

REGIONAL SPORT MANAGER POSITION DESCRIPTION



Reports To:	Southern Region Manager
Location:	Christchurch
Position Status:	Full Time 40 hrs
Direct Reports:	Nil
Key Relationships:	Other Southern Region Staff SLSNZ Sport Manager SLSNZ National and other Regional Staff Local Area Sport Committees Local Area Junior Surf Committees Southern Region Club Sport Managers SLSNZ Membership
Date Prepared:	May 2025

ABOUT SURF LIFE SAVING NZ

As Aotearoa's leading beach & coastal safety, drowning prevention and rescue authority, we are truly unique, delivering proactive lifeguarding & essential emergency rescue services, a range of public education beach safety programmes, member education, training & development as well as a highly respected sport. With New Zealand having one of the highest rates of drowning (per capita) in the OECD, we are committed to changing this with a vision that No one drowns at the beach in Aotearoa New Zealand.

We do all this as a for purpose organisation and while we are well supported by central and local government we are not fully funded so rely on the generosity of the public, commercial partners, foundations, and trusts for donations and financial contributions to lead and support our incredible front-line volunteer lifeguarding services. SLSNZ is the national association and represents 74 Surf Life Saving Clubs with 18,000 plus members, including more than 4500 volunteer Surf Lifeguards. Lifeguards patrol over 80 locations in summer and provide year-round emergency call-out rescue services throughout Aotearoa, saving hundreds of lives each year and ensuring thousands return home safe after a day at the beach.

[Surf Lifesaving NZ - Homepage](#)

OUR ORGANISATIONAL CULTURE STATEMENT

People are at the heart of everything we do. We support our clubs, volunteers and each other through our values of:

Collaboration • Integrity • Respect • Wellbeing • Fun

We are an organisation that our People are proud to work for and our whanaungatanga (sense of kinship, connection, relationships through shared experiences and working together) provides our people with a sense of belonging.

POSITION PURPOSE

1. Lead all aspects of Sport for the Southern region and ensure alignment to SLSNZ and other Regions.
2. Work with all key stakeholders to prepare and implement the Regional (Southern Region) and Local Area Sport sections of the Southern Region Management Plan to achieve alignment, targets and measures.
3. Provide operational leadership and support to Southern Region Clubs in key sport areas encompassing, Event Management, Athlete, Coach, Event Water safety and Officials development.

4. Look to grow the recreational and competitive sports base across the Southern region area at all levels, Junior Surf, Oceans, Seniors and Masters to enhance sports position as an enabler to increasing capability in lifesaving.
5. Advocate and support Southern Region events and programmes to align with National events and programmes.
6. Manage all sports related assets within the Southern Region owned by SLSNZ.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Leadership & Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review, update, implement and monitor the Surf Sport Plans for the Southern Region and ensure it will continue to achieve KPI's within the Southern Region Management Plan. Provide operational leadership for the Southern Region and management and technical assistance to the local Committees. Contribute to the alignment of Surf Sport within the Southern Region by involving key stakeholders in the delivery of Surf Sports at all levels. Ensure alignment with National Surf Sport Programmes and work with National Sport Manager as required.
Club Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify club Surf Sport development priorities in conjunction with the Regional Manager and achieve outcomes as part of the Healthy Clubs Initiatives. Provide support to all club based events in terms of safety plans, alignment and SLSNZ sanctioning, whilst building capability of the Clubs, Local Area and Region. Work with at risk clubs to develop coaching programmes that support club health.
Coaching & Officials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote and implement the current coaching, officials and event safety development pathways to build capability within the clubs, Local Areas, Southern Region and Nationally. Work with key individuals to develop their pathways as coaches and officials.
Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep current with national and international Surf Sport practices and initiatives. Have an understanding of current Surf Sports rules and regulations and provide support to advisory groups and coaches. Understand the Surf Sport High Performance environment in order to provide guidance to coaches, officials and athletes
Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend monthly staff meetings and provide direct accurate reporting against the Local Area and Regional Surf Sports Plans.
Operational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate the development of all Southern Region and local Area activity calendars. Facilitate delivery of all sport related courses and development pathways. Manage all sport related budgets in conjunction with Regional Manager Manage and facilitate of all Regional or Local Area representative sports team opportunities and high performance programmes. Manage all surf sports related equipment and assets. Provide event management of all Southern Region Championship and specific Local Area events. Other tasks and projects as identified by the Southern Region Manager.

SKILLS & QUALIFICATIONS

- Excellent relationship management skills
- Excellent communication skills
- Leadership coaching skills (i.e. the ability to lead, develop, support and positively influence others)
- High capability (intellect)
- The ability to think laterally
- Attention to detail
- Problem solving ability
- Professionalism
- Integrity to work unsupervised
- Passion to perform and contribute to SLS
- Respect from the Clubs / or will earn respect quickly (credibility)
- Non biased approach towards any Club or activity within SLS
- Previous experience in our organisation
- Broad base of surf lifesaving knowledge i.e. sport and lifesaving

PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES

- A thorough understanding and experience in operational Surf Life Saving and its processes.
- Experience managing volunteer teams or individuals, reviewing performance and strong leadership qualities.
- Excellent relationship management skills with the ability to develop and maintain a wide variety of stakeholder relationships, both internal and external
- An understanding of and ability to listen to the needs of volunteers and stakeholders to support them in their aspirations.
- Well-developed communication skills.