Cairns Surf Life Saving Club Policy

Title: Recognition Awards Nomination Process	AD02
Effective Date: 1 July 2026	Version: 3.0
This policy is approved in accordance with the Cairns Surf Life Saving Club Incorporated Constitution Version 2, paragraph 3(h).	Approved by: CSLSC Board

Introduction

This policy recognises and rewards members for their valued contribution to Cairns Surf Life Saving Club (CSLSC). The Club relies on member commitment and contribution, and this policy provides a structured and fair framework to acknowledge outstanding service, performance, and leadership.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Define the process for nominating and selecting recognition awards; and
- Ensure alignment with Surf Life Saving Queensland (SLSQ) and Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA) Recognition Awards frameworks.

CSLSC recognises that:

- Some awards align with SLSQ Awards of Excellence and may progress to Branch and State level, and
- Other awards are designed for club level recognition only.

Award Categories

SLSQ Aligned Pathway Awards

SLSQ Aligned Pathway Awards are awards that:

- Exist within the SLSQ Awards of Excellence Recognition Award Matrix;
- Align with SLSQ and SLSA eligibility, naming conventions, age definitions and intent; and
- May progress from Club → Branch → SLSQ, and where applicable to SLSA.

Only awards listed as *SLSQ-Aligned Pathway Awards* in the CSLSC Recognition Awards Matrix are eligible for progression beyond CSLSC.

Key principles

- Selection is based on merit and evidence against published criteria.
- Popular voting does not apply to SLSQ-aligned awards.
- Where appropriate, CSLSC may determine more than one nominee.

Club Only Recognition Awards

Club Only Recognition Awards:

- Recognise leadership, culture, service, junior development or heritage within CSLSC; and
- Do not progress to Branch, SLSQ, or SLSA levels.

These awards are clearly identified as *Club Only* in the Recognition Awards Matrix and exist solely for CSLSC recognition.

Surf Sports Performance Awards

Surf Sports Performance Awards:

- Are determined by competition results, points or performance outcomes; and
- Recognise athletic excellence within the club competition season.

These awards are not part of the SLSQ Awards of Excellence framework and do not progress beyond CSLSC.

Service and Participation Awards

Service and Participation Awards recognise:

- Patrol, water safety and other service contributions; and
- Length of service and qualifications formally recorded in Surfguard.

Service certificates and national service awards are issued in accordance with SLSQ and SLSA processes.

General Conditions

- All nominees must be SLSA financial members.
- Age eligibility is determined as at 30 September of the relevant season.
- Winners may be required to act as ambassadors for CSLSC.
- Nominations focus primarily on the current season with consideration of the previous three years.

Recognition Awards Matrix

(Authoritative reference for all CSLSC awards)

Section A — SLSQ Aligned Pathway Awards

Award	Category	Eligibility	Decision Method
Surf Lifesaver of the Year	Lifesaving	Open	Awards Panel
Young Lifesaver of the Year	Lifesaving	Under 21	Awards Panel
Young Volunteer of the Year	Volunteering	15–21	Awards Panel
Masters Athlete of the Year	Surf Sports	Masters	Awards Panel
Coach of the Year	Surf Sports	Accredited Coach	Awards Panel
Rookie Coach of the Year	Surf Sports	≤ 2 years	Awards Panel

Official of the Year	Surf Sports	Accredited Official	Awards Panel
Rookie Official of the Year	Surf Sports	≤ 2 years	Awards Panel
Trainer of the Year	Lifesaving	Endorsed Trainer	Awards Panel
Assessor of the Year	Lifesaving	Endorsed Assessor	Awards Panel
Volunteer of the Year	Lifesaving Support	Open	Awards Panel
Club Person of the Year	Membership Development	Open	Awards Panel

Section B — Club Only Recognition Awards

Award	Decision Authority
President's Award	President
Ralph Award	CTO / Club Captain
Old Boys' Trophy	Old Boys' Committee
Masters' Choice	Masters Group
Spirit of Cairns Award	Junior Activities Coordinator / Age Managers
JAC Award	Junior Activities Coordinator
Services to Junior Activities	Awards Panel
U14 Lifesaver of the Year	Age Managers

Section C — Surf Sports Performance Awards

Decided on points or performance results:

- Youth Athlete of the Year (15–18)
- U17 Age Champion (Female & Male)
- U19 Age Champion (Female & Male)
- Open Age Champion (Female & Male)
- Masters Age Champion (Female & Male)
- Overall Club Champion
- Family of the Year

Junior Performance:

- Junior Athlete of the Year (11–14)
- Most Improved Swimmer (U9)

Section D — Service and Participation Awards

Hours Based Awards

- Most Patrol Hours
- Most Water Safety Hours

Service Certificates

- Age Manager Service Certificate
- Coaching Service Certificate
- Officiating Service Certificate
- Training Service Certificate
- Assessing Service Certificate
- National Patrol Service Award

Nominations and Selection

6.1 Nominations

- Any financial CSLSC member may submit a nomination unless otherwise specified.
- Nominations must address the published criteria for the award.
- Separate closing dates may apply for pathway awards to ensure alignment with Branch and SLSQ timelines.

6.2 Awards Panel

The CSLSC Board will appoint an Awards Panel responsible for:

- Assessing nominations against criteria;
- Determining award recipients; and
- Endorsing nominees for Branch and SLSQ consideration.

6.3 Voting

- Member voting may be used for Club Only Recognition Awards where approved by the Board.
- Voting is **not permitted** for SLSQ-aligned pathway awards.

The Awards Panel will also determine if a trophy does not have sufficient nominees to be awarded. Any panel members who have been nominated for an award may not vote for that award.

Contacts

The following officers can address questions regarding this policy:

Director of Administration	secretary@cairnssurfclub.com.au
Director of Surf Sports	surfsports@cairnssurfclub.com.au
Director of Junior Activities	jac@cairnssurfclub.com.au

Appendix A – Awards and Criteria (Revised, Aligned)

A1. Lifesaving and Membership Development Awards

Young Volunteer of the Year/ Formerly U18 Lifesaver of the Year (Haug Family Trophy)

(SLSQ Aligned Pathway Award)

This award recognises an outstanding member (between the ages of 15-21) who has made a difference through their volunteering services.

Key criteria

- Roles and responsibilities undertaken
- Positive behaviours and leadership
- Initiative and innovation
- Impact across the club or organisation
- Ability to inspire others
- Challenges overcome
- Breadth of club involvement

Young Lifesaver of the Year (John 'Choko' Wright Trophy)

(SLSQ Aligned Pathway Award, Age 15–21)

Recognises an active patrolling member who has made an outstanding contribution to frontline lifesaving services.

Key criteria

- Roles, responsibilities and leadership contributions
- Demonstration of positive and supportive behaviours
- Initiative in response to identified needs
- Innovation or new approaches
- Contribution and impact within the club
- Ability to identify and address club needs
- Key challenge and how it was overcome

Surf Lifesaver of the Year (Jon Menico Trophy)

(SLSQ Aligned Pathway Award)

Recognises an active patrolling member who has made an outstanding contribution to frontline lifesaving services.

Key criteria

- Contribution across patrol, surf sports and training
- Leadership and positive attitude
- Roles and responsibilities held
- Demonstrated influence and inspiration of others
- Initiative in identifying and addressing needs
- Ability to think differently and improve outcomes
- Key challenge and how it was overcome
- Distinguishing qualities compared to peers

Volunteer of the Year (Robert 'Bear' Crawford Trophy)

(SLSQ Aligned Pathway Award)

Recognises significant voluntary contribution beyond frontline patrol duties.

Key criteria

- Roles and responsibilities undertaken
- Positive behaviours and leadership
- Initiative and innovation
- Impact across the club or organisation
- Ability to inspire others
- Challenges overcome
- Breadth of club involvement

Club Person of the Year (Matthew Family Trophy)

(Clive Hammond OAM aligned)

Recognises outstanding contribution to club development and wellbeing.

Key criteria

- Leadership and commitment
- Positive behaviours and culture contribution
- Response to identified needs
- Innovation and improvement
- Impact on the club
- Influence on others
- Challenges overcome

Team Manager of the Year

Recognises a member who has made significant voluntary contributions as a team manager.

Key criteria

- Leadership and organisation
- Roles and responsibilities
- Support and development of athletes
- Positive behaviours and communication
- Additional achievements

Trainer of the Year (Chris Auger Trophy)

Recognises an endorsed trainer delivering high-quality learning and development.

Key criteria

- Roles at club, branch or state level
- Courses delivered
- Initiative in response to needs
- Innovation in training
- Positive behaviours and engagement
- Influence on others
- Challenges overcome

Assessor of the Year (Bill Smith Trophy)

Recognises an endorsed assessor delivering high-quality assessment and support.

Key criteria

- Roles and responsibilities
- Courses assessed
- Initiative and improvement
- Positive behaviours
- Influence and mentoring
- Challenges overcome

Services to Junior Activities *(Club Only)*

Recognises outstanding contribution to junior activities.

Key criteria

- Contribution to junior programs

- Roles and responsibilities
- Positive behaviours
- Initiative and innovation
- Ability to overcome challenges
- Impact on junior members
- Influence on others

A2. Surf Sports Awards

Coach of the Year (Bryan Coates Trophy)

(Volunteer Coach – SLSQ Pathway)

Recognises excellence in coaching and athlete development.

Key criteria

- Coaching qualifications
- Roles at club to higher levels
- Athlete and team results
- Mentoring and development of other coaches
- Demonstrated positive behaviours
- Ongoing personal development

Rookie Coach of the Year

Recognises emerging coaches (≤ 2 years' experience).

Key criteria

- Coaching duration and development
- Qualifications or progress toward qualifications
- Coaching achievements
- Competition involvement
- Positive behaviours

Official of the Year (Adrian Davies-Roe Trophy)

(SLSQ Aligned Pathway Award)

Recognises excellence in officiating and development of officials.

Key criteria

- Officiating qualifications
- Roles across competition levels

- Contributions to education and mentoring
- Alignment with SLSA values and policies
- Personal development

Rookie Official of the Year

Recognises emerging officials (≤ 2 years' experience).

Key criteria

- Officiating involvement
- Qualifications or development
- Competition experience
- Positive behaviours

A3. Junior and Youth Awards

Junior Athlete of the Year (Green Family Trophy)

Recognises sporting excellence and contribution (ages 11–14).

Key criteria

- Competition performance
- Representative participation
- Sportsmanship and role modelling
- Contribution to club activities
- Engagement with other members

U14 Lifesaver of the Year (Grant Family Trophy)

Recognises outstanding contribution to junior lifesaving.

Key criteria

- Participation across lifesaving, sport and training
- Leadership and attitude
- Patrol or water safety involvement
- Club, school or community achievements
- Distinguishing qualities