



# THIRROUL SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB INC.

Vigilance and Service  
ABN: 82 153 254 056

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# DEAN MERCER DASH

## 5km Endurance Board Paddle

### ENTRY CIRCULAR

<b>Title:</b> Dean Mercer Dash Entry Circular 2024
<b>Document ID:</b> Circular DMD24
<b>Date:</b> 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2024
<b>Author:</b> Dean Mercer Dash Carnival Committee – mmemmett@me.com
<b>Audience:</b> Club Presidents, Club Secretaries, Club Competition Officers, Team Managers, Coaches, Competitors, Branch Directors of Surf Sports, Branch Secretaries and Branch Presidents
<b>Summary:</b> This circular contains relevant details for entering competitors in the Dean Mercer Dash 2024, hosted by Thirroul SLSC.

In honour of Thirroul SLSC Life Member Dean Mercer OAM, Thirroul will host the annual endurance board paddle the “Dean Mercer Dash” and is calling for entries to the 2024 event.

### IMPORTANT DATES

Entries Open	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> September 2024
Entries Close	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
<b>Event date</b>	<b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2024</b>

### ENTRY PROCESS

- Entries to be submitted via the SLSA Sports Event Management System (SEMS).
- Competitors must be entered in their appropriate individual age group (Refer to SLSA Surf Sports Manual)
- Each competitor will be **charged a non-refundable \$25 entry fee**
- No late entries will be taken. In extenuating circumstances, we advise the club’s Competition Manager to contact Michelle Emmett (organising committee member) 0418458599. The Carnival Committee will decide on individual cases.
- **\$25 (non-refundable) entry fee is to be paid via**  
<https://raceroster.com/events/2024/93426/the-dean-mercer-dash>

### ELIGIBILITY TO COMPETE

Competitors must be a proficient and financial (2024/25 season) member of a SLS club and be in the u14 or above age category in the 2024/25 Season. Competitors must comply with Policy 5.04 – Competition Eligibility and the Guidelines for Competition Eligibility document.

### COMPETITORS WITH UNPAID ENTRY FEES WILL BE INELIGIBLE TO COMPETE.

Competitors must complete an online payment via <https://raceroster.com/events/2024/93426/the-dean-mercer-dash>



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## CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

- Each competitor must be a financial member of a SLS club
- Competitors must hold the relevant proficiency awards to compete in SLSA competitions (Refer to SLSA Policy 5.04)
- Entries will be capped at 200 competitors

## AGE CATEGORIES

u14 / u15 / u17 / Opens / Master 30 – 49yrs / Masters 50+

*Due to the starting procedures of the event, competitors are limited to competing within one age category.*

## COMMUNICATION

### TEAM APP

Dean Mercer Dash will be using 'Team App' smart phone application to send out updates and notifications to competitors. Download 'Team App' from your App Store or Google Play. Once you have downloaded the app and created a user login, search for '**Dean Mercer Dash 2024**' in the search bar at the top of the screen and click on the event to join. From here you will be able to access the latest and up to date information on the event. It may also be helpful to visit the website for further clarification at <https://www.teamapp.com/faqs>.

## SAFETY BRIEFING AND COURSE OUTLINE

At 7:30 the carnival committee will conduct a course and safety briefing. All competitors are to attend this briefing.

## CARNIVAL MANAGEMENT

### CARNIVAL COMMITTEE

The carnival committee will conduct the competition subject to the rules of the 37<sup>th</sup> edition of the Surf Sports Manual. The committee will consult and seek advice from the appropriate sources on local weather, surf conditions and safety issues when required.

### SAFETY AND EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

The Safety and Emergency Committee shall determine the response to hazards as they occur, or otherwise as required and provide safety advice to the Carnival Committee. The sole responsibility for suspension and/or cancellation of the event rests with the Carnival Committee.

## RACE REGULATIONS

### REGISTRATION

Before attending the start line all competitors must clarify their intent to start the race at the registration table and **collect their personal timing chip, from 7am.**



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## COMPETITOR IDENTIFICATION and SAFETY

All competitors must wear a **hi visibility rash vest/shirt** and have their age category on their upper left arm. Competitors are to wear the **supplied timing chip on their right ankle** for the entirety of the race.

## DRAFTING

Drafting is an allowable strategy of this endurance event.

## WARM UP

Competitors must wear hi visibility vest during warm up. Water Safety during the warm up period will be the responsibility of the competitors club.

## SAFETY OF COMPETITORS

The Carnival Committee with the assistance of Illawarra Branch will supply powered water safety craft and a UAV for the sole purpose of competitor safety. Each competitor should be aware of their obligation to render assistance to any competitor requiring surf lifesaving services along the race course.

## START PROECEDURE

Each wave of the Dean Mercer Dash will start and finish on the beach as per SLSA Surf Sports manual for a board race. However, the carnival referee may deem conditions and/or competitor numbers to be unsafe for a beach start and will call a deep water start behind the surf break. In this case the start line will be perpendicular to the beach in between a buoy and the IRB with the starting official.

**Wave starts** (subject to change at the discretion of the Carnival Referee)

Each wave will start with the female category, followed by the male category, one minute apart from **8am in the following order:**

- Masters 50+
- Masters 30-49yrs
- u14
- u15
- u17
- Opens

## TIMING

Each competitor is to wear the supplied timing chip on their right ankle. Bands are to be collected from the registration table prior to the 7:30 safety briefing. The band is to be worn for the entirety of the race.

## PRIZES

The overall fastest female and male competitors to complete the course will be awarded the overall Dean Mercer Dash champions. These athletes will have their name recognised on the Dean Mercer Dash board that is displayed within Thirroul SLSC.

The quickest female and male competitor in each age category will be provided with a prize from our valuable sponsors.



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## PRIZE DRAW

With thanks to our craft sponsors [Kracka Racing Surfcraft](#) and [Infront Surf Craft](#) every competitor will go in the running to win one of two paddle boards. This draw will be completed using athlete numbers and will be conducted during the presentation ceremony. Athletes must be present to claim this prize.



## COURSE DETAILS

The Dean Mercer Dash is an endurance event. All age groups including female and male categories will complete two laps of the attached course. The total course distance is 5km.



## EVENT CONTACT:

Michelle Emmett, DMD Organising Committee  
P: 0418 458 599  
E: [mmemmett@me.com](mailto:mmemmett@me.com)



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## ACCOMMODATION:

To view Wollongong accommodation options, click [here](#)

To book accommodate via click [here](#) or call the Destination Wollongong Visitor Services team on 02 4267 5910.



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