2026/27 PRE-SEASON INFORMATION PACK

Welcome to the new 2026/27 Patrol Season:
On behalf of the Board of Directors, we are excited to have you back and are very grateful for your continued commitment as a volunteer Surf Life Saver with Bondi SBLSC. We can hardly wait to get back on the beach!

THIS CLUB INFORMATION PACK FOCUSES ON

- Headline policy or procedure notes
- Key events & dates to be aware of
- Key responsibilities before & during season
- Links to key reference material & contacts

The **Pre-Season Patrol Meeting is set for 10:00am on Saturday 12th September 2026**. Attendance is optional. The content in this information pack will help alert you to key details and expectations prior to season start. For important Life Saving updates, join the **WhatsApp chat: WhatsApp | Bondi Life Saving**

HEADLINE POLICY OR PROCEDURE NOTES

SHARKS

Understandably, some people may have shark activity concerns. For Patrols, risk is managed via Standard Operating Procedures PSS 8 Patrol Operations Emergency within the Public Safety Standards Operating Procedures, in conjunction with the NSW State Government's shark mitigation plan NSW Shark Management Program. SOPs for emergency procedures are also included in the BSBLSC Patrol Operations Manual.

From 1 July 2026, the NSW Government invested in the largest expansion of aerial shark surveillance in the world. For program details check NSW Government Shark Smart. Always pay attention to shark alarm activations and follow the directions of Lifeguards and your Patrol Captain.

Bondi drone coverage includes 365 days a year. For more information check the 26/27 Drone Schedule and updates Shark Surveillance Update 1 Sept 2026.

A Shark Bite/Trauma Kit is located at the Club Front Entrance of the Club House: Shark Bite Kit Contents

UAV PILOT OPPORTUNITIES

The Australian UAV Service (AUAVS) is inviting applications for casual drone operator roles throughout NSW. Become a UAV Pilot with the Australian UAV Service. Patrol hours not applicable.

Patrol Hours are available for volunteer (non-paid) UAV Operator roles with the Bondi club-owned drone asset. For training opportunities contact clubcaptain@bondisurfclub.com.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK

All members aged 18 and over are required to hold a valid NSW Working With Children Check (WWCC).

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES BEFORE & DURING SEASON

FINANCIAL MEMBERSHIP

Membership renewal is required by 30 July.

- Members with fees outstanding after the renewal date will have their club access revoked
- Renewals can be completed via the SLS Hub and access thereafter reinstated
- Members who fail to complete financial renewal by 31 October cannot patrol
- Strictly only Club Members may access club facilitates

PATROL

PATROL HOURS

Patrol hours are awarded for attendance on a rostered, substitute or volunteer patrol, and for water safety. All members are encouraged to volunteer for water safety, especially for club fund raising events.

Active Membership requires completion of rostered hours. Failure to complete your patrol hours is a breach of BSBLSC Club Rules and will be reported to the Director of Lifesaving. You can check your hours in the SLS Hub. Note: members are responsible for reporting Missing Patrol Hours within 2 weeks for corrections.

We understand it can sometimes be difficult to attend a rostered date. If you cannot attend a rostered patrol you are required to request a Sub via the SLS Hub so your patrol can safely fulfil its patrol obligations. For a longer-term solution you may apply for an alternative membership category. Refer to the BSBLSC Members Handbook.

ROSTER

The Patrol Roster is available in excel format and in the SLS Hub. You can download your dates to plan availability. Sunday Patrols start at 7:30am during Nippers season. No Nippers means an 8:30am start time for Sundays.

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

The BSBLSC Patrol Operations Manual includes a summary of key Patrol Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). Complete SOPs for patrols are found in the Public Safety Standard Operating Procedures. Your Patrol Captain and Vice Captains lead the Patrol Team through SOPs on Patrol. Patrols are randomly audited by SLS SYD (Branch) representatives for SOP compliance including attendance, uniform and gear compliance. Non-conformity is reported to the Director of Lifesaving.

CHAIN OF COMMAND

Patrol Captain (PC) is the ultimate authority on the beach (notwithstanding liaison with Lifeguards, Local and State Government requirements / legislation). Even if your Patrol runs with co-PC, there is only ever one (1) Patrol Captain in charge at any time. It is important you follow the direction of the PC during your Patrol. If you need to leave the beach for any reason, you much check with your PC first so they can manage patrol resources.

PUNCTUALITY

Please be on time for patrols. Consider public transport, walking or arriving early to ensure time for parking. Being on time is a basic curtesy to your fellow Clubbies, upholds Bondi's commitment to a safe beach patrol, and ensures your colleagues can leave the beach on time.

PARKING

If you are at the beach for an extended time, such as the duration of patrol, you will need to either refresh a parking meter or purchase a Waverley Council Beach Parking Permit. Refer to Waverley Council for conditions of sale.

During Patrols, all car parks directly in front of the club are strictly for patrolling members only. Do not park in these spots if you are not on patrol. Stickers are available from the Bondi Surf Club and you must have a Bondi SBLSC parking sticker on your car to park in these spots at any time.

EDUCATION

SKILLS MAINTENANCE: MUST BE COMPLETED BY 30 NOVEMBER 2026

All active lifesavers are required to complete annual skills maintenance to remain proficient in their awards. This is a SLSA requirement. **Please respect the time and effort of all trainers** who run skills maintenance sessions by attending the scheduled dates. Our trainers are all volunteers and help club members with multiple awards.

Non-proficient members cannot perform patrol activities, operate rescue craft, or compete in SLSA championship events. Club access will be revoked for active rostered members who are not proficient.

Members are responsible for ensuring all requirements are completed Skills Maintenance (Proficiency)

- You can review your award expiry dates in the SLS Hub
- Higher Awards usually require annual skills maintenance - SMPC/SMBM, ART, SMIRBD, IRBC, GM & RWC
- First Aid is every 3 years
- Skills maintenance dates for the season are managed by the Education Team.

ON-LINE LEARNING

All members must check their on-line learning requirements before the start of season. These are accessed through the e-leaning site via the SLS Hub. Note: you *must complete the on-line theory components prior* to attending practical skills maintenance assessment for award proficiency.

HIGHER AWARDS

Higher Awards are advanced qualifications that build on your core Bronze Medallion to give you specialist rescue, leadership, and medical skills. This is an excellent way to explore Education Pathways in Surf Life Saving.

PATROL UNIFORM

SLSA Policy 1.05 Patrol Uniforms provides clear advice on uniform requirements. In summary, SLS Patrol Uniform consists of the following items:

- SLSA approved patrol shirt
- SLSA approved patrol shorts
- SLSA approved red and yellow quartered patrol cap (Aquatic Rescue qualified only)
- State approved wide brimmed hat / peaked cap

Any items of the SLSA patrol uniform shall only be worn while on direct travel to or from patrol, while on patrol or when attending official surf lifesaving functions and community education activities e.g. media promotions of surf lifesaving.

Note: Uniform for Water Safety volunteers includes an orange skull cap with an orange rashie.

MEMBER OBLIGATIONS

MANAGING YOUR MEMBER PORTAL | SLS HUB

Your membership can be managed through the SLS Hub including membership details, training, awards, patrol hours, substitutes and uniform. Please use this as your main resource and point of contact. We sincerely

appreciate anyone picking up Subs required on patrols across the season or volunteering extra time when the beach is hectic (keep an eye on Public Holidays). Patrol hours are awarded for attendance on a Rostered, Substitute (Sub) or Volunteer Patrol, and for Water Safety.

SUBSITUTES

We understand that sometimes it is not possible to attend patrol on a rostered date. If you are unable to make a patrol you must take 2 actions:

1. Request a Sub via the VIDEO: Request and Take a Sub
2. Take a Sub via the VIDEO: Request and Take a Sub

What goes around comes around and we celebrate this mindset called **Pay it Forward.**

NO-SHOW

If you do not request a Sub *and* do not show up for your patrol, your Patrol Captain will mark you as a No-Show. No-Shows place stress on your patrol to manage the beach and make rostering for safe patrolling numbers risky. No-Show episodes are alerted to the Director of Life Saving. After 3 no-shows you may be asked to appear before a judiciary committee to discuss your ability to patrol and continue as an Active Member.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

If you are struggling to make your patrol commitments an alternative membership category may be suitable. We value your contribution and want to extend flexibility where possible, and the Club also needs to deliver a safe and compliant Patrol Roster. You may request to change your membership category with valid reason Application to Change Patrol Category. Membership categories are included in the BSBLSC Members Handbook.

GEAR

SLSA requires all rescue and patrol gear used on our beach to meet minimum standards. Every year this is formally checked at the annual pre-season Gear Inspection, an event all members are encouraged to support. Talk with your Patrol Captain and Vice Captain to learn about the Gear used on Patrols including First Aid Kits, Automatic External Defibrillators (AED)s, Recue Boards, Rescue Tubes, Inflatable Rescue Boats (IRBs) and more.

Everyone is expected to care for our gear and understand what gear you can use during and after patrol. Rescue Boar use has strict guidelines General Use Rescue Boards. If items are damaged while in your care, you must promptly report details to the Gear Steward gearofficer@bondisurfclub.com so the Club can attend to repairs.

If you ever need to borrow gear, a Rescue Tube, PFD, or anything, please do not take any items off site unless you have notified an officer in the Life Saving team such as the IRB Captain, Gear Steward or First Aid Officer.

KEY EVENTS & DATES TO BE AWARE OF

PATROL SEASON MARKERS

- Season Start | 26 September 2026
- Peak Season Start | Saturday, October 31, 2026
- Shoulder Season Start | Saturday, April 3, 2027
- Season Close | 26 April 2027

SPECIAL PATROLS

There are three (3) Special Patrols at Bondi aimed at growing exposure and awareness to the diversity of members in our Club and people within the Community we serve. We promote the purpose of these patrols and invite attendance from anyone who is interested. Like any patrol they are scheduled to operate with usual SOPs. We love including as many people as possible and you are very welcome to join as a volunteer. We encourage this!

1. Wellbeing Patrol | Saturday, November 7, 2026
2. Rainbow Patrol | Saturday, February 13, 2027
3. International Women's Day Patrol | Sunday, March 7, 2027

DESTINATION PATROLS

Bondi SBLSC supports under-resourced clubs at remote beach locations with away-from-home or Destination Patrols. These Patrols accrue Patrol Hours and are *in addition* to standard Patrols. These Patrols are a fun way to develop your lifesaving skills and experience patrolling on a completely different beach with your friends.

1. Destination Garie | 10am-4pm Saturday, November 14, 2026
2. Destination Garie | 10am-5pm Saturday, January 16, 2027
3. Destination Garie | 10am-3pm Saturday, March 20, 2027

NIPPERS SEASON MARKERS

First Session Season Start | Sunday, October 18, 2026
Last Session before Holiday Break | Sunday, December 13, 2026
First Session after Holiday Break | Sunday, January 24, 2027
Last Session Season Close | Sunday, March 21, 2027

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS*

Labour Day | Monday, October 5, 2026
Christmas Day | Friday, December 25, 2026
Boxing Day | Saturday, December 26, 2026
Christmas PH | Monday, December 28, 2026
NY Day | Friday, January 1, 2027
Australia Day | Tuesday, January 26, 2027
Good Friday | Friday, March 26, 2027
Easter Saturday | Saturday, March 27, 2027
Easter Sunday | Sunday, March 28, 2027
Easter Monday | Monday, March 29, 2027
ANZAC Day | Sunday, April 25, 2027
ANZAC Day PH | Monday, April 26, 2027

*NSW Public Holidays

CLUB ACTIVITIES

SURF SPORTS

Surf Sports represents some of the oldest traditions in Surf Life Saving and has a long history at Bondi SBLSC. A major benefit of being an Active Member is being able to compete with our Club and competition represents a significant, fun and inclusive element of our culture. Bondi caters to all levels in ski, board, swim, pool rescue, sprints, flags, champion lifesaver, IRB racing and more. Members may compete across club, branch, state and national level surf carnivals. Competitors must complete a minimum 25 patrol hours per calendar year.

TRAINING

To remain an Active Member, members need to train and maintain adequate fitness levels. Failure to maintain your fitness may place yourself and others at risk on patrol. There are many swimming squads on offer. The Club

also holds weekly boards, swim ins-and-outs, sprints and ski training sessions. All patrol members are encouraged to attend the yellow rescue board training sessions.

CLUB SWIM

Each Sunday at 09:30am there is a Bondi Club Swim. It's a handicapped, non-competitive and fun swim open to all levels. It forms an important part of our club culture and helps maintain fitness standards for patrols. All members are encouraged to attend at least one Club Swim per month for fun.

SOCIAL

Bottles is a regular club social event held on most Sunday afternoons through the Patrol Season. All members, friends and family are welcome to join in the Scenic Lounge for a few relaxing drinks after patrol and social catch up. Various other events are held throughout the season including organized trips and interest group meetings, trivia, club barhop, events and awards nights, and the annual Club Ball.

LINKS TO KEY REFERENCE MATERIAL & CONTACTS

KEY CONTACTS

BSBLSC Members Handbook
BONDI SBLSC Website
Key Information
WhatsApp | Bondi Life Saving

CLUB

BSBLSC Club Rules
BSBLSC Members Handbook
BSBLSC Constitution
Application to Change Patrol Category
Application to Change Patrol Team
Missing Patrol Hours
BSBLSC Patrol Operations Manual
VIDEO: Request and Take a Sub
General Use Rescue Boards
Shark Bite Kit Contents
Patrol Roster
info@bondisurfclub.com

SLS

SLS Hub
Skills Maintenance (Proficiency)
Public Safety Standards Operating Procedures
PSS 8 Patrol Operations Emergency
Education Pathways
SLSA Policy 1.05 Patrol Uniforms
Surf Life Saving NSW (State)
Surf Life Saving Sydney (Branch)
To Become a UAV Pilot
Higher Awards

GENERAL

NSW Public Holidays
NSW Government Shark Smart
Waverley Council
Shark Surveillance Update 1 Sept 2026

For general enquiries, please contact Bondi SBLSC Office: info@bondisurfclub.com

SYOTB
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