



INTERNATIONAL LIFE SAVING (ILS)
SPORT COMMISSION TECHNICAL BULLETIN # 3
ILS COMPETITION RULE BOOK 2025 EDITION

This Bulletin advises amendments to the ILS Competition Rule Book (2025 Edition) that was first published August 2025.

The amendments include clarifications, changes, and errata corrections, and have been endorsed by the ILS Sport Commission.

The changes are designed to improve the presentation of ILS sport and to further reduce unnecessary disqualifications by simpler and clearer rules for participation and judging of events.

The amendments are summarised in the Preface Section of the May 2026 Revised Edition Rule Book under the sub-heading “May 2026 Clarifications” and are detailed in each relevant section of the updated Rule Book. For ease of reference the amendments are:

- General:** Various formatting, editorial, and other changes that do affect the conduct or rules of competition.
- S2-4: Clarification of the roles of Event Director, Referee Steward/Head Scorer, Chief Judge, Electronic Device Specialist Judge, Recording Judge, Starter, Marshall, Check Marshall, Safety Officer, Safety and Emergency Management Officer, Powercraft Coordinator, Water Safety Coordinator, and Statistician.
- S2-10F: Clarification of the caps to be worn by competitors in team events and the identification of teams.
- S2-19: Clarification of the role and the procedures for the Appeals Committee and Panels.
- S3-1E.: Clarification that it is permitted to use soaps/lubricants on fins and/or feet to don fins.
- S3.2C: Clarification that the top of the manikin’s head is the judging point for the manikin carry in relation to the competitor.
- S3.3A.: Clarification of what defines the rescue tube to judge the securing of a manikin for the tow and that it is permitted for a tube to be secured under or on the arm.
- S3-3G: A change that for a tow it is **not** permitted to loop the line of rescue tube around the neck of the manikin.
- Note: This clarification also applies to S3-11, S3-12, S3-13, and S3-20.
- S3-4C: Clarification that a manikin handler is free to release contact with the manikin at their discretion after the rescuer touches the turning edge/wall.
- S3-14C: Clarification of the start position for the Line Throw event.
- S3-14D: Clarification of a fair throw in Line Throw events.
- S3-15.1O.: Clarification of competitors leaving the water in the Manikin Relay event.

- S3-16.1F: Clarification of competitors leaving the water in the Obstacle Relay event.
- S3-17.1K: Clarification of competitors leaving the water in the Medley Relay event.
- S3-18.1L: Clarification of competitors leaving the water in the Pool Lifesaver Relay event.
- S3.19.1L: Clarification of competitors leaving the water in the Rescue Tow Relay event.
- S4-4.3: Clarification of the draw and seeding process for ocean events.
- S4-3A: Clarification of the correct finish of events where competitors cross a finish line on their feet.
- S4-22.1: Amendment of the note for the Eliminator format for Oceanman, Ocean M, and Ocean M events to clarify that Organisers have the flexibility to change both the number of competitors qualifying for finals and/or the elimination numbers in each Eliminator race.
- S7-3.4D: Clarification of the positioning of the IRB crew are not permitted to sit on the floor of the IRB during a race and, where practical, crews are to be seated on the pontoon.
- S7-3.5D: Clarification of the patient turn and pick up in IRB races.
- S7-3.6F: Clarification of the exit and finish in IRB events.
- S8-1.7: Clarification of pool surveys for ILS event sanctioning purposes.
- S8-4: Clarification of the ski weight and a process to bring underweight surf boards, boats, and skis up to weight.

The updated ILS Competition Rule Book (2025 Edition) - Revised May 2026 has been published on the ILS website at: <https://www.ilsf.org/lifesaving-sport/rules>.

The clarifications and changes to the Rule Book take effect from 1 June 2026.

Please note that ILS Federations may elect to use the updated ILS Competition Rule Book from the date of this Technical Bulletin.

To assist, please also note that the published Rule Book also has the main amendments temporarily highlighted. These highlights will be removed following the end of July 2026.

Should further information be required please direct your enquiry to the Secretary of the ILS Sport Commission at sport@ilsf.org.

19 May 2026