



Morningson Life Saving Club

Competition Eligibility Policy

Morningson Life Saving Club adopts and uses the Surf Life Saving Australia Competition Eligibility Policy as its official club policy. All provisions, guidelines, requirements and references to Surf Life Saving Australia outlined in the SLSA Competition Eligibility Policy are applicable to and apply to the Morningson Life Saving Club and its members - [Policy 5.04 - Competition Eligibility](#)

Purpose

The policy ensures that surf sports participation recognises service to lifesaving, supports community safety and patrol delivery, and is applied fairly, consistently, and transparently in line with Morningson Life Saving Club, Life Saving Victoria (LSV) and Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA) requirements.

Scope

This policy applies to Morningson Life Saving Club members seeking to compete in LSV State Championships and SLSA Australian Championships. It applies to members from Under 15 through Masters, with specific provisions for Under 14 Youth Activities.

Core Eligibility Requirements

To be endorsed by Morningson Life Saving Club to compete, a member must:

- Be a current, financial member of Morningson Life Saving Club
- Hold the appropriate SLSA award for their age category
- Be proficient in that award for the current season
- Meet age eligibility requirements for the event entered
- Meet Morningson Life Saving Club patrol and/or approved service obligations
- Not be in default with Morningson Life Saving Club, LSV or SLSA (financial, disciplinary or service-related)
- Meet any event-specific qualification requirements (e.g. IRB, Patrol Competition, First Aid)

Patrol Service – Primary Principle

Patrol service is the primary pathway to competition eligibility at Morningson Life Saving Club. The Club will always prioritise patrol capability and public safety over competition participation. Competition eligibility must not compromise Morningson Life Saving Club's ability to meet its LSV patrol service agreement.

Recognition of Other Service

Morningson Life Saving Club may, at its discretion, recognise approved non-patrol service toward competition eligibility only where patrol delivery is not compromised. Recognised service may include club executive roles, Nipper and Youth & Senior program leadership, accredited non-paid coaching, training and assessing, Nipper water safety duties and other approved operational or support activities. All recognised service must be approved by the Club, recorded in SurfGuard, documented in Board records, and is subject to review and not automatically implied.



Junior Members

Junior Activity Members (Under 14 and below) are not required to complete patrol hours to compete in Junior competitions. Members transitioning to Under 15 competition must meet patrol and/or service obligations. Junior members holding a Surf Rescue Certificate (SRC) are exempt from patrol hours while competing in Junior categories.

Minimum Patrol & Service Requirements for Competition Eligibility

Patrol service is the primary pathway to competition eligibility. Approved service substitutions may be recognised only where patrol delivery is not compromised and must be approved and documented by the Club.

Table 1: Minimum Annual Requirements (Under 15 – Masters)

Membership Category	Option A – Patrol Only	Option B – Patrol + Approved Service	Possible activities to be performed
Active Members (U17, U19, Open & Masters)	16 patrol hours	Min 8 patrol hours + up to 8 approved service hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MLSC Executive Board position • Nipper Captain • Youth & Seniors Captain • Approved & accredited MLSC Club Coaches • MLSC Nipper Program Water Safety • Qualified Trainers & Assessors
Under 15 Members	16 patrol hours	Min 8 patrol hours + up to 8 approved service hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MLSC Nipper Program Water Safety

Notes/Conditions - Service must be Club-approved, recorded in SurfGuard, and minuted, applies once competing in U15 and above events.

Table 2: Youth Members

Category	Patrol Requirement	Notes
Youth members (U14) holding SRC	No minimum patrol hours required	Youth (U14) individual & team competition only



Approved Service Hours

Approved service hours may include club executive roles, Nipper and Youth & Senior program leadership roles, accredited non-paid coaching, training and assessing, Nipper program water safety duties and other approved operational or support roles. Approval is not automatic and all requests will be reviewed by the Club for consideration.

Club Discretion and Governance

Endorsement to compete is not an entitlement. Mornington Life Saving Club reserves the right to refuse or withdraw competition endorsement and to apply eligibility requirements conservatively during peak patrol or high-risk periods. All decisions must be consistent, defensible, and aligned with LSV expectations.

Compliance and Review

Failure to meet eligibility requirements may result in ineligibility to compete or withdrawal of endorsement. Failure by the Club to meet patrol obligations may result in LSV sanctions. This policy will be reviewed annually or following changes to SLSA Policy 5.04 or LSV guidance.

Club Position Statement

Mornington Life Saving Club supports surf sports participation as an extension of its lifesaving mission. Competition eligibility is granted to members who are current, proficient, have no outstanding training or board/ski storage fees and who contribute to patrol and approved club service in a manner that ensures public safety and compliance with Life Saving Victoria obligations.

Related Documents

SLSA Competition Eligibility Policy

Document Control

Version	Approved By	Approval Date	Next Review Date	Responsible Role
1.00	MLSC Board	05/03/2026	01/10/2026	Club Captain