

2023 Surf Safari – be part of history

2023 SURF SAFARI

Since 1968, The Surf Safari has been a highlight of the Surf Sports calendar in Tasmania. An event of impressive endurance, it sees the River Derwent come alive with the best of Tasmania's lifesavers and displaying their surf boat and surf ski skills. Historically, many elite competitors from mainland Australia have travelled to compete; with the events honour board adorned with some of the country's most decorated lifesavers.

In recent years, to further community engagement, the Surf Safari program has been extended to include ocean skis, outriggers, coastal rowers, junior boards and some shorter distance events. It remains a vital part of Surf Lifesaving's strategy to showcase the skill of its members while continuing to build strong community links for the benefit of all Tasmanians and visitors from interstate.

On Saturday 4 November 2023, the Surf Safari will celebrate 55 years of continuous surf craft racing in Tasmania - making it the longest running surf craft event in Australia. This year, the Surf Safari will be the final event in the three race Tasmania Surf Sports Marathon Series, following the Somerset Enduro and the NW Marathon.



EVENT INFORMATION GUIDE

PRE-RACE INFORMATION

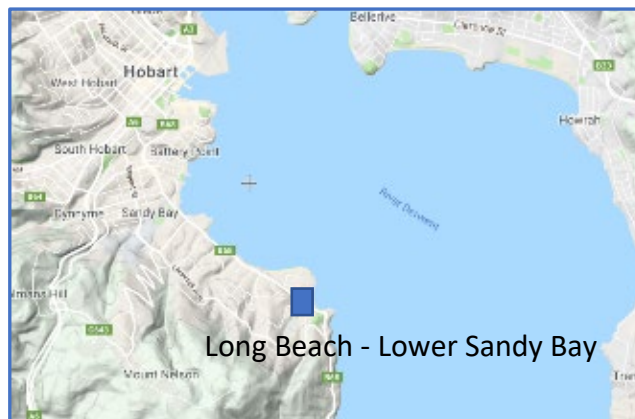
The following measures are being implemented to provide a safe and efficient event:

- Only online entries using Webscorer accepted, closing 4.00pm Friday 3 November. Early entries will close on 23 October. An additional fee will apply up to the close of entries. **No race day entries.**
- Race briefing to be provided online pre-event. Final instructions to be communicated on the line by race officials.
- Medal presentations will be made at the beach following the events.

Note: Event updates will be communicated via www.surfsafari.org and [@SurfSafariTas](https://twitter.com/SurfSafariTas)

LOCATION

The event will take place on the picturesque River Derwent which runs through the city of Hobart. The river and estuary provide a relatively safe, but at times testing, environment for the event. This year the Surf Safari will start and finish at Long Beach Lower Sandy Bay - 5kms south of the Hobart CBD or as advised for the Long Course events.



COURSE

Long Beach Sandy Bay will again be the central hub for the Surf Safari. The 18km long course for ocean and spec ski paddlers, surf boats, outriggers and coastal rowers will be run as a downwind event utilising a start time in a 2-hour window. This will see competitors starting either north (Claremont), south (Tinderbox), or east (Doran's Road Boat Ramp) of Sandy Bay, dependant on weather conditions, finishing at Long Beach. Adverse weather conditions will see a modified out and back course to ensure the event is conducted. The course will be announced at least 24 hours prior to the race start.

The short course event will be conducted as an out and back course of 8km starting and finishing at Long Beach. Malibu and nipper board racing will occur in the confines of the bay (4km and 2km). All courses will be subject to weather and effective water safety on the day.

More course information is available in [Other Information](#) below or at www.surfsafari.org

EVENTS AND CATEGORIES

Endurance events are available to meet all capabilities and ages across several disciplines including surf boats, skis, boards, coastal rowers and outriggers.

EVENT	CATEGORIES	START TIME
Surf Boats		
Long Course 18km (Downwind)	Open Men and Women	From 0900am (wind window)
Short Course 8km (Out and back)	Open Men and Women	1000am
Ski		
Long Course 18km (Downwind)	Open, Under 19 and Masters (Over 35, 50 & 60) Ocean and Spec Ski (M&F), Double Ski (Open)	From 0900am (wind window)
Short Course 8km (Out and back)	Open(M&F), U17 (M&F), U19 (M&F), Over 35(M&F), Over 50 (M&F), Over 60 (M&F), Double Ski (Open), Novice	1010am
Board		
2km	Nipper Board U11 (M&F), U13 (M&F)	1030am
4km	Malibu U15 (M&F), U17 (M&F)	1040am
Coastal Rowers/Outriggers		
Long Course 18km (Downwind)	Open	From 0900am (wind window)
Short Course 8km (Out and back)	Open	1000am

NOTE: START TIMES ARE ESTIMATES AND MAY CHANGE ON THE DAY

AGE GROUP COMPETITORS

The age group categories are as per normal SLSA rules. Age will be as of 30 September 2023. The Long Coarse ski events are part of the [Shaw and Partners Australian Ocean Racing Series \(AORS\)](#). Results of the Surf Safari will be provided to Ocean Paddler based on age and craft criteria.

ENTRIES

Early bird entries are available online from Wednesday 1 July 2023 until 6pm on Friday 23 October 2023.

Early bird pricing is

Boat rowers, coastal rowers and outriggers	\$125.00 per crew
Ski paddlers – short coarse	\$30.00 per paddler
Ski paddlers – long coarse	\$40.00 per paddler
Nipper and Malibu Board	\$20.00 per paddler

Entries received after 6pm on Friday 23 October will incur a \$5.00 late fee. All entries close at 4pm on Friday 3 November.

Race day entries will NOT be accepted.

Entries and payment via the online entry system Webscorer.

SKI ENTRIES – [CLICK HERE](#)

BOAT/OUTRIGGER ENTRIES – [CLICK HERE](#)

BOARD ENTRIES - [CLICK HERE](#)

COASTAL ROWERS – [CLICK HERE](#)

Note: for surf boats, coastal rowers and outrigger entries. Entry process requires one crew member to enter their crew via the entry link above. They will be required to enter a crew name and pay the required crew entry fee.

Any queries on entries can be directed to donaldmarsh7@bigpond.com

GENERAL ENTRY CONDITIONS

Entry in SURF SAFARI 2023 is subject to the following conditions:

- All competitors must complete the online entry and declaration form online.
- All competitors must read, and be familiar with, this race information booklet and the instructions provided at the race briefing which will be available to view online at www.surfsafari.org from Friday 3rd November or via an email generated from the Webscorer entry system.
- The event is endurance in nature and even in cool conditions hydration packs are encouraged together with appropriate sun protection. Proof of training/past races may be requested.

SKI EVENTS



Stubbs Design & Construction are proud to be the event sponsor for the ski racing at this year's Surf Safari along with support sponsors Surf Ski Tasmania/Fenn, Allwave Australia and Next Level Kayaking. They continue their strong association with ski racing in Tasmania.



SURF SKI TASMANIA/ALLWAVE/FENN LONG COURSE EVENT

Approximately 18 km and available for individual Under 19, Open and Masters (O 35, O 50 & O 60) together with double skis. The race will be conducted in a “weather window”, to attempt to maximize downwind conditions. The start time will be no later than 11.00 am to ensure adequate water safety is available.

The Surf Safari **long course skis events** are part of the **Shaw and Partners Australian Ocean Racing Series (AORS)**. Points will be allocated in line the AORS categories and will accumulate towards the series. Go to <https://oceanpaddler.com/ocean-events/australian-ocean-racing-series/> for all the races and point score.

- Course from the south - launch and start from Tinderbox, upstream and finish at Sandy Bay
- Course from the north - launch at Claremont Bay staying on the eastern side of the river to a selected point before heading cross river and south.

- Course in westerly conditions – Starting at Sandy Bay, heading down river to a designated point before heading across the river to the Doran’s Road boat ramp.
- In adverse conditions an out and back course will ensure the event is conducted.

A decision on the course will be communicated to competitors prior to race day.



ALLWAVE AUSTRALIA SHORT COURSE

This 8km race is an out and back loop ski race and will be offered for the following categories: Open, Under 17, Under 19, Over 35, Over 50 & Over 60 (Male and Female), Open Double Ski. A novice category is also on offer for first time paddlers.



SURF BOATS EVENTS

Rogerson & Birch Surveyors are proud to be the event sponsor for the Surf Boat racing at this year's Surf Safari. They continue their strong association with surf boat racing in Tasmania.



Surf boat racing will be held over two challenging endurance distances. The long course over 18km will be a downwind event if conditions allow (as per the ski event) and be available to Open Male and Female crews. A short course over 8km will be a traditional out and back course starting and finishing at Long Beach Sandy Bay with categories from both Open Male and Female.





BOARD EVENTS

Hobart Plant Hire are proud to be the event sponsor for the board racing events at this year's Surf Safari. They continue their strong recent association with the event and board racing in Tasmania.

HOBART PLANT HIRE

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A 4km Malibu course will be available for the U15 and U17s (M&F). While a shorter 2km course has been designed for U11 and U13 (M&F) racing on soft and Nipper boards. Minimum age is 10 years of age on the 30 September 2023. Both courses will start and finish on Long Beach and require competitors to test their endurance skills in the confines of the bay. Great prizes will be on offer for all divisions.



COASTAL ROWERS AND OUTRIGGERS

Open outrigger and coastal rower races will follow the same short and long courses as the surf boats. Test your endurance in one of these sleek racing boats. Medallions for winners and random prizes on offer.



EVENT CRAFT

The event is open to surf boats, SLSA specification skis and ocean skis, nipper and Malibu boards, coastal rowers and outriggers. The Referee has the right to refuse entry to any craft deemed unsuitable. Surf boats, SLSA specification skis and surf boards must comply with SLSA craft specifications.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

The event is open to both SLSA members and public.

All current SLSA members wishing to compete in any race category must comply with the following requirements:

- A current financial member of a Surf Life Saving Club.
- Must hold a current Bronze Medallion or Junior award and be proficient.

SURF BOATS

- All surf boat rowers and sweeps must wear recognized SLSA fluoro tops.
- To assist with identification, surf boat sweeps must wear a club cap on the outside of any head protection.
- Minimum age of 15 years.
- Surf boats must be fully compliant with SLSA specifications, including carrying a secured rescue tube.
- All surf boats are to carry a charged mobile phone in a waterproof case secured in the boat.

Surf boat rowers and sweeps are welcome to compete without being financial members of a SLSC or proficient bronze holders. However, due to the physical requirements of the event these competitors are encouraged to enter the shorter 8km event. They are also required to meet the following conditions:

- Carry a Personal Floatation Device (PFD) of a minimum of 50 newton in the boat for each non-compliant rower.
- Non-compliant sweeps are to wear a PFD at all times during the race.
- Sweeps will also be required to be signed off by a recognised Surf Boat Sweep Coach as being capable prior to Race Day.

SURF SKI

- All ski paddlers must wear a Personal Floatation Device (PFD) of a minimum of 50 newton.
- All ski paddlers must be attached to their craft with a tethering device.
- Wear the hi vis cap provided or similar cap.
- Compliance with MAST bylaws is paramount as it is a condition of entry that Surf Safari competitors act as positive role models.
- Scrutineering will occur prior to competitors proceeding to the start line.
- Under 17 category paddlers must paddle compliant SLSA Specification skis

- Under 17 paddlers wishing to compete on Ocean Skis must enter the U19 or Open division category.
- Ski paddlers may be asked to provide evidence of training and past races to confirm entry into the longer 18km event.
- Minimum age of entry is 15 years.

NIPPER AND MALIBU BOARD

- All board paddlers must be a current financial member of a SLSA club.
- All board paddlers must hold an appropriate award for their age group and be proficient for the current competition year.
- All board paddlers must wear a SLSA approved fluro top.
- Only SLSA approved and compliant boards may be used.

COASTAL ROWERS / OUTRIGGERS

- Carry a Personal Floatation Device (PFD) of a minimum of 50 newton in the boat for each non-compliant rower/sweep.
- All boats are to carry a charged mobile phone in a waterproof case secured in the boat.

RACE DAY – POINTS TO REMEMBER

EVENT CHECK-IN

On race day the Event Registration Tent will be open from 0730 at Long Beach Reserve, Lower Sandy Bay. Upon check-in, competitors will receive their race pack including craft race number and souvenir event cap. Registration points for Long Course Downwind competitors will be advised once the final course is determined.

All marked craft need to be placed in designated marshalling locations (TBA on the race day). It is recommended you allow adequate time for parking, craft placement and check in on race day.

PARKING

Parking in Lower Sandy Bay is often at a premium and congestion can occur. Competitors, water safety, officials, water safety, should follow the instructions of event marshals and take care not to infringe parking laws.

WEATHER

At this time of the year conditions can range from freezing cold to hot and windy, so come prepared. It is recommended you pay particular attention to HYDRATION.

RACE PACK

Each race pack will contain sponsors products and ESSENTIAL items namely;

- Souvenir race cap.
- RACE NUMBER – MUST BE DISPLAYED on the front left-hand side of craft. This is essential for race timing. Board paddlers will be provided with race numbers on their arms/legs/hand's pre-race.

TOILETS/CHANGEROOMS

There are public toilets at the start/finish hub at Long Beach Lower Sandy Bay. Changing facilities are available at Long Beach.

RACE BRIEFINGS

The Competitors briefing will this year take place online – see www.surfsafari.org from **Friday 3 November**. It is a race entry condition that all competitors view this briefing to ensure they are familiar with the course and to provide important safety instructions. Any final instructions will be provided by race officials on the line prior to events starting.

START TIMES

Racing will commence from 10.00am sharp with for the 8 km Surf Boats/Outriggers and Coastal Rowers. Note the downwind events for skis, boats, rowers and outriggers has scheduled start time in a weather window of 0900 – 1100. Category start times are listed previously and are staggered to ensure water safety requirements can be met. Start times may need to be varied by the Race Referee from the current program considering craft and number of entries. Any changes will be communicated on the day or prior on the event website or Facebook page.

SAFETY

Safety measures include following powered watercraft and patrolling board paddlers. If a competitor requires assistance, please raise your hand/arm to alert water safety/race officials who will come to your aid. Assistance can also be sort by contacting the Water Safety Officer on **0487 435 054**.

COMPETITOR SCRUTINEERING

All competitors and craft will be scrutineered prior to marshalling and proceeding to the start line. This will include a check of all safety equipment. Competitors will be called to the marshalling area prior to proceeding to the start line.

NUTRITION/DRINKS

Competitors are advised to be self-sufficient for the entire race.

RACE NUMBERS

Stickers with competitor's race numbers **MUST** be displayed on the left-hand front of all craft and be visible at all times. Board paddlers will be provided with race numbers on their arms/legs/hand's pre-race.

TIMING

All events will be timed by a manual timing system based around your individual race number. Your responsibilities as a competitor include:

- When you register you will be issued with a race number printed on adhesive sticker, this is required to be placed on the front left-hand side of all craft. You must leave the race sticker on until you finish the entire racecourse. It is a means of recording your finish times together with a safety check.
- **It is imperative that you advise race officials in the event you withdraw from the race at any time.** It is essential for us to know where you are on the course at all times for your safety and our ability to post accurate official results post-race. If you withdraw from the race and go ashore without assistance from the water safety, you must call the Water Safety Officer on **0487 435 054**.

- If the manual timer can't see the race number because it isn't displayed correctly, the competitor may NOT receive a finishing time.

RACE RESULTS

Full race results will be available at www.surfsafari.org or on our Facebook page during the week following the event.

PRIZES

Great prizes will be on offer both for winners/place getters together with random draws.

PRESENTATIONS

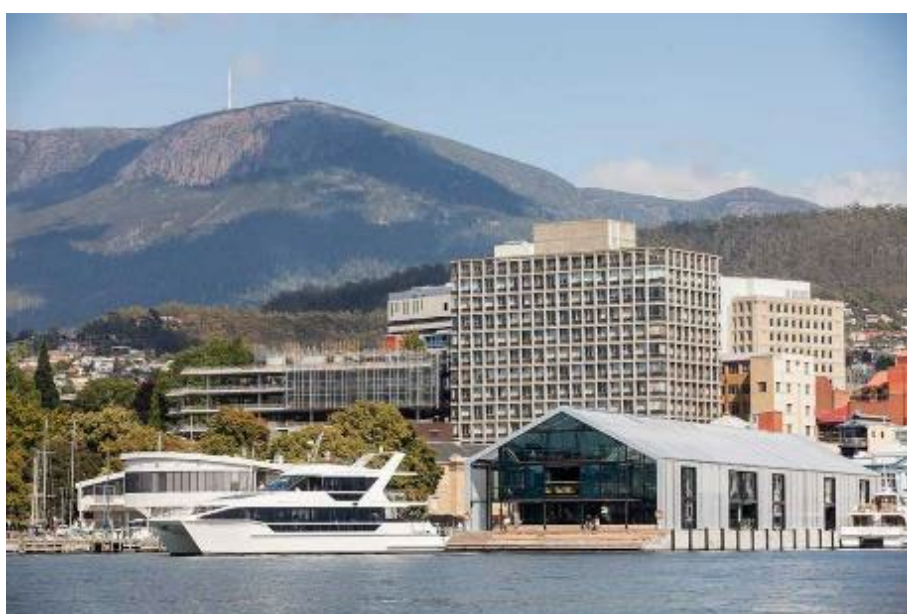
All presentations and random spot draws will be made at Sandy Bay following the conclusion of each event category.

OTHER INFORMATION

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS AND SPECTATORS

While COVID planning restricts our ability to encourage spectators to attend Long Beach to watch this year's event, another great opportunity exists. Invite family, friends and spectators to view the racing and be part of the spectacle onboard the luxury comfort of the Peppermint Bay Cruises vessel. See <https://peppermintbaycruise.com.au>

Peppermint Bay Cruises



AFTER THE EVENT – HOBART BREWING COMPANY

To celebrate 55 years of the Surf Safari we have again teamed with the Hobart Brewing Company, (16 Evans Street, Hobart) for what promises to be a great after party. Join us from 12.30pm and relax with a drink and some food, reminisce with fellow competitor's past and present about your Surf Safari experiences. The venue offers great in and outdoor spaces suitable for large numbers. Food vans will be on site to cater for all. Further information to follow via website and Facebook updates. <http://www.hobartbrewingco.com.au>



COURSES

SHORT COURSE – 8KM

Out and back course starting and finishing at Lower Sandy Bay. The halfway turning mark will be located north of Cartwright Point, Tarroona.

LONG COURSE DOWNWIND – 18KM

To be confirmed prior to race day to allow for planning. The following options are to be considered based on weather conditions:

Option A - launch and start from Tinderbox, upriver and finish at Long Beach Sandy Bay.

Option B - launch at Claremont Bay staying on the eastern side of the River Derwent to a selected point before heading cross river and south and finish at Long Beach Sandy Bay.

Option C - The western conditions course will head down river before heading to Doran's Road boat ramp.

Option D - In adverse conditions an out and back course will ensure the event is conducted starting and finishing at Lower Sandy Bay.

BOARD COURSES – 4KM and 2KM

All board races will be conducted within the confines of Long Beach. Course to be conveyed to competitors on the line.

Course maps to be advertised on www.surfsafari.org or via [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/surfsafaritas) (@surfsafaritas).

SPECIAL THANKS

Event organisers would like to extend a special thanks to our fantastic supporters of the 2023 Surf Safari.

EVENT PARTNERS



SUPPORT PARTNERS



Peppermint Bay
Cruises



MEDIA PARTNERS



Keep up to date via the www.surfsafari.org or via [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/surfsafaritas) (@surfsafaritas). Event queries can be made by email: info@surfsafari.org. Stay safe, enjoy the race, and remember this race is put on by volunteers for your enjoyment.

SURF SAFARI EVENT ORGANISING COMMITTEE

The Surf Safari Organising Committee consists of members from the three southern surf lifesaving clubs and is proudly supported by the Surf Lifesaving Tasmania.



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TASMANIA**



2023 Surf Safari – be part of history