



## **INTERNATIONAL LIFE SAVING FEDERATION**

### **2028 ILS LIFESAVING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS**

#### **GENERAL CRITERIA**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The Lifesaving World Championships (LWC) are the most important competitive events in the calendar of the International Life Saving Federation (ILS).

This document is created as a guideline for those bidding organisations willing to organise the Lifesaving World Championships in the year 2028. This paper includes an analysis of:

- The needs of the ILS Member Federations.
- The goals of the ILS.
- The operational requirements to conduct the event.
- The community expectations.
- The economic considerations.

Compared with other sports, the combined pool and ocean/beach Lifesaving World Championships must rate as one of the biggest international sporting events in the world. It is interesting to note that there are some 11,000 athletes at the Olympic Games in 28 sports compared to 4,000-5,000 athletes at an average Lifesaving World Championships covering one multi-disciplined sport. A well organised World Championships will attract over 6,000 competitors, delegates, technical and team officials and accompanying guests from over 50 countries. The Lifesaving World Championships extends over an approximately 15-17-day period.

In evaluating the Lifesaving World Championships, the ILS observes that key factors are important for the event's future. These factors relate to ILS's objectives in providing international level competition; specifically, member development and community service. Deciding where, and how, to manage the event is the core issue detailed in this paper.

An ideal championship is one that reflects ILS's commitment to the needs of the stakeholder involved; specifically, ILS members, the community and the ILS itself. The Lifesaving World Championships needs to be recognised by these stakeholders as a quality and value-for-money event benefiting all involved.

#### **International Life Saving Federation**

The International Life Saving Federation (ILS) is the world authority for drowning prevention, lifesaving and lifesaving sport. ILS leads, supports and collaborates with national and

international organisations engaged in drowning prevention, water safety, water rescue, lifesaving, lifeguarding and lifesaving sport.

The aims of the ILS are, amongst others, to provide opportunities for members to participate in quality lifesaving competition at international level; hence the Lifesaving World Championships. The Championships lifts lifesaving's profile on the international sporting calendar. The event should be a showcase for lifesaving activities not only by featuring sport but also highlighting ILS's community role of building the capacity to reduce drowning worldwide.

The ILS members want to compete in a prestigious, high profile event that is well conducted. The event must satisfy general expectations of a Lifesaving World event. The ILS wants a high-quality spectacle for the public that meet Member's needs. Budgetary considerations are important when aiming to offer the best possible event to Members at minimum cost.

The ILS strives for compliance with event management best practices for managing the championships. These mechanisms have been developed via a set of benchmarks resulting from previous Lifesaving World Championships. The benchmarks represent key factors affecting the success of the Championships and include; site specifications; access to the venue and between the venues (pool, beach and accommodation); logistical support; television coverage; event duration; travel and accommodation requirements; support from local, provincial, state and central governments; environmental issues and volunteer participation and management.

Besides the selection of outstanding competition venues and the organisation of outstanding competitions, the accommodation, transportation and logistics play an important role as well in the success of the World Championships. The sites, whether beach/ocean or pool must meet specifications and be accessible to competitors, officials and spectators. The infrastructure required for the event is significant and can be complex depending on the venue selected. The ILS needs a budget that allows the Lifesaving World Championships to succeed and thrive. The championships must be packaged to attract corporate sponsors, promote marketing and merchandising opportunities. Regional business and government support is crucial in maintaining the event's viability. Their support will secure a budget that can satisfy current stakeholder needs and anticipate future needs.

To be successful the Lifesaving World Championships must have sponsorship, television coverage, maximum participation of member organisations/clubs, competitors, officials and a strong public profile and a high social media profile. The ILS and the host organisation should meet the following conditions to ensure the Lifesaving World Championship's future:

- Guaranteed support of national, state, provincial, regional and local government.
- Major sponsors and television coverage for an agreed period.
- A venue advantageous to competition and summer conditions.
- Sites large enough to cater for an event of this size.
- A country serviced by appropriate international travel and accommodation facilities.
- Capacity to actively promote the event via appropriate agencies and media outlets to attract spectators and supporters.
- Ability to continuously monitor, evaluate and develop best practice mechanisms for managing the Lifesaving Word Championships.
- An "aquatic" minded community.

## Lifesaving World Championships

The Lifesaving World Championships are held every two years in the following format.

### Mandatory World Championships

- A. Lifesaving World Championships for National Teams
  - 1) Open category.
  - 2) Youth category.
  - 3) Inflatable Rescue Boats (IRB).
  
- B. Lifesaving World Championships for Interclub Teams
  - 1) Open category.
  - 2) Youth category.
  - 3) Masters category.
  - 4) Inflatable Rescue Boats (IRB).
  - 5) Surfboats: Open and Masters categories.

### Optional World Championships

The World Championships in any other event mutually agreed upon by both Parties at least 12 months before the start of the World Championships, such as the March Past, long distance surfski, long distance paddleboard, etc.

## The Community

The Lifesaving World Championships represent the ILS's best opportunity to allow the host community to experience lifesaving. The Championships are a public relations showpiece. The ILS wants the best possible representation of lifesaving activity to the community. Everyone involved in the Lifesaving World Championships benefits from an exciting and effective presentation of the competition to the community.

Community support for the Championships also enhances the marketability of the event, its attractiveness to sponsors and the media, and increases the potential for merchandising revenue. These economic considerations have a significant impact upon the ability of the ILS to beneficially meet the needs of members for the Championships.

To meet the expectations of the community and media the event must offer accessibility to the venue(s). It must provide comfortable viewing facilities, engender a spirit of involvement with the event and ensure effective communications. It is therefore important to choose host venues with the capacity to attract non-member audiences and provide them with comfortable viewing conditions (weather and seating) plus action. Mass media coverage, especially through television and Social Networking, is mandatory to give the event a high profile with the community.

## ILS Members

The Lifesaving World Championships provides a prime opportunity for lifesavers to test their sporting skills and energy against the best lifesavers in the world. The ILS members thrive on the personal challenges that training and volunteering for the championship offers.

Members and lifesaving countries commit themselves to the Lifesaving World Championships through training and fund raising to participate. The event is a high point for several

members and huge amounts of activity is created by clubs and countries that participate at the World Championships.

## TERMS USED

<b>ILS</b>	The International Life Saving Federation.
<b>NLF</b>	A National Lifesaving Federation that is Full Member of the ILS and that has fulfilled his statutory obligations and is in good financial standing with the ILS.
<b>Applicant City</b>	A city which has officially been put forward by its NLF to apply to host the Lifesaving World Championships.
<b>Constitution</b>	The Articles of Association or Statutes of the ILS.
<b>Bye-Laws</b>	The Bye-Laws of the ILS.
<b>Sports Regulations</b>	The approved ILS Sports Regulations, including the ILS Competition Handbook.
<b>Objectives</b>	The objectives of the ILS as set out in the Constitution.
<b>Federation</b>	An Organisation that is a member of the ILS.
<b>Host</b>	Event Organising Group/Agency/Host City or the National Lifesaving Federation (NLF) that is bidding to host the Lifesaving World Championships.
<b>Board of Directors</b>	The Board of Directors elected, constituted and empowered under the Constitution.
<b>Commission</b>	A body established by the Board of Directors responsible to the Board of Directors for a designated ILS field of activity.
<b>Co-Com</b>	Coordination Committee comprising representatives from the ILS and from the Organising Committee.
<b>Category C Nation</b>	A nation included in the Category C Members list from the ILS.
<b>VIP</b>	The summary customer group related to the Governing Authorities of the country, e.g. the Royal Family, the Ministers, the Mayors, etc.
<b>Delegates</b>	ILS Patrons, ILS Life Governors, ILS Life Members, ILS Board of Director Members, ILS Commission and Committee Members, ILS Grand Knights and Knights in the Order of Lifesaving, National Delegates and Guests.
<b>Headquarters Hotel</b>	The HQ Hotel is the hotel in which the ILS Secretariat and key ILS Officials will be accommodated
<b>Individual Competitor</b>	Men or Women competing in the individual events at the World Championships.
<b>Team Competitor</b>	Men or Women competing in the team events at the World Championships.
<b>Team Officials</b>	Representatives of each Federation who manage and/or assist the competitors. They include team managers, team coaches and trainers as well as team support staff such as physicians, physiotherapists, chaperones, etc.
<b>Technical Official</b>	The persons required to officiate and regulate the sport in the field of play and includes national and international appointed representatives who manage or assist in the conduct of the competition. These include chief referees, deputy chief referees, area referees, judges, timekeepers and other jury officials.
<b>Workforce</b>	Organising Committee's staff that are required to prepare for, stage and manage the event. The operation personnel could be paid staff, volunteer staff, contractors, consultants, employees of external organisations, etc.
<b>Spectators</b>	The individuals viewing the Championships.
<b>Participants</b>	Individuals participating at the World Championships.
<b>Media</b>	Broadcasters, radio staff, photographers and journalists associated with providing the audio-visual reporting of the Conference.
<b>Sponsors</b>	The corporate investors in the Championships.
<b>World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)</b>	The organisation responsible for the coordination of Anti-Doping practices and participation for the world.
<b>World Anti-Doping Code</b>	The core document that harmonises anti-doping policies, rules and regulations within sport organisations and among public authorities around the world.
<b>Sport</b>	Lifesaving Sport.
<b>Precinct</b>	A number of venues and/or facilities in close geographical proximity, which have a common secure perimeter.
<b>LWC 2028</b>	The Lifesaving World Championships held in 2028, comprising several separate World Championships.
<b>Sport Discipline</b>	A competitive aspect of a sport comprising one or several events. For example, Pool Lifesaving, Beach/Ocean Lifesaving, Surfboats, Simulated Emergency Response Competition (SERC), etc.
<b>Sport Event/Race</b>	A scheduled unique competition resulting in the presentation of a gold, silver or bronze medal. For example, the Surf Race is an event in Beach/Ocean Discipline, the 200 m Obstacle Swim is an event in the Pool Discipline.
<b>Accreditation</b>	The process of identifying, certifying and evidence of a person's entitlements related

	to the Championship's operations and associated obligations. An accreditation pass is usually generated as evidence of the person accreditation.
<b>Intellectual Property</b>	All rights or goodwill subsisting in copyright, business names, names, trademarks (or signs), logos, designs, patents or service marks relating to the ILS or any event, competition or activity conducted, promoted or administered by the ILS. All rights or goodwill subsisting in copyright, business names, names, trademarks (or signs), logos, designs, patents or service marks relating to the ILS or any event or activity conducted, promoted or administered by the ILS.
<b>LOC</b>	Local Organising Committee.
<b>WADA</b>	World Anti-Doping Agency.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

The key areas that will be considered in evaluating the bidding documents are set out below. This information is requested in the Bidding Form (see APPENDIX 2).

Failure to meet the minimum standards on the Mandatory criteria will result in disqualification of the Bid. Bids are given a score between 1 to 5. Each criteria is weighted between 1 to 4 based on its importance. See APPENDIX 4: Bid Evaluation Chart.

Key areas of evaluation include the following:

### Welcoming Country

The nation welcoming the Lifesaving World Championships must have flexible entry formalities and flexible approvals of entry visa.

### Safety of the Host Country

The host country should ensure that the competitors/officials and supporters will be able to move freely and safely in the area in which the event is taking place. The venue should be without any political, religious and civil unrest and free from any diseases.

### Attractive and Holiday-type Venues

The location of the Lifesaving World Championships should be held in an area with has reasonable expectations of fine weather and be attractive to lifesaving and non-lifesaving audiences. The climate of the venue selected must at least experience the following monthly readings for the month of the Championships:

- Air Temperature should on average be higher than 18 °C (daytime).
- Sunlight should on average be greater than 200 hours per month.
- Water temperature should on average be higher than 16 °C.
- Wind speed should on average not exceed 20 km/hours (10 knots) for 60% of the month.
- Not be in the wet (rain) season of the region.

### Public Assurances and Local Support

Local Government and business support of the Lifesaving World Championships location is critical to the success of the event. Financial contributions to the Championships are vital to the event's economic survival. Government contributions can be financial and "value-in-kind".

The host country must be able to attract support from national or local businesses for the Championships. The local community must be attracted and recognised for their participation in, and support of, aquatic activity.

Note: Formal unconditional commitments will be scored higher than general indications of support.

### **Diversity and Equity**

The ILS is proud of its diverse membership, and in all its events promotes gender equity. The host must be able to demonstrate that it promotes and recognises these same values in the selection of any location for a Lifesaving World Championships. Venue separation because of gender is not permitted and will automatically disqualify an application.

### **International Access**

The Lifesaving World Championships location must be affordable and readily accessible to the majority of competitors. The location must be serviced by major vehicle access, an international airport and an effective and accessible local public transport system. It is preferable for the location to also be accessible by railway and coach/bus services.

The Championship area should preferably be within 100 kilometres from an international airport which is serviced by regular international flights. The swimming pool and beach venues should preferably be within 25 kilometres of each other with good transport links.

### **Airport Transport**

Airport transport should be made available free of charge to all Delegates and Technical Officials.

### **Local Transport**

The movement of large numbers of competitors, officials and their equipment between local venues and accommodation centres at any World Championships must be prompt and efficient. Local transport facilities must be provided to ensure that at the conclusion of events, the movement of people and equipment back to their accommodation centres is managed without excessive waiting times. Transportation for officials to the competition venues is often required from an early hour and schedules must take account of this. The local transport should be made available free of charge to all Delegates and Technical Officials.

### **Accommodation**

The location of the Lifesaving World Championships must be serviced by a broad range of affordable accommodation from "budget" through to "5 Star" hotel within 25 kilometres of the pool and beach venues. The majority of these services should fall within a 10 kilometre radius of the pool and beach venues. Keeping participants of the event within this radius supports the social needs of the participants in that they remain accessible to one another and the social focal points during the championships.

### **Civic Services**

Civic services refer to the location's recognition of providing effective visitor information services: public amenities and hospitality services, including a full range of restaurants, vendors, recreation and social venues. These services need to be readily accessible to the majority of visitors and championships participants.

## **Operational Capability**

The host organisation and its proposed partners will be required to demonstrate an event management and operational capability to deliver a Lifesaving World Championship inclusive of logistics, ocean/beach and pool management and operation, transport, safety and security, and importantly a willingness and capacity to work with the ILS event managers and officials.

## **The Competition Beach**

The specifications for the competition beach must be as follow:

- The sea water must be clean and safe and the water environment must be safe from any dangers, thereby creating a safe environment in which lifesavers can compete.
- Venue must contain sand that is free of boulders, rocks, rubble and pebbles and is regularly cleaned.
- Available beach length must be within a range of 600 – 1,000 m long and straight. In the event if the beach is separated by either a "pier" or "breakwater" or similar obstruction, each section of beach must at least be able to accommodate one or preferably two competition zones. Also each section of the beach must be accessible for the transfer of equipment and people.
- Usable beach width at high tide must be greater than 50 m.
- The shape of the beach must allow for fair event starting conditions (i.e. pretty straight).
- No rock or reef formations (natural or otherwise) may be present at low tide within the entire length of the usable beach length.
- Be recognised for consistency of wave action and moderate surf conditions (the venue must experience an average swell of between 30 cm to 150 cm during the month of the Championships and not be susceptible to dangerous rips or currents).
- Be serviced by adequate parking facilities.
- Be readily accessible to adequate emergency services as necessary.
- Pedestrian access to the beach area must be located at a minimum of four locations along the length of the usable beach.
- Adequate spectator seating facilities for at least 800 spectators (which include 500 competitors seating and 50 VIP seating) must be available.
- Heavy tractor access to the beach area must be located at a minimum of two locations along the length of usable beach.
- Adequate public address system must be available along the length of the usable beach.
- Change rooms and toilet facilities must be available within walking distance of the beach competition area. It is essential that there are sufficient facilities for the number of people expected at the venue, and the toilet facilities must be regularly cleaned and serviced.
- Usable area behind the competition area must be at least 25m in width for a considerable length along the beach to accommodate the infrastructure necessary for the championships; including the club-house, grandstand, club tents, vendors, caterers, spectators, craft storing areas, well-stocked and reasonable size first aid facility, power, medical facilities, result office, media centre and communication.
- Adequate water safety for competitors must be provided, one water safety officer per 20 competitors in the water at any one time, and to assist the water safety officers, one power craft per 30 competitors in the water should be provided.
- Adequate drug testing rooms, with toilet facilities.
- A suitable venue must be available in close proximity of the competition area for official and competitors briefing.
- A suitable area where Technical Officials can store their gear (bag, clothing) and also where they can eat and have a place for the de-brief (away from competitors, etc).



## **The Competition Pool**

The specifications for the competition pool must be as follows (generally the FINA rules must be complied with):

- Pool must be 50 m long between the automatic timing touch panels and 25 m wide with a minimum depth of 1.8 m and a maximum depth of 3.0 m with clear water.
- Pool must be able to accommodate at least 8 lanes, with each lane having a width of 2.5 m.
- Pool must have the new type starting blocks 50 cm to 75 cm above the water surface and must have the lane number on the side(s).
- Pool must have anti-wave swimming lane ropes along the full length of the pool. The lanes shall consist of floats 5 cm to 15 cm in diameter.
- Pool must have false start ropes installed and have backstroke turn indicators, a rope suspended 5.0 m from each end wall minimum 1.8 m and maximum 2.5 m above the water surface.
- The light intensity over the starting platform and turning ends shall not be less than 600 lux.
- Pool shall have lane markings of dark contrasting colour on the floor of the pool, minimum width 20 cm and maximum width 30 cm.
- Pool temperature should not be less than 25 °C and not more than 27 °C, preferably heated.
- Pool must be equipped with electronic timing device at both ends and be tested prior to the Championships.
- Pool must have a visible score board of at least 2 m x 3 m.
- Pool must have a well-stocked and reasonable size first aid facility with access for emergency services
- Pool must have suitably trained and experienced lifeguards on-deck and supported by on-deck lifesaving equipment
- Pool must be available outside competition times during the Championships for training.
- Adequate spectator seating facilities for at least 1,000 spectators (which include 500 competitors and 50 VIP seats) seats must be available.
- Holding area for competitors in the Simulated Emergency Response Competition (SERC) must be available.
- Be serviced by adequate parking facilities.
- Be readily accessible to adequate emergency services as necessary.
- Adequate public address system must be available.
- Change rooms and toilet facilities must be available within the swimming pool area.
- The pool must have the usable area to accommodate the infrastructure necessary for the championships; including the club-house, grandstand, vendors space, caterers, spectators, craft storing areas, well-stocked and reasonable size first aid facility, power, medical facilities, result office, media centre and communication.
- A suitable venue must be available in close proximity (preferably in the same facility) of the competition area for official and competitors briefing.
- An appropriate and spacious registration centre, with photocopy, PC's, etc.
- In the same precinct of the competition pool, a warm-up/cool-down pool must be available.

## **Doping Control**

The anti-doping regulations established by the ILS, which are in accordance with the rules of



the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) are used at the Lifesaving World Championships. At every Lifesaving World Championship, athletes must be controlled in accordance with the ILS anti-doping rules. The minimum number of tests required is 40 tests. The doping tests must be at the pool and at the beach. The ILS will decide on who is tested. The financial costs for the organisation, the logistic support and the analysis of a drug test are the responsibility of the Organising Committee.

The host country should guarantee that the analysis of all samples be done in a WADA accredited laboratory. The laboratory must guarantee that the results from the analysis will be delivered to the competition venue within 24 hours after arrival of the sample at the laboratory. The laboratory does not necessarily have to be in the host city or country - but the 24 hours response is the key factor.

### **Backup Venues**

In the event that the ocean venue must be moved due to serious deterioration in the weather and/or sea, water or beach conditions, an alternative venue must be secured within 25 km of the original venue. The alternative venue must comply with the Mandatory criteria. Further the alternative venue should not be exposed to these same weather, sea or water conditions which have necessitated a move to the alternative venue.

In the event that the pool venue becomes unusable because of environmental or technical problems, a back-up pool should be secured within 25km of the original venue and must comply with the Mandatory criteria.

### **Health, safety, medical & emergency services**

There must be a recognised medical facility within a 15 km of the venue offering a 24 hours emergency service. First-aid and medical facilities must be available at the beach or pool (where applicable), and it must be staffed while the event is running and for one (1) hour after the event is completed on each day. There must be qualified medical transport (ambulance) available to the venue.

There must be timely access within 15 km approximately to a fully equipped hospital with a minimum of 200 beds, a 24 hours intensive care unit and operating theatre.

There must be an adequate on-call ambulance service to the venue(s).

There must be accessibility to medical, pharmaceutical/chemist, dental, physiotherapy and chiropractic services approximately 2 km from the venue.

There must be a police station located within 25 km of the venue and police present during the duration of the event, at no cost to the ILS.

### **Television**

The availability of Television and especially outside broadcast facilities are of great advantage and must be available. In addition, geographic factors such as piers would be an additional advantage for the filming of the Championships. Formal unconditional commitments will be scored higher than general indications of support.

### **Social Media**

The Host Organiser should promote the LWC 2028 through social media and provide live streaming on social media.

### **CONCLUSION**

This document should serve as a guide to determine if the site for a proposed World Championship will be suitable. It should be noted that some criteria may not always be fully satisfied, particularly in relation to climatic conditions. In these cases, the ILS will use its discretion.