



AUSTRALIAN BOARDRIDERS BATTLE

 SURFING AUSTRALIA

2026/2027 CLUB MANUAL

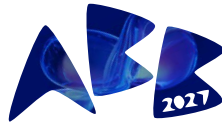


www.australianboardridersbattle.com

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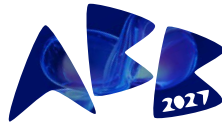
Fast Facts

- The Australian Boardriders Battle is an unprecedented event series involving over 85 of Australia's Boardriders Clubs in eight State qualifying events and culminating in a Grand Final for 42 clubs in 2027
- Surfing Australia has "Shared the Stoke" for an enduring 14 years and have given back over 1.5 Million dollars to Australian Boardrider Clubs
- The 2026/2027 Series is proudly supported by NRMA Insurance, Ford, Babybel, Celsius, SafeStyle, Fujifilm Photos, Southern Cross University, Ampd Bros, St Ali, Boost, Blackroll and Surfers for Climate.
- National Final participating Boardriders Club (BRC) breakdown: 22 x NSW BRC's (6 x NSW North BRC's, 8 x NSW Central BRC's 8 x NSW South BRC's), 8 x QLD BRC's, 3 x VIC BRC, 3 x WA BRC, 2 x SA BRC, 2 x TAS BRC, 2 x Wildcard BRC's by application
- The Australian Boardriders Battle will comprise of a Teams format at the Regional and Grand Final battles
- To win, clubs need to possess true depth of talent and the understanding of the different strategies that need to be applied to Teams surfing format
- \$24,600 prize money split between x 8 State events
- A total of \$147,500.00 prizemoney across all regional and Grand Final battles with the winning Grand Final club taking home a huge \$30,000.00
- Regional Novelty Awards
- Boost Mobile Wave of the Day Award Judging Criteria: Awarded to the highest scoring single wave of the whole event
- Celsius Overall Performer
Judging Criteria: The Celsius Overall Performer recognises the standout surfer of the entire event. This individual consistently demonstrates excellence both in and out of the water, bringing their team to the final. Winner does not need to be from the winning team.

BATTLE LINES

The battle lines have been drawn.
Over 85 clubs from six States do battle
over four months to qualify for the
Grand Final in 2027.





HOW TO ENTER

Clubs can enter online at at your State branch website under “Events” - Entries open in August 2026.

State entries to the Australian Boardriders battle close 1 week prior to scheduled state event.

Entry fee for the State and Grand Final events will be \$450 + gst

CLUB ELIGIBILITY

All competing clubs must be affiliated and insured with their relevant SA State branch and must hold regular club meeting and club championship rounds for the 2026 and 2027 surfing seasons.

CLUB COMPETITOR ELIGIBILITY

Club competitors must be current and financial members of their respective club for the 2026 and 2027 surfing seasons.

A surfer can only compete for the one club in Regional and Grand Final battles.

All ABB competitors must be holders of an **Australian passport, Australian birth certificate** or have been granted **full Australian citizenship**.

Permanent residency is not recognised and does not comply with the above eligibility stipulation.

Proof of all of the above will be on the onus of every competitor and can be requested by the Technical Committee/Director at any time prior, during, or after the specified event.

AGE GROUPS ARE DEFINED AND DETERMINED BY

Juniors cannot be, or turn 18 by December 31st 2026. Please note: Under 18 Junior Surfers that qualify and surfed in the regional battle will pre-qualify for the Grand Final in 2027. All other Juniors surfers that have not pre-qualified will have to adhere to the Dec 31st 2026 age restrictions.

For regional and Grand Final Battles Masters must be 35 and over as of the 1st of January 2026.

GRAND FINAL BATTLE SEEDING

The 2027 Grand Final seeding will be based on the results from the 2026 Grand Final and the 2026/27 regional battles.

At the previous Grand Final the highest placed club from each state will determine the state order of seeding for this years Grand Final. EG. #1 QLD #2 NSW #3 VIC...

The final placings and points from the 2026 regional battles will determine the 7th to 40th seeds.

The two Wild Card clubs will receive seeds 41 and 42

WILD CARD APPLICATION

Wild Card applications will open 9am 23rd of September 2026 and will close 5pm on the 13th of November 2026.

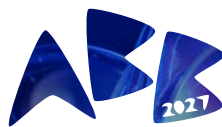
Application forms are available on the Australian Boardriders Battle website.

Selections will be determined by the Surfing Australia selection panel.

The two successful applicants will be notified by Tuesday 17th of November 2026.

Wild Card application criteria:

1. Club results in the current ABB regional series and previous Grand Final results.
2. Club nominated squad - Individual nominated surfer's results
3. Club results in other State National inter cub competitions from 2020



State Qualifying Events

There will be eight rounds of State qualifying events from September 12th 2026 through to Mid November 2026. Due to the large number of clubs in NSW the State will be split into three qualifying regions North, Central and South.

- Surfing NSW Regions – North (Far North Coast + North Coast + Mid-North Coast to Hawkes Nest)
- NSW Central = (Port Stephens to Newcastle + Central Coast + Northern Beaches to Harbour Bridge)
- NSW South = (Harbour Bridge to Southside + Sutherland + Illawarra + South Coast)

All State qualifying events will be **Teams format only** using the second chance progression formats used in the SA Rule book. There is prize money for top placed clubs in all State events but the most valuable opportunity is to qualify and compete for the big buck\$ in the prestigious National Final.

EVENT 1: SURFING WESTERN AUSTRALIA

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

12TH /13TH SEPT - TRIGG

EVENT 2: SURFING NEW SOUTH WALES

NSW CENTRAL

19TH SEPT - NORTH NARRABEEN

EVENT 3: SURFING VICTORIA

VICTORIA

4TH OCT - PHILLIP ISLAND

EVENT 4: SURFING QUEENSLAND

QUEENSLAND

10TH OCT - SUNSHINE COAST

EVENT 5: SURFING SOUTH AUSTRALIA

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

17TH OCT - FLEURIEU PENINSULA

EVENT 6: SURFING TASMANIA

TASMANIA

24TH OCT - SCAMANDER

EVENT 7: SURFING NEW SOUTH WALES

NSW SOUTH

31ST OCT - NORTH CRONULLA

EVENT 8: SURFING AUSTRALIA

NSW NORTH

7TH NOV - TWEED, NSW

GRAND FINAL: SURFING AUSTRALIA

QUEENSLAND – NATIONAL GRAND FINAL

13TH - 14TH MARCH (TENTATIVE) BURLEIGH HEADS QLD

STATE QUALIFYING EVENTS PRIZE MONEY

NSW

1st	\$1,500
2nd	\$1,000
3rd	\$500
4th	\$400

QLD

1st	\$1,500
2nd	\$1,000
3rd	\$500
4th	\$400

WA

1st	\$1,500
2nd	\$1,000
3rd	\$500

VIC

1st	\$1,500
2nd	\$1,000
3rd	\$500

TAS

1st	\$1,500
2nd	\$1,000

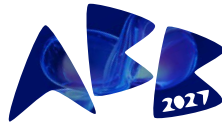
STH AUST

1st	\$1,500
2nd	\$1,000

BATTLE PLAN

The Battle Plan comprises of a tactical teams format at each State qualifying event and Grand Final.





Event Rules

1. CLUB SQUAD

Only one competing squad can be nominated per club.

A maximum of 10 competing members will make up the entire club squad.

State and National event organisers will double check all age and citizenship requirements.

Each club squad can consist of 2 Open males & 1 Open female, 1 Junior (male or female), and 1

Over 35 Master (male or female). Plus reserves - 1 Open male reserve, 1 Open female reserve, 1

Junior reserve and 1 Master reserve will be allowed for the regional and Grand Final events.

Each club must have a designated competing club captain, and a non-competing designated

coach and or manager. The Club coach/manager will be solely responsible for submitting the club

team, from the nominated club squad before each match.

TEAMS FORMAT

Selected out of the club squad a minimum of 5 competing members can be utilised for the Teams format.

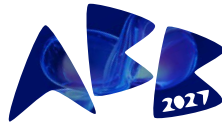
Each club Team will consist of 2 Open males & 1 Open female, 1 Junior (male or female), and 1 Over 35 Master (male or female)

One of the 5 Team members will be chosen as the Power Surfer.

The club team or order of names can be changed from heat to heat.

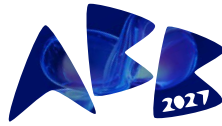
A club must complete a new club team list with any changes using the new LIVE Heats managers club portal

2. Reserves: A reserve surfer can be used at the start of the next heat or round. Each club may include 1 nominated reserve team member in each of the following divisions. E.g. Open Male, Junior, Master and Open Female. **All club squad members must be nominated prior to the start of the competition so age and citizenship eligibility can be determined to meet all criteria.**
3. Each club must have a designated competing club captain, and a non-competing designated coach and or manager.
4. Club competitors must be current and financial members of their respective club for the 2026 and 2027 surfing seasons.
5. A surfer can only compete for the one club in Regional and Grand Final battles.
6. All ABB competitors must be holders of an **Australian passport, Australian birth certificate** or have been granted **full Australian citizenship**. Permanent residency is not recognised and does not comply with the above eligibility stipulation.
7. Age groups are determined by: Juniors cannot be, or turn, 18 by the 31st December 2026. Please note: Under 18 Junior Surfers that qualify and surfed in the regional battle will pre-qualify for the Grand Final in 2027. All other Juniors surfers that have not pre-qualified will have to adhere to the Dec 31st 2026 age restrictions. For regional and Grand Final Battles Masters must be 35 and over as of the 1st of January 2026.
8. Once a team member has been nominated for the designated heat they cannot be substituted in that heat. Runners for injured surfers are not allowed.
9. Surfers can be interchanged between each surfing format at the start of a new heat, round or day.



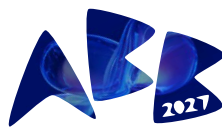
State and Grand Final Event Rules

10. All clubs are encouraged to use all of their club squad members at least once during the event.
11. All competitors, club captains and managers must be available for any media commitments at the event.
12. Any ties between clubs in a Teams match will be broken by going back to the POWER SURFER'S highest scoring final ride. If they are still tied the tie will be broken by going back to the POWER SURFER'S first ride in the match.
13. The highest placed club from each state at the 2026 Grand Final will determine the state order of the 2027 National Final. The results at the State regional battles will determine the rest of the seeding.
14. All Grand Final prize monies will be paid by Surfing Australia to the club on receipt of a valid tax invoice and within 14 days of the National Final.
15. All State prize monies will be paid by the state branch to the club on receipt of a **valid tax invoice within 14 days by the respective State branch.**



Dangerous Conditions Rules

1. At all times the safety and wellbeing of our competitors is of the utmost of importance. A safe surfing environment at events will be determined by the nominated competition officials. There are certain surf and weather conditions that can be classified as hazardous concerning the safety and wellbeing of all competitors.
2. In the event of surf or weather conditions that could be considered to be dangerous the Contest Director, Head Judge and Event Manager (Officials) will consult and are all authorised separately to make a decision to protect the safety and wellbeing of all competitors by immediately suspending the competition for all or some competitors until such time as the Contest Director, Head Judge and Event Manager can meet to make a final determination.
3. Where there are concerns about conditions or where an Official has suspended the competition, a meeting between the Contest Director, Head Judge and Event Manager will be convened at the earliest possible time to decide the appropriate course of action.
4. After consultation between the Contest Director, Head Judge and Event Manager the competition can be suspended, cancelled or re-scheduled until surf conditions or weather improves.
5. Where a competition has been suspended by one or all of the Officials, the competition may not recommence without a unanimous decision of the Contest Director, Head Judge and Event Manager.
6. There may be a need to suspend, cancel or re-schedule some surfing divisions based on the skill level of the competitors in that division due to the hazardous surf and weather conditions.
7. The decision by Surf Life Savers or Beach inspectors to close the beach for swimming is a matter to be considered by the Officials but that decision to close the beach does not require mandatory cessation or suspension of the competition.

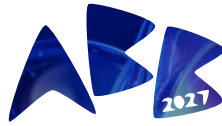


Team Event Rules

COMPETITION FORMAT & RULES

Surfing Australia have devised a unique competition format for the Australian Boardriders Battle Teams event.

1. Each Round 1 comprises of different Boardriders Club teams. Heat Times will be at the discretion of the Head Judge and Contest Director.
2. Each Team is made up of 5 surfers - 2 x Open Men, 1 x Open Woman, 1 Master (O35 male or female) 1 Junior (U18 male or female). Open is classified as any age group.
3. In regards to the Judging scale - The judges will score each surfer based on the division that the surfer has been nominated for. Furthermore and as an example. A power surfer will be judged on the same scale across all power surfers regardless of gender. If a surfer has been nominated for either Junior or Masters division they will be judged on the same scale across all of the junior/ masters surfers regardless of gender.
4. Team surfers can be interchangeable at the start of a new heat, round or day. Juniors cannot be, or turn, 18 by the 31st of December 2026. Please note: Under 18 Junior Surfers that qualify and surfed in the regional battle will pre-qualify for the Grand Final in 2027. All other Juniors surfers that have not pre-qualified will have to adhere to the Dec 31st 2026 age restrictions. The Club coach/ manager will be solely responsible for submitting the club team, from the nominated club squad before each match. For regional and Grand Final Battles Masters must be 35 and over as of the 1st of January 2026.
5. Each surfer can catch an unlimited number of waves – it can be the best 1 or 2 waves. This will be decided prior to the round starting and will be at the discretion of the Head Judge and the Contest Director.
6. If a wave has been caught within the allotted match time it could possibly count towards the team total regardless of whether the surfer has returned to the change-over area to release the next surfer.
7. At the end of the allotted heat time or when the surfer has completed his or her “set” the competing surfer is to return to the beach and enter the change-over zone before the next team surfer can be released. Entering the change-over zone means any part of the surfers body crossing or touching the line. The line is denoted by the event marshalls and or the chequered flags.
8. Every club competitor must complete the designated run leg from the official ENTRY point of the run track to the official change-over area/finish line. No short cutting of the run leg will be allowed.
9. No runners allowed for competing team members.
10. Each team is to nominate a POWER SURFER prior to the beginning of their respective heat. The POWER SURFER CANNOT be surfer no.5 in the team order list. The POWER SURFER is allowed to return to the water and surf 1 extra wave after all 5 surfers have completed their “set” of allotted waves. If caught within the allotted match time, the POWER SURFER’S wave will count towards the team total regardless of whether the POWER SURFER has returned to the change-over area.
11. POWER SURFER will be judged on the Open power surfer’s scoring scale whether male or female.
12. If there is a tie on points at the end of the match, there will be a count back between tied teams and broken by the highest final extra wave score from their respective POWER SURFER.
13. State qualifying Teams formats and Leaderboard points will be available from the appropriate State branch.



TEAM PENALTIES

Surfer competes out of turn by entering the water and catching a wave: **Loss of 5 points.**

A Surfer breaks early outside of the change-over area: **Loss of 5 points.**

Team fails to catch wave limit within heat time, and or the final surfers of the team has not crossed over the line in the change-over area before the allocated 'match time' expires: **Loss of 5 points.**

Please note: The wave score will still count towards the teams total

POWER SURFER catches more than 1 wave: **Loss of 5 points.**

Riding and paddling interferences:

If it is best 1 wave - the interfering wave will be counted as a zero. The highest wave of the interfering surfer will be halved.

If it is best 2 waves - the interfering wave will be counted as a zero. The second highest wave of the interfering surfer will be halved.

The surfer that was interfered with will receive an extra wave if wanted, and if the match time allows.

Failure to complete the full official run leg: **Loss of 5 points and the offending surfer's scoring wave.**

***Penalty points are deducted from the team match total.**

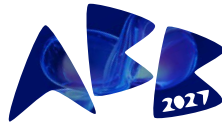
COACHING TIP

Managing time is crucial to the overall team performance.

The ultimate goal is to give the POWER SURFER a chance to score again.

Most matches are decided by this last chance to add to the team total by the POWER SURFER'S extra wave.

**Time
management
and allowing
all your surfers
to finish is
the key to
success!!**



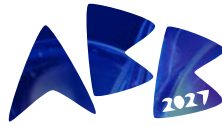
Code of Conduct

Surfing Australia and all of our partners want to encourage all of the Boardriders Clubs to compete in a professional manner, and we require your support in providing a safe, on-beach alcohol and smoke free environment at the State and National events.

- Abide by the rules and respect the decision of the officials, making all appeals through the formal process and respecting the final decision
- Refrain from any behaviour that may bring Surfing Australia, affiliated State branches or clubs into disrepute
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of fellow surfers, clubs, coaches, officials and spectators
- Be fair, considerate and honest in your dealings with others
- Be professional in, and accept responsibility for, your actions
- Conduct yourself in a professional manner relating to language, temper and punctuality
- Be aware of, and maintain an uncompromising adherence to, Surfing Australia's standards, rules, regulations and policies
- Refrain from any form of harassment of fellow surfers, clubs, coaches, officials and spectators
- Care for and respect the equipment provided to you from your club or Surfing Australia and its affiliated State branches
- Be frank and honest with your coach concerning illness and injury while competing
- Maintain a high personal behaviour standard at all times – Surfing Australia does not tolerate acts of aggression!
- No conflicting sponsor branding on any club items is allowed to be brought into event area including but not limited to tents and club signage
- No alcohol is to be brought into the on-beach event area of any State event or the National Final
- All areas of the event sites are alcohol and smoke-free unless licensed
- No alcohol at presentation ceremonies on-beach
- Do not hand winners any alcoholic drinks in celebrations on-beach
- Understand the repercussions if you breach, or are aware of any breaches, of this code of behaviour
- Any breaches of the above will result in the disqualification of the surfer and or club

CONTACTS





Contacts



Glen Elliott

Contest Director, Club and State Liaison
glen@surfingaustralia.com
M: 0419 176 924

Luke Madden

Chief of Sport
lukem@surfingaustralia.com

Tom Lavery

Media and Communications
toml@surfingaustralia.com

Rohan Fell

Event Manager
rohanf@surfingaustralia.com
M: 0429 292756



Surfing New South Wales - 02 9349 7055

Tom Bloore - Competitions and Marketing Manager - 0409 759 434
tom@surfingnsw.com.au



Surfing Queensland - 07 5520 1165

Christopher Rogers-Debrecey - Event Manager - 0478 587 354



Surfing Western Australia - 08 9448 0004



Surfing Victoria - 03 5261 2907



Surfing Tasmania

Luke Johanssen
luke_johannesen77@live.com.au



Surfing South Australia