adelaide Convention Centre | North Terrace
Tickets \$95 Adult - Member
 \$115 Adult - Non-Member
 \$75 Under 18's

Purchase Here <https://www.trybooking.com/CPECF>

**Ticket purchases close 9 June 2024 (if not sold out prior). Tickets sold out last year, book early to avoid disappointment.*

Applications for all awards close on Monday 6th of May.

To ensure we continue to make things as easy as possible for our volunteers, this year we have maintained an online form. This online form mirrors the National Awards criteria to ensure that all nominees are being judged fairly and most importantly to make sure that the best people are being nominated.

Complete the [online nomination form](#) here.

Please note that only the SLSSA online nomination forms will be accepted.

Section 1: General Conditions

General notes

- Any member may be nominated if they are a SLSA financial members (or affiliated organisations). Nominations should focus on activities during the 2023/24 season, from 1st July 2023 – 30th June 2024.
- Where ages are mentioned, this refers to the members age as at 30 September in the 2023/24 season.
- Prior to finalists being announced, finalist nominations will be confidentially shared by SLSSA with the respective club.
- Winners may be called upon to act as ambassadors of Surf Life Saving, both within the organisation and to external audiences.
- Paid employees at any level may nominate for the awards listed. However, paid service will only be counted if nominating for the Coach of the Year award – all other awards recognise voluntary contributions only. Unless otherwise specified, these awards are in recognition of individual achievements.
- All criteria has been mirrored from SLSA to ensure a smooth process when putting nominations forward for the national awards.
- If you require further support, enquiries should be directed to SLSSA reception - (08) 8354 6900 or reception@surflifesavingsa.com.au

Guidelines for submission

- Clubs are required to complete and submit an online nomination form by 6th May 2024. No nominations will be accepted via attachment, email, or post.
- Clubs must follow the Nomination Process for the relevant award (found in Section 3 of the circular).
- Nominations are to include a digital profile image of the nominee (for the individual awards) or logo (for 'Club of the Year' and 'Community Education Program of the Year') via the online nomination form. Please ensure all nominee photographs are from the shoulders up and of a high-resolution quality. Please wear a club shirt or patrol uniform, no 'selfies'.

Selection Process (State)

- After the closing date a panel of at least three will determine the winner of each award against the relevant criteria. The panel for each award may be different and will comprise of individuals who have expertise and experience appropriate to the award/s. The panel/s will be made up of;
 - President/Advisory Committee Chair (Key volunteer in specific area)
 - CEO/Manager (of the specific area)
 - One other volunteer member determined after nominations have been received (With expertise in the specific award area and to eliminate or mitigate any potential bias).

Selection Process (National)

- All winners for State based Awards (except Young Member of the Year) will be put forward for the National award and will go through a selection panel which will involve a review of applications.
- SLSSA and the SA Awards and Recognition Committee will assist all state winners with preparing their nomination for the national selection panels.
- Finalists for the 'Surf Lifesaver of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, Youth Surf Lifesaver of the Year and Club of the Year will be required to participate in a face to face interview or presentation (Club of the Year only); details of which will be available following the close of nominations. The selection panel will determine a winner from both a review of the application and the interview.

Section 2: Award Categories

Surf Lifesaver of the Year

An active patrolling member who has made an outstanding contribution to the delivery and development of surf lifesaving frontline services.

Youth Surf Lifesaver of the Year

An active patrolling member (between the ages of 15-21, this refers to the members age as at 30 September in the 2023/24 season) who has made an outstanding contribution to the delivery and development of surf lifesaving frontline services.

Young Member of the Year (State Award) *

A young member (U/14-U/15 in 2023/24 season) with their SRC who has made a positive and significant impact on the health, well-being and success of their Club. A young member who has gone above and beyond.

Volunteer of the Year**

An impressive member who has made a difference through their volunteering efforts.

Club of the Year

An outstanding SLS affiliated club that is committed to improving the experience of its members, providing a safer environment for the community, and improving club operations.

Athlete of the Year***

An athlete aged 15 or older who has achieved sporting excellence in Open Aged Competition.

Youth Athlete of the Year***

An athlete aged between 15-18 (this refers to the members age as at 30 September in the 2023/24 season) who has achieved sporting excellence in Youth and/or Open Aged Competition.

Surf Sport Team of the Year

The 37th edition of Surf Sport Manual defines a team as an event that is contested by more than one competitor from the same club or lifesaving unit who may either complete an event or race together as a discrete unit (e.g., boat race, IRB race, surf teams, R&R, double surf ski team etc.) or separately (e.g., relay events, board rescue etc.).

Coach of the Year

An accredited coach who has made a significant contribution to athlete performance at a state, national and/or international level, to the development of athletes in SLS activities outside of surf sports, and to the educational development of other coaches in SLS.

Official of the Year

An accredited surf sports official who has made a significant contribution to both officiating at a state, national and/or international level, and to the educational development of other officials in SLS.

Trainer of the Year

An endorsed Trainer who is passionate about building the skills of others, consistently delivers a positive learning experience, and who encourages other members to engage in the delivery of training.

Assessor of the Year

An endorsed Assessor who is passionate about building the skills of others, consistently delivers a positive and supportive assessment experience, and who encourages other members to engage in training or assessment.

Community Education Program of the Year

A non-commercial activity or program that is targeted to non-members who are an identified at-risk group within the community. The purpose should contribute significantly to the organisation's mission of saving lives, creating great Australians, and building better communities.

Innovation Award****

A well-researched concept, piece of equipment, program or event which is/has been implemented to improve any facet of Surf Life Saving. Innovations that include or benefit environmental outcomes will be looked upon favourably.

Notes:

*The Young Member of the year award is only a State based award. The winner of this award does not go forward for a National Award.

**Applications that focus on significant achievements in one particular area may not be considered if this area is also covered by other awards (e.g. Lifesaver, Coach, Official, Trainer and Assessor of the Year).

***A youth aged competitor (i.e., aged 15 to 18 years as at 30 September in a 2023/24 season) may be nominated for both the Athlete of the Year and Youth Athlete of the Year. However, only results achieved in Open Age Events and Open Age Team representation are considered for Athlete of the Year Award.

**** The innovation may have been developed in conjunction with an external body/sponsor but must be owned by a member or group of members of an affiliated SLS club.

Section 3: Nomination Process

Volunteer and Program/Innovation Awards

- Surf Lifesaver of the Year
- Youth Surf Lifesaver of the Year
- Young Member of the Year
- Volunteer of the Year
- Trainer of the Year
- Assessor of the Year
- Community Education Program of the Year
- Innovation Award

How to nominate for the above awards

Complete the [online nomination form](#) and answer the three questions below (with each answer no more than 400 words).

1. Tell us about the member/individual or program/innovation being nominated.
2. What has been achieved?
3. What impact has this had, and for whom?

For Surf Lifesaver and Youth Surf Lifesaver of the Year awards, nominations require patrol hours to be uploaded for the 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 season (extracted from SurfGuard).

When showcasing members' achievements, you may want to consider the questions below to boost the quality of your nomination...

- What relevant positions, roles or responsibilities do they hold?
- Have they done something in response to an identified need or problem?
- Have they done something new or different to achieve results?
- Have they inspired others to think or to do things differently?
- Have they had to overcome any challenges to make a difference or achieve success?
- Do they model positive and supportive attitudes, behaviours and actions?

When showcasing the achievements of programs or innovations, you may want to consider the questions below to boost the quality of your nomination...

- What was the motivation or research which drove the program/innovation?
- What were the aims and objectives?
- What did it look like (location, duration, resources required etc.)?
- How was it evaluated to ensure it achieved its aims and objectives?
- Were there any challenges which needed to be overcome to achieve success?
- You may wish to attach photographs, include links to any promotional material created or media coverage received.

Club of the Year Award

To nominate for the Club of the Year award

Complete the [online nomination form](#) attaching your club's strategic and/or operational plan, and answer the five questions below (with each answer no more than 400 words).

1. Tell us about the club.
2. What has been achieved?
3. Why and how it has made a difference, and to whom?
4. What are your plans for future development and continuous improvement?
5. What is the ONE lesson that your club can teach and share with all other SLS clubs both here in Australia and internationally?

When showcasing club achievements, you may want to consider the questions below to boost the quality of your nomination...

- How does your club support the SLS 2025 Strategic Plan?
- What new initiatives, programs or events did your club implement last season that furthered your strategic objectives? How did you identify the need for this?
- How does your club deliver a range of sustainability and improvement measures across areas of governance, leadership, development, community engagement (or community support initiatives), and delivery of lifesaving services?
- What, if any, challenges did the club have to overcome to achieve success?
- How does your club management team model positive and supportive attitudes, behaviours and actions?
- You may wish to attach any photographs, reference letters or media coverage to your nomination.

Note:

If your club has been a successful Club of the Year at State or National level in the past five (5) years, please note this on your nomination.

Sport Awards

- Athlete of the Year
- Youth Athlete of the Year
- Surf Sport Team of the Year
- Official of the Year
- Coach of the Year

How to nominate for these awards:

Athlete of the Year

How to nominate for the above awards:

Complete the [online nomination form](#) and answer the questions listed below (with each answer no more than 400 words).

1. Has the athlete competed in any representative teams (including international competition) during the 23/24 season? If so, please list the team and how they contributed to the success of the team?
2. List the competition results achieved by the athlete in the 23/24 season at championship carnivals or major surf sports events?
3. In the 23/24 season how is the athlete a positive role model, a good sportsperson and/or an ambassador for Surf Life Saving? How do they contribute to broader lifesaving activities and engage with other members (including juniors or mentoring)?
4. Does the athlete hold any coaching and/or officiating qualifications?

Youth Athlete of the Year

How to nominate for the above awards:

Complete the [online nomination form](#) and answer the questions listed below (with each answer no more than 400 words).

1. List the competition results achieved by the Youth Athlete in the 23/24 season at championship carnivals or major surf sports events.
2. Has the Youth Athlete competed in any representative teams (including international competition, if relevant) during the 23/24 season? If so, please list the team and how they contributed to the success of the team?
3. In the 23/24 season how is the youth athlete a positive role model, a good sportsperson and/or an ambassador for Surf Life Saving? Do they contribute to broader lifesaving activities and engage with other members (including juniors, mentoring, coaching or officiating)?

Surf Sport Team of the Year

How to nominate for the above awards:

Complete the [online nomination form](#) and answer the questions listed below (with each answer no more than 400 words).

1. List the competition results achieved by the Team in the 23/24 season at championship carnivals or major surf sports events.
2. Has the Team competed as a Branch/State or National representative team during the 23/24 season? If so, please list the events?
3. In the 23/24 season how has the Team been positive role models and shown good sportsmanship and/or been good ambassadors for Surf Life Saving? Do they contribute to broader lifesaving activities and engage with other members (including juniors)?

Official of the Year

How to nominate for the above awards:

Complete the [online nomination form](#) and answer the questions listed below (with each answer no more than 400 words).

1. What officiating qualification does the member currently hold, Core, Technical or Senior Official?
2. List the member's officiating roles they have fulfilled during the season at Club, Branch, State, National and International level (where applicable).
3. Describe the Officials achievements during the 23/24 season, including examples, areas of achievement may be in mentoring, training, documentation and process, new programs, solving problems etc.
4. Please provide examples of how the official adheres to and is a role model of the values of SLSA, Surf Sports and the SLSA Match Fixing Policy.
5. List any training or development the official has undertaken this season to improve themselves and their impact.

Coach of the Year

How to nominate for the above awards:

Complete the [online nomination form](#) and answer the questions listed below (with each answer no more than 400 words).

1. What coaching qualification does the member currently hold, Foundation, Development or Performance Coach?
2. What coaching roles has the member fulfilled during the 23/24 season at Club, Branch (where applicable), State, National and International Level?
3. List the competition results attributed to the coach, where this member was the primary coach for the athlete and/or team, in the 23/24 season.
4. Has the coach been involved in any mentoring and development of other coaches, creating of supporting documentation and/or programs. Please provide examples of where the coach has shown a positive and supportive attitude, behaviour and actions (including who it has impacted and how) in the 23/24 season?
5. Has the coach undertaken any personal development to improve themselves as a coach in the 23/24 season?

Applications for all awards close on Monday 6th of May.