**2025 MAGNETIC ISLAND TO TOWNSVILLE SWIM**

**TEAM AND SUPPORT BOATS**

**SAFETY, ALLOCATION AND DUTIES**

**Introduction**

1. The allocation of support boats to relay and duo teams will be provided once entries are completed.
2. Maps of the Picnic Bay start line and course control points are also attached.
3. New MSQ rules about wearing of life jackets apply starting on 1 December 2024, you **must wear** a lifejacket during high-risk boating activities. MSQ will be focusing on education, with enforcement delayed until 1 July 2025. Additionally, by 1 September 2025, all lifejackets must meet the current Australian Standard AS 4758.

**New lifejacket rules starting from 1 December 2024**

Wearing a lifejacket is **compulsory**:

* when alone or accompanied only by children under 12 years in an open boat less than 4.8m in length and underway.
* during the crossing of a designated coastal bar in an open boat, as well as in any open area of a boat of any length, and on certain craft.
* while boating between sunset and sunrise in an open boat less than 4.8m in length and underway.
* children aged over one year and under 12 years must wear a lifejacket when on an open boat or in the open area of a boat of any length while it's underway.

**Outline**

1. The outline for the Swim event is as follows:
	1. **Saturday, 26/7/2025 – Race Day**
	2. **at 7.00 am** – Swimmer numbering commences at Picnic Bay
	3. **at 7.30 am** - Final briefing for swimmers
	4. **at 7.40 am -** Solo start
	5. **at 7.50 am** – Duo/Teams start
	6. **at 4.00pm** - Presentations and awards ceremony commences at The Drill Hall Studio, 27 Mitchell St North Ward.
	7. Boaties and other support staff welcome at presentations.

**Responsibilities**

1. Apart from your responsibilities under Queensland and International maritime law, the tasks and responsibilities identified to support this Swim include the following:
	1. If a team support boat, make contact with your Team ‘Leader’ at some time before the Race check-in on 25/7/2025
	2. Read a copy of the race briefing notes at www.towsa.com.au
	3. Attend the Race check-in on 25/07/2025 if practicable
	4. Meet up with your Duo/Team swimmers at the boat ramp (or other agreed location) and take them to Picnic Bay on the day. The first swimmer can go over to the Island with solo swimmers on the ferry if preferred.
	5. Plan to arrive at Picnic Bay at 7.00 am 26/7/2025 to allow team numbering and final briefing
	6. RV at Control Point 2 (outside of Picnic Bay fringing reef) by 7.50 am with the non-starting member/s of your Team on board
	7. Link up with your starting team member/paddler as he/she passes Control Point 2
	8. At a safe distance off, follow your Team’s progress to the beginning of the final sprint (large pink buoy about 300 m off Strand beach finish), **remaining away from the swimmers – ie on the Pallarenda side of the marker buoys**
	9. Assist changeovers as and when required by swimmers
	10. If practicable assist swimmer and paddler to maintain a true course remembering they may be affected by wind, seas and tide on the day (they may be disqualified if they fail to keep the last pink buoy (300 m from beach) on their right
	11. Once you reach the ‘final sprint’ marker, your swimmer is on his/her own to finish the sprint; arrange for the remaining team members and gear to get to the beach, anchor well clear of the sprint course (perhaps in the cove East of the finish) and enjoy the remainder of the race.
	12. Join swimmers, spectators etc at venue to be confirmed later in the day. **You and your crew are most welcome.**

**Safety**

1. The following are some safety points that you may need to be aware of that should help make the Event incident free:
	1. The allocated paddler is the first line of support should a swimmer get into trouble or be threatened, the SLSC IRB’s are the next support line and you and your vessel are to respond next
	2. Do **not** drive directly in front of or behind your swimmer; remain to one side and downwind ie. On the Pallarenda side of the marker buoys
	3. Ensure you and your crew keep a good lookout at all times for marine animals, other competitors and other vessels that might cross the swim course as we do not have exclusive use of the Course route
	4. Be aware that if you are supporting a fast relay team you may have to pass solo swimmers and some escort boats; **please be careful if this happens and give way when overtaking**
	5. Ensure your motor/s are in neutral when changing swimmers
	6. **Be competent in retrieving swimmers from the water and take precautions to avoid boat capsizing during such a task**
	7. Please carry extra lifejackets if you have any in case all swimmers need to exit the waters
	8. Have some warm clothes or blankets on board
	9. Ensure you have communication by marine radio or mobile phone to the control vessel and finish line at all times.

**Emergencies**

1. There will be a first aid station at the finish line. For minor medical emergencies that you cannot treat, contact the Surf Lifesavers IRB. Advise if your team wish to continue or proceed to the Strand Beach finish line for treatment. If your team wishes to withdraw, advise Race Control as soon as practicable.
2. For a more serious medical/injury situation (e.g., major bleeding, stinger injury, hypothermia), requiring ambulance/hospital support, proceed immediately to the Strand Beach finish line, requesting first aid support if necessary. Advise the Control Staff of the incident as soon as practicable.
3. For a major accident or emergency situation (e.g., shark presence, vessel fire/accident or weather change), Race officials may decide to abort the Race. In this unlikely event, the following action is to occur:
	1. **Abort, abort, abort will be broadcast over all radio channels and mobile phones being used for the Race**
	2. **The 'Red Flag’ is to be waved and displayed by control boats**
	3. **All swimmers and paddlers (if necessary) are to be taken out of the water as soon as practicable**
	4. **Boat skippers are to assess any risk to other supporting craft e.g., kayaks and outriggers and assist if practicable**
	5. **Await further instructions from Race control staff**

**Swim Course 2025 below**

**After 1.km Buoy**

**Support boat meeting point for teams,**

**All buoys are approx 1000m apart**

**Swimmers and paddlers MUST stay to THIS SIDE of buoys (ie. LEFT)**

**500m BUOYS**

**Attempt to link up with paddler**

**4km MIDWAY BUOY (yellow)**

**Cut off time applies**

**Leave paddler**

**Should occur at least 100m before final buoy at approx. 300-400m off the shore.**

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**START:**

**PICNIC BAY SLSC**

**Ferry terminal to Magnetic Island**

**FINISH: STRAND PARK**

**NELLY BAY ferry terminal**

