

# INTERNATIONAL LIFE SAVING FEDERATION OF EUROPE

## EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS HANDBOOK

Rules, Standards and Procedures for European Lifesaving Championships

**Edition 2026**



### World Water Safety

Im Niedernfeld 1-3  
D 31542 Bad Nenndorf, Germany  
Tel. 49 (0)5723 955 500  
Fax. 49 (0)5723 955 509  
E-Mail: [secretariat@ilseurope.org](mailto:secretariat@ilseurope.org)  
Web: <http://europe.ilsf.org>



## ILSE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS HANDBOOK – SEVENTH EDITION

Rules, Standards and Procedures for  
European Lifesaving Championships and ILSE-sanctioned Competitions

Published by the International Life Saving Federation of Europe  
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Tel. 49 (0)5723 955 500  
Fax. 49 (0)5723 955 509  
E-Mail: [secretariat@ilseurope.org](mailto:secretariat@ilseurope.org)  
Web: <http://europe.ilsf.org>

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### INTRODUCTION

This Handbook is specifically created for the split European Youth Championships 2026 pool and ocean.

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Note: An application has been submitted to trademark Ocean M.

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## PART A - GENERAL

### 1. LIST OF COMMON ABBREVIATIONS USED

<b>Accreditation</b>	The process of identifying, certifying and evidence of a person's entitlements related to the Championship's operations and associated obligations. An accreditation pass is usually generated as evidence of the person accreditation.
<b>Board of Directors</b>	The Board of Directors elected, constituted and empowered under the Constitution. The Board of Directors comprises voting and non-voting members: Voting Members are: the President, the Secretary General, the Vice-Presidents, the other Board Members. Non-voting Board Members are the Chairs of the Commissions, and the Legal Advisor.
<b>Bye-Laws</b>	The Bye-Laws of the ILSE.
<b>Category C Nation</b>	A nation included in the Category C Members list from the ILSE. They are: Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Ukraine.
<b>Club</b>	The basic administrative or lifesaving unit of the National Lifesaving Federation (not an amalgam of such units). Such unit having a constitution and having representation to a higher body.
<b>Co-Com</b>	Coordination Committee comprising representatives from the ILSE and from the Organising Committee.
<b>Commission</b>	A body established by the Board of Directors responsible to the Board of Directors for a designated ILSE field of activity.
<b>Constitution</b>	The Articles of Association or Statutes of the ILSE
<b>Delegates</b>	ILSE Patrons, ILSE Life Governors, ILSE Life Members, ILSE Board of Director Members, ILSE Commission and Committee Members, ILSE Grand Knights and Knights in the Order of Lifesaving, National Delegates and Guests.
<b>ELC</b>	European Lifesaving Championships
<b>ELC Section</b>	One of the sections at the European Lifesaving Championships: e.g. European Masters Championships, etc.
<b>EYLC</b>	European Youth Lifesaving Championships
<b>Federation</b>	An Organisation that is a member of the ILSE.
<b>Headquarters Hotel</b>	The HQ Hotel is the hotel in which the ILSE Secretariat and key ILSE Officials will be accommodated
<b>Host</b>	Event Organising Group/Agency/Host City or the National Lifesaving Federation (NLF) that is hosting the European Lifesaving Championships.
<b>ILSE</b>	The International Life Saving Federation Europe
<b>ILSE EMC</b>	ILSE Event Management Committee
<b>Individual Competitor</b>	Men or Women competing in the individual events at the European Championships.
<b>Intellectual Property</b>	All rights or goodwill subsisting in copyright, business names, names, trademarks (or signs), logos, designs, patents or service marks relating to the ILSE or any event, competition or activity conducted, promoted or administered by the ILSE. All rights or goodwill subsisting in copyright, business names, names, trademarks (or signs), logos, designs, patents or service marks relating to the ILSE or any event or activity conducted, promoted or administered by the ILSE.
<b>Lifesaving Sport Discipline</b>	A competitive aspect of a sport comprising one or several events. For example, Pool Lifesaving, Beach/Ocean Lifesaving, Simulated Emergency Response Competition (SERC), IRB, etc.
<b>Lifesaving Unit</b>	For National Lifesaving Federations that do not have a club system – is: The basic administrative or lifesaving unit of the lifesaving organisation (not an amalgam of such units); such unit having a constitution and having representation to a higher body.
<b>LOC</b>	Local Organising Committee.
<b>Media</b>	Broadcasters, radio staff, photographers and journalists associated with providing the audio-visual reporting of the Conference.
<b>NLF</b>	Lifesaving National Federation or Organisation or Association
<b>Objectives</b>	The objectives of the ILSE as set out in the Constitution.
<b>Participants</b>	Individuals participating at the European Championships.
<b>SERC</b>	Simulated Emergency Response Competition
<b>Spectators</b>	The individuals viewing the Championships.
<b>Sponsors</b>	The corporate investors in the Championships.
<b>Sport</b>	Lifesaving Sport.
<b>Sport Event/Race</b>	A scheduled unique competition resulting in the presentation of a gold, silver or bronze medal. For example, the Surf Race is an event in Beach/Ocean Discipline.
<b>Sports Regulations</b>	The approved ILSE Sports Regulations, including the ILSE Competition Handbook.
<b>Team Competitor</b>	Men or Women competing in the team events at the European Championships.
<b>Team Officials</b>	Representatives of each Federation who manage and/or assist the competitors. They include team managers, team coaches and trainers as well as team support staff such as physicians, physiotherapists, chaperones, etc.
<b>Technical Official</b>	The persons required to officiate and regulate the sport in the field of play and includes national and international appointed representatives who manage or assist in the conduct of the competition. These include chief referees, deputy chief referees, area referees, judges, timekeepers and other jury officials.

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<b>VIP</b>	The summary customer group related to the Governing Authorities of the country, e.g. the Royal Family, the Ministers, the Mayors, etc.
<b>Workforce</b>	Organising Committee's staff that are required to prepare for, stage and manage the event. The operation personnel could be paid staff, volunteer staff, contractors, consultants, employees of external organisations, etc.
<b>World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)</b>	The organisation responsible for the coordination of Anti-Doping practices and participation for the European.
<b>World Anti-Doping Code</b>	The core document that harmonises anti-doping policies, rules and regulations within sport organisations and among public authorities around the world.



## EUROPEAN LIFESAVING CHAMPIONSHIPS

### HANDBOOK

## PART B – EUROPEAN YOUTH LIFESAVING CHAMPIONSHIPS POOL AND OCEAN TECHNICAL DETAILS

The European Youth Lifesaving Championships (EYLC) venue for 2026 are in

#### **POOL: Italy**

**Venue:** “Stadio del Nuoto” Olympic Pool – Foro Italico Complex  
Piazzale Lauro De Bosis 3 – 00135 **Rome**  
50m **outdoor** pool, 10 lanes + 25m outdoor training pool

**Dates:** from 26/07 to 30/07

Day	Activity	
26/07/2026	Arrivals and training	
27/07/2026	Opening ceremony and SERC	08:00-12:30 Training 15:00: opening ceremony 16:30-18:30 SERC
28/07/2026	Day 1	08:00-08:45 warm up 09:00-12:30 heats 15:00-15:45 warm up 16:00-19:00 finals +victory ceremonies
29/07/2026	Day 2	Idem day 1 Closing ceremony
30/07/2026	Departures	

**Website:** page on [www.federnuoto.it](http://www.federnuoto.it)

**HQ hotel:** Villa Maria Regina, via della Camilluccia 687, Rome

**Package:** All-inclusive via host (not mandatory) or free (e.g. no transport)

#### **Points of attention**

EMC-Ops/LOC composition

EMC	LOC
Chair: Wim Nuyens (ex officio)	Chair: Giorgio Quintavalle
Pool: Manuel Real	Pool: Dino Baudone
Officials: Chair CoR (TBC)	Event: Laura Del Sette

#### **Remarks**

Pool competition and SERC

## OCEAN: IRELAND

**Venue:** Rossnowlagh Beach

**Dates:** from 03/09 to 07/09

Day	Activity	
03/09/2026	Arrivals and training	
04/09/2026	Administration	16:00-18:45 registration and briefings 18:45: Opening ceremony
05/09/2026	Day 1	08:00-08:45 warm up 08:45-12:30 heats 15:00-15:45 warm up 14:15-17:30 finals +victory ceremonies
06/09/2026	Day 2	Idem day 1 18:30 Closing ceremony
07/09/2026	Departures	

**Website:**

**HQ hotel:** Sandhouse hotel & Marine Therapies

**Package:** Accommodation options (not mandatory) on website

M-course in preparation for the official decision of the Olympic dream

**Points of attention**

EMC-Ops/LOC composition

EMC	LOC
Chair: Wim Nuyens (ex officio)	Chair: Patrick O’Grady
Ocean: William Barker	Ocean: Ruby Hurst
Officials: Chair CoR (TBC)	Event: Seamus O’Neill

**Remarks**

Only ocean competition - NO SERC

The details are available on the <https://europe.ilsf.org/> website

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In 2016, the Sport Commission of the International Lifesaving Federation Europe (ILSE) separated the contents that addresses the European Lifesaving Championships (ELC) from the content that addresses the rules, procedures and standards for lifesaving sport. This resulted in two publications: A European Lifesaving Championships Handbook and an ILS Competition Rulebook.

This Handbook contains information specific to the 2026 European Youth Lifesaving Championships (EYLC) to be held in Italy (pool) and Ireland (ocean), based on the 2024 ILSE SC decision to split the championships. This Handbook should be consulted in conjunction with the 2025 edition of the ILS Competition Rulebook ([ILS-2025-Competition-Rulebook-Final-081025.pdf](#)) and any amending and/or clarification Bulletins and Circulars. Additional information about the ELC may be found at <https://europe.ilsf.org/>

## 2. ILSE AUTHORITY

**2.1.** The sport of lifesaving contributes to the worldwide drowning prevention mission of the ILSE. As the international federation for lifesaving sport, the ILSE establishes rules for the purpose of ensuring a safe and fair system, within which lifesaving competitions may be regulated and conducted.

- 2.2. The ILSE awards the ELC to an ILSE Full Member or to another Organisation, a Governmental Institution, a City, etc. to conduct the ELC on its behalf and under its authority.
- 2.3. In addition to the rules and procedures outlined in this document, the ILSE ELC are governed by the ILS Competition Rulebook 2025 ([ILS-2025-Competition-Rulebook-Final-081025.pdf](#)). The ILSE Sport Commission may also issue clarifying bulletins or circulars from time to time, which then are made available at <https://europe.ilsf.org/>

### 3. TYPES OF LIFESAVING CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 3.1. The ILSE SC decided in 2024 to split the European Championships in pool and ocean. This will result in finding more hosts in the different parts of Europe.
- 3.2. The European Youth Lifesaving Championships are organised every year (unless a World Championship is organised in the European region).
- 3.3. The European Lifesaving Championships are organised every two years in the odd years and can include the following European Championships:
  - National Teams Open European Lifesaving Championships (NTO).
  - Interclub Teams Open European Lifesaving Championships (ICO).
  - Interclub Teams Youth European Lifesaving Championships (ICY).
  - Interclub Teams Inflatable Rescue Boat European Lifesaving Championships (IC-IRB).
  - Interclub Masters European Lifesaving Championships (ICM).
- 3.4. The ILSE may authorise the Host to conduct Extra events (e.g., Ocean Swim Race, Long Distance Surf Ski Race, Long Distance Board Race, etc.) in conjunction with the ELC. These events may also reflect unique lifesaving events conducted in the region of the Host, but are considered as stand-alone events..

### 4. ILSE EVENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (ILSE EMC)

- 4.1. For each ELC, the ILSE shall appoint an EMC (referred to as the Competition Committee in the ILSE Competition Rulebook) that is responsible for the management of the competition on behalf of the ILSE. The Committee's role includes, but is not limited to, overseeing the organisation of the ELC, advising the Host and the LOC, designing the competition programmes, appointing championship officials, dealing with issues and answering competition conduct and organisation questions.
- 4.2. The ILSE EMC shall have jurisdiction over all matters not assigned by the rules to the Chief Referee or other officials.
- 4.3. The ILSE EMC pool for the EYLC 2026 can consist of:
  - The Chair of the ILSE Sport Commission (Chair of the ILSE EMC).
  - The ILSE Chair of the College of referees.
  - The ILSE Pool Event Manager.
  - The Chair of the LOC appointed by the Host.
  - The Safety Officer appointed by the Host.
  - The Security Officer appointed by the Host.
  - The Event Manager appointed by the Host.
  - The Pool Event Manager appointed by the Host.
  - The Chief Referees. The Chief Referees sit on the ILSE EMC Management Committee only for the ELC events they are overseeing.
  - Other ILSE Sport Commission members appointed by the ILSE Sport Commission.
- 4.4. The ILSE EMC ocean for the EYLC 2026 can consist of:
  - The Chair of the ILSE Sport Commission (Chair of the ILSE EMC).
  - The ILSE Chair of the College of referees.
  - The ILSE Ocean Event Manager.
  - The Chair of the LOC appointed by the Host.
  - The Safety Officer appointed by the Host.
  - The Security Officer appointed by the Host.
  - The Event Manager appointed by the Host.
  - The Operations Manager appointed by the Host.
  - The Ocean Event Manager appointed by the Host.

- The Chief Referees. The Chief Referees sit on the ILSE EMC Management Committee only for the ELC events they are overseeing.
- Other ILSE Sport Commission members appointed by the ILSE Sport Commission.

Note: The ILSE Pool and Ocean Event Managers will represent the ILSE Sports Commission Chair at the respective venues as required.

## 5. EYLC VENUES

5.1. The Host shall provide to the ILSE Sport Commission a declaration that the pool venue and the beach venue meet all ILSE specifications.

5.2. The selected Pool and Beach venues are

POOL	Location	Remarks
	“Stadio del Nuoto” Olympic Pool	50m pool
OCEAN	Location	Remarks
	Rosstownlough Beach	Mullaghmore alternative beach site

The details are available on the <https://europe.ilsf.org/> website

## 6. EQUIPMENT

- 6.1. The host shall submit to the ILSE Sport Commission a calibration certificate of the electronic timing system.
- 6.2. The host will use “Splash” as a result handling system (pool and ocean).
- 6.3. The Host shall submit to the ILSE Sport Commission a declaration that all provided equipment to be used in the EYLC meets ILS specifications and standards.
- 6.4. The Host shall supply the equipment at least two days before the start of the competitions and during the complete duration of the competitions.
- 6.5. The Host will guarantee that the equipment meets the ILSE approved specifications and is in excellent condition.

### **For the Training Pool Competitions**

- At least two obstacles per training pool.
- At least two rescue tubes <sup>1</sup> per training pool.
- At least two manikins <sup>2</sup> per training pool.
- At least two throw lines per training pool.

### **For the Pool Competitions**

- At least 18 obstacles.
- At least 18 rescue tubes <sup>3</sup>.
- At least 34 manikins <sup>4</sup>.
- At least 10 throw lines.
- At least 32 stopwatches and clipboards.
- All SERC equipment requested by the ILSE EMC.
- Automatic officiating equipment for timing, placing and interfacing with the scoring system.

### **For the Beach Competitions**

- At least 20 Batons (Wetiz) for the Beach Relay and Beach Flags events

### **For the Ocean Competitions**

- At least 20 rescue tubes <sup>3</sup>.
- At least 24 clipboards.

<sup>1</sup> The Rescue Tubes from WETIZ approved by the ILSE Sport Commission.

<sup>2</sup> The Manikins from the German Life Saving Federation (DLRG) approved by the ILSE Sport Commission.

<sup>3</sup> The Rescue Tubes from WETIZ approved by the ILSE Sport Commission.

<sup>4</sup> The Manikins from the German Life Saving Federation (DLRG) approved by the ILSE Sport Commission.

- A pool of equipment of:
  - At least 10 surf skis and paddles – will be available for rent (see 6.3 and 6.4 above).
  - At least 10 racing boards – will be available for rent (see 6.3 and 6.4 above).

#### **For the Set-up, safety and judging**

- At least 4 fully equipped Inflatable Rescue Boats with engines with gear protection or valid alternative.

**6.6.** The following equipment is considered to be personal equipment and will not mandatorily be provided by the Host: swimwear, nose clips, ear plugs, goggles, caps and swimming fins.

**6.7.** The Host shall advise all registrants of the contents of the equipment pool, under what terms and conditions such equipment is available to competitors, and the type or brand of all equipment supplied.

The ELC LOC will prepare this list of contents of the equipment pool with the brand or description and reference information available at when required. The LOC reserves the right to substitute similar equipment and will provide updates as appropriate on the ILSE website: (<https://europe.ilsf.org/>)

**Manikins:** DLRG manikins that comply with ILS specifications will be used.

Website reference: <https://shop.dlrg.de/produkt-katalog/ausbildung/Schwimmen/Uebungs-und-Rettungspuppe>

**Rescue tubes:** Rescue tubes will be supplied by Wetiz

Website reference: <https://wetiz.eu>

**Throw lines:** Throw lines shall be 16.5m – 17.5m long plaited 8mm +/-1mm buoyant polypropylene line with non-memory characteristics.

Website reference: <https://wetiz.eu>

**Obstacles:** In house manufactured obstacles will be used. The construction is white pressure pipe with red/orange coloured cloth (mesh) inserts. The obstacles are suspended over the lanes ropes and are secured to form a straight line across the pool surface.

**Batons:** In house batons (Wetiz) will be used. The batons are flexible and are approximately 300 mm long and 24 mm wide.

Website reference: Not Applicable

**Surf skis:** Approved surf skis with adjustable/variable leg lengths will be made available.

Website reference: <https://weitiz.be>

**Surf ski paddles:** Paddles with differing lengths to suit competitor requirements will be made available.

Website reference: <https://weitiz.be>

**Racing boards:** Approved racing paddle boards to suit different paddler weights will be made available.

Website reference: <https://weitiz.be>

## **7. MANIKIN HANDLING STAFF IN THE POOL**

The Host will provide a team of at least 12 poolside workers, the team consists of 10 (ten) good swimmers who all are dressed the same and have swimming fins and preferably swimming vests, and 2 (two) divers. The swimmers will bring the manikins, all in one line, to their starting position and position the manikins on the bottom of the pool as per the rules. The divers are only there to verify and correct misplacements, each on one side of the pool.

## **8. COMPETITION SAFETY AND SECURITY <sup>5</sup>**

**8.1.** The provision of a safe and secure EYLC is essential. At the EYLC, the Host is responsible for the provision of adequate resources to ensure the safety and security of those involved with the EYLC competition.

**8.2.** The Host shall appoint a Safety Officer who is responsible for ensuring that all competition facilities and environments are safe for use, and that the appropriate safety plan, equipment, craft, procedures and emergency personnel are in place to ensure the safety of competitors, officials and spectators, etc. The Safety Officer is a member of the ILSE EMC.

**8.3.** The Host shall appoint a Security Officer who is responsible for ensuring that all competition facilities and environments are secured, and that the appropriate security plan, equipment, craft, procedures and security personnel are in place to ensure the security of all participants and spectators, etc. The Security Officer is a member of the ILSE EMC.

**8.4.** The Host shall submit its safety and emergency plan, relocation contingency plan and its security plan to the ILSE EMC no later than FOUR months prior to the start of the EYLC.

<sup>5</sup> Refer to the ILS Competition Rulebook for development and implementation of the Safety and Emergency Plan and the Relocation Contingency Plan for ELC.

- 8.5. No competition shall be conducted until the ILSE EMC is satisfied that the competition facilities are safe and secure, and that the appropriate safety and emergency plan, security plan, equipment, procedures and personnel are in place.
- 8.6. No ocean event shall be conducted until the Chief Referee in collaboration with the Safety Officer has assessed the surf conditions and reported to the ILSE EMC. Only the ILSE EMC has the authority to cancel, reschedule, or relocate the Championships and/or an event.
- 8.7. The appointed coordinator of emergency services (as named in the safety and emergency plan) shall assume control of emergencies arising during competition.<sup>6</sup>

## 9. ANTI-DOPING AND DOPING CONTROL

### 9.1. ILS anti-doping statement

The ILS shares the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) vision of a world where athletes can participate in a doping-free sporting environment.

ILS has committed itself and its member federations/organisations to adhere to the WADA standards and seeks to provide a clean, safe, and fair sporting environment. This includes all ILS LWC, The World Games, ILS regional championships, Sanctioned events and events conducted by ILS NLFOS.

To this end ILS provides comprehensive anti-doping information to its members via its website. ILS also has in place anti-doping rules that are consistent with WADA standards. A key principle of WADA's World Anti-Doping Code International Standard for Education is that the first encounter with clean sport and anti-doping should be for athletes to be educated before being tested.

This principle is reflected in the ILS Anti-Doping Education Plan (note: this document is currently being updated) that applies from club to international level participants including athletes of all ages, coaches, managers, medical professionals, parents, carers and officials. Also note that education is the responsibility of ILS National Lifesaving Federations/Organisations (NLFOS) and that their NADA should be their point of contact for their Anti-Doping matters.

### 9.2. Mandatory anti-doping education requirements

As per the ILS Anti-Doping Education Plan athletes, coaches, managers and medical professionals from the top eight ranked Youth National Teams from EYLC 2025 are required to complete WADA or WADA Approved National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) Anti-Doping Education Learning (ADEL) prior to participation in EYLC 2026. It is also recommended that members of all other National Teams undertake this training.

The top eight ranked Youth National Teams at EYLC 2025 were:

	<b>Pool</b>	<b>Ocean</b>
1	ESP	GBR
2	ITA	ESP
3	GER	GER
4	FRA	FRA
5	POL	ITA
6	BEL	BEL
7	CZE	IRE
8	GBR	CZE

**Note 1:** ILSE will require confirmation that approved Anti-Doping education has been completed at least 14 days before the official start of the Championships.

- Italy: not later than 27/07/2026
- Ireland: not later than 05/09/2026

**Note 2:** should any athlete, coach, manager, or medical professional fail to submit the required detail by the due date they may be ineligible to participate in the National Teams EYLC 2026.

<sup>6</sup> Accredited team medical staff have immediate and appropriate entry to ocean and beach event arenas, pool deck areas, first aid facilities and to treatment rooms, etc. to access an injured or ill athlete from their team. Accredited team medical staff are to be identified in the competition arena by appropriate badge, bib or clothing and should make themselves known beforehand to the Host safety teams.

**Note 3:** ILSE and National Lifesaving Federations/Organisations (NLFOs) will recognise and accept certifications from ILSE participants completing education via other WADA recognised international federations.

ILSE also recommends that all athletes, coaches, managers, medical professionals, parents and carers participating at LWC2026 also undertake anti-doping education relevant to their role at the Championships.

### 9.3. Anti-doping control

The ILS and therefore ILSE has a policy of drug-free competition with possible drug testing at all ILS ELC. Refer to [www.ilsf.org](http://www.ilsf.org) to view or download ILS Anti-Doping Rules.

A violation of the ILS Anti-Doping Rules leads to disqualification of an athlete's individual results including forfeiture of points, medals, and prizes in individual events. In a team event, if a member of a team violates the ILS Anti-Doping Rules, the entire team shall be disqualified from that event with the attendant loss of points, medals, and prizes.

**Note:** See Section 2 of the current edition ILS Competition Rule Book for more details.

The ILS recognises that the host country may have laws or legal requirements in addition to the ILS drug policy. Competitors must be informed of such requirements as part of registration procedures.

## 10. ELIGIBILITY RULES AND RIGHT TO COMPETE

### 10.1. GENERAL

- a) The National Teams EYLC (Youth) are open to competitors of Nations of an ILSE Full Member National Lifesaving Federation (NLFO). Should the Full Member NLFO not compete, the nation may be represented by competitors of an Associate or Corresponding NLFO.
- b) The EYLC are intended for bona fide members of the ILSE NLFO and eligible to compete as determined by the NLFO.
- c) The ILSE considers it unethical to recruit competitors for their high-performance athletic ability whose lifesaving credentials are tenuous or merely convenient for purposes of competing in the EYLC. ILSE NLFO and Team officials are the key to preventing such unethical practices and must emphasise “play within the rules” behaviour.
- d) It is the responsibility of a NLFO to endorse their participants in EYLC. If this endorsement is not provided upon request, the ILSE EMC reserves the right to undertake any required measure to ensure the eligibility of competitors to participate.
- e) The ILSE has age requirements to be eligible to compete in EYLC. In this regard, the ILSE follows the International Olympic Committee (IOC) guidelines for determining the age of competitors in EYLC. In short, a competitor's age is determined by how old he or she is as at December 31 of the year in which they are participating in the EYLC.
- f) Personal and other insurances are the responsibility of each person attending an ILSE EYLC irrespective of their capacity e.g. competitor, team official, technical official, handler, supporter, delegate, board member, commission member, spectator etc.

### 10.2. ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE AT THE NATIONAL TEAMS YOUTH ELC

- a) The National Teams EYLC are open to one Youth team per nation.
- b) Each nation, as defined by the ILSE, must have at least one current ILSE Full Member to be eligible to enter a team.
- c) To be eligible to compete on a national team, competitors shall:
  - Be citizens, by birth or naturalisation, of the nation they represent and satisfy the IOC eligibility requirements to compete for that nation.
  - Be bona fide members in good standing of the ILSE Full Member NLFO and eligible to compete as determined by the NLFO. Should the Full Member NLFO not compete, the nation may be represented by competitors of an Associate or Corresponding NLFO.
  - For purposes of out-of-competition testing, be registered with the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) prior to the first day of the EYLC pool or ocean programme.
  - Attain the required age in the year of the EYLC:

- Youth – be 15 to 18 years of age (DoB: 2008 and 2011).
- Specifically, for the National Teams EYLC 2026:

Youth	
Eligible	Competitors who turn 15, 16, 17 or 18 years of age on or before 31/12/2026.
Not Eligible	Competitors who turn 14 or 19 in 2026.

- A competitor who is a citizen of more than one nation must choose which one to represent in National Teams EYLC. The competitor shall then fall under the exclusive jurisdiction of that nation's ILSE Full Member.
- The ILSE Full Members shall provide an endorsement declaring that their national team members are bona fide members; and provide proof of eligibility, i.e., copy of the passport or other citizenship document for each member of the national team.
- Composition of a team: A team consists of competitors and team officials:
  - Competitors: A team may consist of a minimum of one competitor and a maximum of six women and a maximum of six men competitors. It is not mandatory to have both men and women competitors in a team. Teams may not increase the number of men or women competitors beyond six.
  - Team Officials: Competitors can be accompanied by Team Officials such as coaches, trainers, physiotherapists, physicians and any other non-competitive management personnel. There are no limits on the number of Team Officials.

## 11. ENTRY PROCEDURES

### 11.1. CHAMPIONSHIPS REGISTRATION

- All teams must register prior to the EYLC in accordance with the procedures, fee structure and deadlines established by the ILSE and the LOC. Entries close for all EYLC one month prior to the commencement of the pool and/or ocean championships
- Related to the splitting of the championships in pool and ocean, federations can send a team of six men and six women to the pool championships and six other men and women to the ocean championships.
- ILSE maintains a database of the names of all competitors registered for all EYLC.
- New team registrations received after the closing date shall only be considered in exceptional circumstances by the LOC in conjunction with the ILSE EMC through the ILSE Event Director.

### 11.2. CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

ILSE aims to build a fairer world where all children, girls and boys, flourish in their communities, in accordance with the International Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Our organisation is committed to respecting and enforcing the right of children to protection from all forms of abuse (CRC, Art. 19). The purpose of this policy is to protect the children involved in our activities. This document:

- helps our staff, donors and partners to fulfil their responsibility to protect children by adopting appropriate behaviour and reporting questionable behaviour;
- prevents malicious people from being associated with the work of ILSE;
- provides for rigorous action against those who abuse children.

#### a) Important definitions

A child is any person under the age of 18 years. (CRC, Art 1)

Child abuse: any form of physical or emotional maltreatment, sexual abuse and exploitation, neglect, commercial or other exploitation of a child. It includes any act or failure to act, whether intentional or unintentional, by an individual, an institution or as a result of a process, which results in actual or potential harm to a child's well-being and dignity or which impairs the child's prospects for safe and healthy development into adulthood.

- Child protection: the preventive and reactive responsibilities and measures taken by Plan International Belgium to protect children from harm as a result of their association with Plan International Belgium, their contact with Plan International Belgium staff, associates and visitors, and/or their participation in Plan International Belgium activities.

- b) Who is affected  
ILSE's child protection policy applies to all staff (international, country and regional offices), all associates (Board and General Assembly members, volunteers, ILSE sponsors and donors, workers, consultants, suppliers and representatives of partner organisations or local authorities), visitors (journalists, media, researchers, celebrities, etc.) who may come into contact with children through ILSE, and managers (staff members with specific child protection responsibilities).  
All must sign our policy and respect its conditions. This policy is a minimum requirement: if national laws or the practices of the local ILSE federations are stricter than our internal policy, these prevail.
- c) Declaration  
All ILSE Federations will be required to sign a declaration indicating the good character of all persons attending on their behalf and that they have not been convicted of any offence in another jurisdiction that is akin to a disqualifying offence if it were committed in a European country. The organisation accepting responsibility and liability should any adverse behaviour occur throughout the duration of the Championships, The ILSE Sport Commission request all Federations the declaration before the start of the competition. No compliance will result in no participation.

### 11.3. ENTRY GUIDE TIMES

- a) The ILSE Sport Commission may establish entry guide times for Youth in pool events in the National Teams.
- b) Entry Guide times assist organisers with presentation and timetabling of EYLC.

### 11.4. ENTRY TIMES

Seeding shall be used for National Team. For pool events, competitors' times at competitions within the period beginning with the first day of the last EYLC to the entry deadline for the forthcoming EYLC, shall be submitted on the entry forms. Times are required for both individual and team events. Competitors and teams shall be ranked according to their entry times.

**Note 1:** The Entry System will not allow an entry to be completed without an entry time being submitted. Further, Team Managers are requested not to enter an athlete if they cannot achieve the Entry Guide time (if established).

**Note 2:** Any entry times submitted that are faster than the ILSE European Record as at the close of normal entries, shall not be accepted and the competitor or team will not be placed in a seeded heat.

**Note 3:** For seeding information see the ILS Competition Rulebook, Sections 3 and 4.

### 11.5. ENTRY FEES

The ILSE Board of Directors shall approve EYLC entry fees, and any conditions attached to entry, and other fees including changes to team, entries and events proposed by the LOC. Entry fees must be paid with the registration.

	<b>Normal</b>	<b>Late</b>	<b>Very late</b>
	<b>01/02-15/05</b>	<b>16/05-15/06</b>	<b>16/06-30/06</b>
National Teams Youth			
• Per individual	110	150	200
• Per team (at least 4 competitors)	430	460	550

A second fee, the participating fee ILSE (10€ per athlete), is established since 2023 and must be paid beside the entry fee.

### 11.6. CHANGES IN TEAM PERSONNEL COMPOSITION AND SIZE

The changes in National Team EYLC shall follow the following procedures:

- a) Only the team manager may advise a change of team personnel composition or size to the appropriate official, up to 48 hours prior to the team's first entry into a point score event. After that time, there shall be no further alteration of team composition. The only exception to this is if an independent medical certificate is produced or in the case of genuine hardship (as agreed by the ILSE EMC). In such instances a change shall be accepted up to 2 hours prior to the team's first entry into a competition event. Competitors who subsequently withdraw due to injury or other reason may not be replaced by a non-registered competitor.
- b) The team manager shall notify the ELC organisers of the change in team composition in writing indicating:
  - Date and time.
  - Name of the team.
  - Name of the member(s) to be withdrawn.
  - Name(s) and surname(s) of the competitor(s) being added.
- c) Notification must be accompanied by documentation from the team's national organisation which provides endorsement declaring that the replacement team member meets the eligibility criteria and is a bona fide member.
- d) Any applicable team composition change fee, as detailed in registration system, and below for individual and team event substitutions, must also accompany the written notice.
- e) If team member numbers increase, all appropriate entry fees (including applicable late entry fees) must accompany the written notice.
- f) In addition, the new competitor(s) or team management shall complete any registration documentation that the organisers may require. New competitors and team management are responsible for acquainting themselves with matters that may have previously been dealt with at team briefings, etc.

#### 11.7. SUBSTITUTIONS IN INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

- a) Only the team manager may substitute team members in individual events with another member from the same team. Team managers must notify the appropriate officials of substitution no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of the event or prior to the commencement of marshalling – whichever comes first.
- b) Competitors who have been replaced in an event may not be re-substituted into that same event, but they may contest other events in the competition.
- c) Substitutions are not permitted after the first round of an individual event has been conducted.

**Note:** An event is a series of races with the same prescribed rules and conditions (e.g., facility, equipment, distance and style), for example Beach Flags is an event, Obstacle Swim is an event.
- d) Any changes that are requested by team managers will be actioned on payment of an appropriate administrative fee as follows.
  - Changes requested between 48 hours and 24 hours prior to the start of the Championships into which the competitor has been entered = 50 Euros.
  - Changes requested between 24 hours and the start of the Championships into which the competitor has been entered = 100 Euros.
  - The only exception to this is if a medical certificate is produced or in the case of genuine hardship (as agreed by the ILSE EMC).
  - Withdrawal of a competitor from an event if not being replaced = 0 Euros.
  - If a competitor is entered and fails to start an event = 50 Euros.

#### 11.8. SUBSTITUTIONS IN TEAM EVENTS

- a) Substitutions are permitted in any round of team events.
- b) Only the team manager may substitute members in a team event with other members of the same national team or club. Team managers must notify the appropriate officials of the substitution(s) no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of the first round of the team event or 30 minutes prior to the commencement of marshalling in subsequent rounds.
- c) Any changes that are requested by team managers will be actioned on payment of an appropriate administrative fee as follows.
  - Changes requested between 48 hours and 24 hours prior to the start of the Championships into which the team has been entered = 50 Euros.
  - Changes requested between 24 hours and the start of the Championships into which the team has been entered = 100 Euros.
  - The only exception to this is if a medical certificate is produced or in the case of genuine hardship (as agreed by the ILSE EMC).
  - Withdrawal of a team from an event if not being replaced = 0 Euros.
  - If a team is entered and fails to start an event = 50 Euros.

## 12. TEAM UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

### 12.1. TEAM UNIFORM

- a) Each team shall have a uniform suitable for official ceremonies and award presentations. Team managers, coaches, and assistants will be encouraged to take part in the ceremonies and shall wear a uniform that complements that of the team.

**Note 1:** At official ceremonies the expectation is that teams shall wear their team blazers and/or wear their team tracksuit or t-shirt and shorts depended on team outfitting, the occasion, the weather etc.

**Note 2:** For Medal Presentations at the pool the expectation is that place getters shall wear their team tracksuit or t-shirt and shorts. At the Ocean the expectation is that team members shall wear their costumes, vest and cap or team tracksuit, or t-shirt and shorts.

**Note 3:** No national flags, brought by the athlete and/or team, will be allowed at the medal presentation.
- b) All competitors' uniforms must be in accordance with standards approved by ILSE. The Chief Referee has the authority to exclude any competitor whose uniform or swimwear is not in accordance with ILSE standards or the commercial identification policy.
- c) Commercial identification on uniforms, competition apparel or equipment shall be acceptable only where it conforms to the commercial identification policy (11.2 below).
- d) No team, competitor or handler may have any signage, logos or corporate identification on clothing, competition apparel, gear, equipment or on the person in the competition arena that the Chief Referee deems to be objectionable.
- e) Refusal to comply with any of the above renders the clothing, competition apparel, or equipment ineligible for the competition, and the competitor (and/or team) ineligible for further participation in the championships.
- f) If such breaches are found after the event or in post-race scrutineering, the competitor (and/or team) will forfeit titles and awards.

### 12.2. COMMERCIAL IDENTIFICATION POLICY

- a) The ILSE EMC reserves the right to order the removal or coverage of commercial identification in conflict with official EYLC sponsors. This includes body tattoos or body paint.
- b) Notwithstanding the foregoing, official sponsors of teams may retain their identification on competition apparel and equipment irrespective of commercial conflict, but must not display other signs, banners, flags or other identification within close proximity to the competition arena.
- c) Competitors in all craft event heats, semi-finals, and finals may be required to carry championships sponsor signage affixed on craft or equipment provided. All team and individual sponsor signage on craft and equipment will not be covered unless it is unavoidable when fitting the championships sponsor signage.

- d) All individual competitors in EYLC events may be asked to wear naming-rights sponsor's vests for televised heats, semi-finals and finals. If the naming-rights sponsor conflicts with an existing team or individual sponsor, unbranded vests shall be worn.  
**Note:** Notwithstanding the above, it is a condition of entry to the EYLC that all competitors and handlers must wear the high visibility vests supplied by the LOC in all Ocean competition.
- e) Body tattoos, body paint: Sponsors may be shown once only on the body and may not exceed 150 mm by 50 mm in size.
- f) Television/video interviews may be undertaken in the competition arena with competitors. Competitors interviewed may be asked to wear championships sponsor apparel.
- g) Presentation: At the conclusion of the events, place winners may be offered items of apparel identified with EYLC sponsors. Competitors will be asked to wear such items during the presentation.  
**Note:** Every co-operation is requested in this regard; the support of sponsors helps to curtail significant expenses that would otherwise be passed onto competition participants.

The table below outlines the size and frequency of an Identification of the Manufacturer. With the Identification, ILSE means the normal display of the name, designation, trademark, or logo or any other distinctive sign of the manufacturer of an Item (excluding encrypted or encoded supports, such as barcodes or QR codes, as well as URLs, social media accounts and hashtags).

NAME	DEFINITION
Clothing	With clothing ILSE means any piece of attire (including, without limitation, competition clothing as prescribed within the rules of each sport) worn by a competitor or team official, excluding accessories and Footwear. The size of an Identification of the Manufacturer shall not exceed 30 cm <sup>2</sup> for Clothing. One additional identification, strictly limited to Product Technology Identifications, shall be permitted per clothing item and shall not exceed 10 cm <sup>2</sup> . Where one-piece body suits are used in competition, such Identifications shall be permitted once above and once below the waist, provided all other principles are respected.
Bag	One Identification of the Manufacturer per item, not greater than 10% of the surface area of the item, to a maximum size of 60 cm <sup>2</sup> .
Swimming Caps	One Identification of the Manufacturer per item, with a maximum size of 10 cm <sup>2</sup> .
Eyewear	Eyewear and goggles may carry the Identification of the Manufacturer as generally used on products sold. No identification is permitted on the lenses.
Armbands	One Identification of the Manufacturer per item, with a maximum size of 6 cm <sup>2</sup> per armband.
Scarves	One Identification of the Manufacturer per item, with a maximum size of 6 cm <sup>2</sup> per scarf.
Gloves	One Identification of the Manufacturer per item, with a maximum size of 8 cm <sup>2</sup> per glove.
Footwear	With footwear we mean: shoes or boots worn by a competitor or team manager. One Identification of the Manufacturer per item, with a maximum size of 10 cm <sup>2</sup> per item/shoe.
Socks	One Identification of the Manufacturer per item, with a maximum size of 10 cm <sup>2</sup> per sock.
Other items	For any accessories not listed above, the size of the Identification of the Manufacturer shall not exceed 6cm <sup>2</sup> .
Sports Equipment	With Sport Equipment we mean any sport-specific and necessary equipment used during sports competition (such as rescue tubes, fins, boards, helmets skis, paddles, IRB, Surfboats, etc.). For any sport equipment the Identification of the Manufacturer will be not greater than 10% of the surface area of the item, to a maximum size of 60 cm <sup>2</sup> .
Body	No Manufacturer identification may appear on the neck or the collar or on the body (e.g. tattoo) of any person participating at the World Championships.

Others	The following Items may not feature any Identification of the Manufacturer except the one that was on the item when purchased: headphones, water bottles, umbrellas, towels, bandages, contact lenses, earplugs, mouth guards and nose clips.
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For any accessories not listed above, the size of the Identification of the Manufacturer shall not exceed 6 cm<sup>2</sup>.

### 12.3. COMPETITION ATTIRE

The specifications and requirements for the following are detailed in Sections 2 and 7 of the ILSE Competition Rulebook:

- Swimwear.
- Swim caps.
- Eyewear.
- Footwear.

### 12.4. STANDARDISED COMPETITION EQUIPMENT

- a) Competitors must use the following equipment provided by the LOC:
- Batons for Beach Relay and Beach Flags events.
  - Rescue manikins for pool events.
  - Rescue tubes for pool and ocean events.
  - Throw lines for pool events.
  - Obstacles for pool events.
- In addition, the LOC shall provide a competition equipment pool for optional use by competitors (See above):
- Surf skis and ski paddles.
  - Boards.
- b) A person appointed by the ILSE EMC shall approve the supplier of the equipment provided by the LOC (that must produce craft that meets ILS specifications). All supplied equipment must be scrutinised by an appointed ILSE Technical Official before use in competition. An official decal or stamp shall be placed on the equipment to signify that the provided equipment complies with the ILS specification and is in safe repair.
- c) Competitors may use their own swim fins, boards, surf skis and paddles.
- d) All competitor provided equipment used in National Teams shall be scrutinised as per the ILS Competition Rulebook scrutineering procedures prior to use in competition. An official decal or stamp shall be placed on the equipment to signify that competitor provided equipment complies with specification and is in safe repair. Should any equipment be found not carry the decal or stamp in the marshalling area the equipment should not be used in competition.
- e) Should any equipment found not carry the decal or stamp in the marshalling area the equipment should not be used in competition.
- In addition, all equipment used in all ILSE EYLC is subject to random scrutineering irrespective of whether it is pooled, or competitor supplied or has been previously scrutineered.

## 13. PROTESTS, APPEALS, CODES OF BEHAVIOUR AND DISCIPLINE

### 13.1. PROTESTS AND APPEALS

- a) The ILSE EMC reserves the right, at its absolute discretion, to delete, alter or otherwise vary any rule, competition criteria, timetable or other matter as it deems necessary. Every effort will be made to ensure that each team manager receives notice of any such deletion, alteration, variation or change. Protests resulting from such ILSE EMC decisions are not permitted and will not be entertained.
- b) Where permitted a competitor or team manager may protest to a referee in accordance with the terms of the ILS Competition Rulebook and may subsequently dispute a referee's decision. The processes for Protest and Appeals are prescribed in the ILS Competition Rulebook.

- c) The fee for an Appeal in any EYLC event at the EYLC shall be:  
Euro 100 in cash for an individual event.  
Euro 200 in cash for a team event.

### 13.2. CODE OF CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

- a) ILSE expects and requires of its competitors, officials and members generally the highest standards of conduct and behaviour.  
b) ILSE ELC are high profile public events. ILSE expects all competitors, officials, members and attendees to co-operate to ensure a positive public image. Behaviour likely to cause embarrassment or damage to the image of ILSE or EYLC competition will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee. Penalties may include expulsion of individuals or teams from the competition.

**Note:** Refer to the ILS Competition Rulebook for the code conduct, the fair play code, misconduct and discipline expectations and processes.

## 14. PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

### 14.1. AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH THE PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

For ILSE ELC, the programme of events shall be established by the ILSE Sport Commission. For ILSE-sanctioned competition, the programme of events shall be established jointly by the ILSE Sport Commission and the body responsible for the sanctioned competition.

### 14.2. APPROVAL OF THE CHAMPIONSHIPS TO BE CONDUCTED

For the EYLC 2026, the ILSE Sport Commission has approved the following Championships:

- National Teams Youth pool European Lifesaving Championships (NTYp).
- National Teams Youth ocean European Lifesaving Championships (NTYo).

### 14.3. NATIONAL TEAMS ELC YOUTH

In National EYLC the competition shall be conducted in male and female categories in the events listed below:

Pool Events	National Teams Maximum entries per team
200 m Obstacle Swim	2 competitors
50 m Manikin Carry	2 competitors
100 m Rescue Medley	2 competitors
100 m Manikin Carry with Fins	2 competitors
100 m Manikin Tow with Fins	2 competitors
200 m Super Lifesaver	2 competitors
Line Throw	1 team
4 x 25 m Manikin Relay	1 team
4 x 50 m Obstacle Relay	1 team
4 x 50 m Medley Relay	1 team
4 x 50 m Mixed Pool Lifesaver Relay	1 team

**Note:** Each team in the 4 x 50 m Mixed Pool Lifesaver Relay is permitted to select the leg of the race in which their two male and two females participate.

Ocean Events	National Teams Maximum entries per team
Surf Race	2 competitors
Beach Flags	2 competitors
Beach Sprint	2 competitors
Surf Ski Race	2 competitors
Board Race	2 competitors

Ocean-man/Ocean-woman	2 competitors
Rescue Tube Rescue	1 team
Beach Relay	1 team
Board Rescue	1 team
Ocean-man/Ocean-woman Relay	1 team
Mixed Ocean Lifesaver Relay	1 team

**Note 1:** The heat format for the individual Oceanman, Oceanwoman and Mixed Ocean Relay events shall be the traditional course  
The final format for the individual Oceanman, Oceanwoman and Mixed Ocean Relay events will be conducted in the Ocean M format and will have 16 competitors in each final.

**Note 2:** Each team in the Mixed Ocean Lifesaver Relay (conducted in the classic ocean-man course set-up) is permitted to select the leg of the race in which their two male and two females participate-

SERC Event (only NTYp)	National Maximum entries per team	Teams
Simulated Emergency Response Competition	1 team	

Simulated Emergency Response Competition: The SERC shall be conducted without separate male and female categories. Teams may consist of any combination of males and females

## 15. SCORING

### 15.1. FINALS AND SCORING IN EUROPEAN LIFESAVING CHAMPIONSHIPS

- a) For point score purposes finals are required to be conducted in the National Teams EYLC Pool and Ocean Events.
  - In National Teams EYLC Ocean events: The highest placed 16 competitors based on heats are assigned positions in a final of 16 competitors, or in an A and B final of eight competitors each.
  - In National Teams EYLC Pool events: The fastest 16 competitors based on heats are assigned positions in an A and B final of eight competitors each..
- b) Winners of A finals shall be declared European Lifesaving Champion. For the purposes of managing the competition, the organisers may choose in some events to run A finals only. The points allocation for the B finalists will be allocated on the basis of their times achieved in the heats of Pool events, or the semi-final placings in Ocean events.
- e) Teams competing in National Teams Open and Youth ELC shall

Place	Points	Place	Points
1 <sup>st</sup>	20	9 <sup>th</sup>	8
2 <sup>nd</sup>	18	10 <sup>th</sup>	7
3 <sup>rd</sup>	16	11 <sup>th</sup>	6
4 <sup>th</sup>	14	12 <sup>th</sup>	5
5 <sup>th</sup>	13	13 <sup>th</sup>	4
6 <sup>th</sup>	12	14 <sup>th</sup>	3
7 <sup>th</sup>	11	15 <sup>th</sup>	2
8 <sup>th</sup>	10	16 <sup>th</sup>	1

**Note 1:** The National Teams Youth ELC are all separate championships with separate point scores for each.

**Note 2:** There will not be an overall ranking pool and ocean.

In determining this point score ranking please note:

- There shall be no point score blocking. All competitors are eligible to earn points for their team.
- In finals, if two teams tie for first, each receives first-place points (20). The next placed team is awarded third place and receives 16 points, and so on.
- Ties in this team ranking point scores shall be broken using the following system:
  - Most first-place final finishes.
  - Most second-place final finishes.
  - Most third-place final finishes; and so on.
- Competitors or teams must advise if they intend to withdraw from an A or B final within thirty minutes of the finalists being announced. Competitors or teams who withdraw or do not start (DNS) in an A or B final shall not earn any points for their team's point score (i.e. zero points are scored for a "no show").
- Where one or more competitors in any EYLC withdraw from an A or B final, competitors shall be called forward to finals as detailed in the ILS Competition Rulebook.
- Competitors who do not finish (DNF) or who are disqualified in an A final shall always earn ten points (last place in A-final = eight place). Competitors who do not finish (DNF) or are disqualified in a B final shall always earn one point (last place in B-final = sixteen place). (See Section 2-14 Disqualifications and Did Not Finish classifications in the ILS Competition Rulebook.)
- However, competitors shall not earn any points if they are disqualified for "Competing unfairly" or for a "Serious discipline offence". (See Section 2 Misconduct in the ILS Competition Rulebook.)
- **Note:** For clarification of "elimination" vs "disqualification" for Beach Flags refer to the Beach Flags event description in the ILS Competition Rulebook.
- No points shall be credited to any team if an event is cancelled – even if some heats have been conducted.

## 16. AWARDS

### 16.1. NATIONAL TEAMS YOUTH ELC

- a) The announcement of the overall result pool or ocean will be part of the closing ceremony. The overview of the ranking will be published on the ILSE website after the closure of the ceremony.
- b) **Overall:** Based on the decision to split the championships in pool and ocean, there is no overall (pool and ocean) result
- c) **Pool events – overall:**

A result will be declared and awards shall be presented to the first, second and third place Youth National Team, based on the overall point score (as detailed in Section 15) for all pool events and the SERC.

  - A perpetual trophy shall be presented to the winning team of the National Teams EYLC.
  - Individual awards shall be presented to each member of the first, second, and third place teams, and to a maximum of two management or coaching personnel per team.

**Pool events – overall male team:** A result shall be declared based on the point score but no award presented to the male team placing first overall in pool events but excluding the Mixed Pool Lifesaver Relay event and the SERC, based on the total male point score.

**Pool events – overall female team:** A result shall be declared based on the point score, but no award presented to the female team placing first overall in pool events but excluding the Mixed Pool Lifesaver Relay event and the SERC, based on the total female point score.

**SERC:** A result will be declared and announced to show all teams placing in the SERC.
- d) **Ocean events – overall:**

A result will be declared and awards shall be presented to the first, second and third place Youth National Team, based on the overall point score (as detailed in Section 15) for all ocean events.

- A perpetual trophy shall be presented to the winning team of the National Teams EYLC.
- Individual awards shall be presented to each member of the first, second, and third place teams, and to a maximum of two management or coaching personnel per team.

**Ocean events – overall male team:** A result shall be declared based on the point score, but no award presented to the male team placing first overall in ocean events but excluding the Mixed Ocean Lifesaver Relay event.

**Ocean events – overall female team:** A result shall be declared based on the point score but no award presented to the female team placing first overall in ocean events but excluding the Mixed Ocean Lifesaver Relay event.

- e) **Event winners:** Individual awards shall be presented to the first three places in the final of all events in the Youth National Teams Youth ELC. Event winners shall be recognised as Youth National Teams European Lifesaving Champions in those events. In addition, finalist certificates shall be awarded to the top 8 placings in each individual and team conducted.

**Note:** These certificates may be sent digitally by ILSE following the EYLC to National Federations for distribution to successful athletes.

## 16.2. PRESENTATIONS, CEREMONIES AND FUNCTIONS

- a) Official ceremonies shall be conducted throughout the championships. The ceremonies and functions include:
- An overall EYLC Opening Ceremony.
  - Victory Ceremonies for each EYLC event conducted.
  - Victory Ceremonies declaring overall winners of the Youth Championships.
  - An overall EYLC Closing Ceremony.
  - Closing Parties.

**Note:** When involved in any medal presentation or ceremony all involved are expected to comply with the ILSE procedures and standards detailed in Part C.

## 17. FLAGS AND BANNERS

- a) Each team shall bring a national flag to the EYLC for use in opening, victory and closing ceremonies as required. The recommended flag shall measure approximately 192 mm in length and 128 mm in height.
- b) The organizing committee will provide banners or plates indicating the nation.
- c) Flags and banners shall be carried at the official opening ceremony. In addition, organizers may request the flags and banners to be displayed at the competition sites, official functions, and award presentations.
- d) On flags and banners in the National Teams EYLC, the nation's identity (i.e., national flag) shall be prominent although other elements (national team name and/or symbol) may be included.

**Note:** Flags and Banners are not permitted to be taken onto the podium for medal or awards presentations

## 18. TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

- The ILSE EMC shall have full control and authority over all aspects of competition for EYLC. ILSE Event Venue Managers may be appointed to assist with this process.
- The ILSE Event Director works to support ILSE, the ILSE Sport Commission in the planning, and delivery of EYLC and reports to the ILSE EMC at EYLC.

- The Local Event Manager reports to the LOC and, during competition, to the ILSE EMC. The Local Event Manager is responsible for the organisation of the competition within the parameters established by this Handbook, the ILS Competition Rulebook and the ILSE EMC. The Local Event Manager deals with any issues and represents the LOC at the EYLC venues.
- With the assistance of the Championships Officials Panel the ILSE EMC shall appoint the technical officials for EYLC.
- The full nomination and appointment process is detailed in the ILSE Competition Operations Manual.
- The roles and responsibilities of Technical Officials are outlined in Section 2 of the ILS Competition Rulebook.

## PART C - ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### 1. OPENING CEREMONIES

#### 1.1. GRAND OPENING CEREMONY FOR THE EYLC

- a) A Grand Opening Ceremony will take place on a suitable site such as a city square or either of the beach or swimming pool venues. It features National Teams, officials and volunteers. Parading participants are to be marshalled and briefed on details.
- b) The estimate timeframe for the grand opening is max 45min (all parts included).

#### **Ceremonial Presentation**

The Ceremonial presentation is as follows:

#### **Preparation and Seating**

- The Master of Ceremony announces the start of the Opening Ceremony of the European Youth Lifesaving Championships (EYLC).
- The city authorities, the ILSE authorities and the ILSE family and spectators sit in the Grand Stand and on appropriate places.
- Spectators sit or stand in appropriate places.

#### **Parade**

- The Master of Ceremony introduces the parade.
- The national teams march into the venue accompanied music and behind their name plate and a member of their team carrying their flag. The entry order is in alphabetical order. The host nation closes the list. The national team competitors and team officials are dressed in their national dress or sports attire.
- Technical Official follow the national teams dressed in uniform.
- Then the Volunteers follow dressed in their uniform.
- Each nation is welcomed as they are pass the grandstand.
- The Master of Ceremonies announces the end of the parade.

#### **Speeches**

- The Master of Ceremony invites the speakers one by one to the podium in order of the local authority, the Host President, the Organising Committee Chair, and the ILSE President.
- The total time for speeches is maximum 10 minutes.
- The speeches will be translated in English and presented during the event. This allows the speaker to speak in his own language.
- Participants stand for the national anthem and raising of the flag of the Host nation.
- The ILS song is played, and the ILSE flag is raised.
- The highest authority declares the opening of the EYLC: *“I declare open the (year) European Youth Lifesaving Championships in (city) – (country).”*

#### **Oaths**

- The Master of Ceremony invites the person carrying the ILSE Flag to the podium.
- An athlete's oath is delivered while the competitors are touching the ILSE flag with one hand each: *“In the name of all competitors, we promise that we shall take part in these National Teams European Lifesaving Championships, respecting and abiding by the rules which govern them, committing ourselves to a sport without doping and without drugs, in the true spirit of sportsmanship and fair play, for the glory of the lifesaving sport and the honour of our teams.”*
- A technical official's oath is delivered while the technical officials are touching the ILSE flag with one hand each: *“In the name of all the technical officials, we promise that we shall officiate in these National Teams European Lifesaving Championships with complete impartiality, respecting and abiding by the rules which govern them, in the true spirit of sportsmanship.”*

- A coach's oath is delivered while the team officials are touching the ILSE flag with one hand each: "*In the name of all the coaches and team officials, we promise that we shall commit ourselves to ensuring that the spirit of sportsmanship and fair play is fully adhered to and upheld in accordance with the fundamental principles of Life-saving.*"
- All teams, technical officials and volunteers march down while music is played and then sit down to view the Entertainment.

#### **Artistic and/or Entertainment Presentation.**

The Artistic/entertainment presentation allows the host country to showcase its past, future, culture and other elements.

### **1.2. OTHER CHAMPIONSHIP OPENING CEREMONIES**

Apart from the Grand Opening Ceremony other opening ceremonies for specific ELCs may be programmed. The venue shall be either the beach or the swimming pool venue of the ELC and the elements may include.

- A welcome to the specific ELC on behalf of ILSE.
- An athlete's oath as above detailing the specific ELC.
- A technical official's oath as above detailing the specific ELC.
- A coach's oath as above detailing the specific ELC.

The programming for these opening ceremonies shall be communicated as part of event timetables etc.

## **2. VICTORY CEREMONIES**

### **2.1. VICTORY CEREMONY: MEDAL CEREMONIES**

Each of the races/events at the European Youth Lifesaving Championships end with a medal ceremony. The medal ceremony can be conducted after the event or events at the respective venue or can be presented at a Medal Plaza.

**Note:** Unless otherwise advised the announcement and awarding of overall Teams EYLC trophies (for pool, ocean and SERC point score trophies) shall take place at the competition venue as soon as practical following the conclusion of all competition at the venue. Team members are to be dressed as per the requirements for medal presentations.

#### **Ceremony preparation**

- The award deliverers, medal winners and presenter escorts take position on the backstage.
- For National Teams Youth and EYLC, the national flags or slides are prepared.

#### **Ceremony begins**

- The EYLC Signature Tune is played.
- The Master of Ceremony (MC) announces the Ceremony: "*Ladies and gentlemen the Medal Ceremony for the (race) at the (National Teams) European Youth Lifesaving Championships will now begin. Please welcome the medallists*".
- Music starts. The escort followed by the competitors, followed by the presenters followed by the medal carrier enter the stage. The medallists take position at the marks behind the podium (in a row formation). The medal presenter take position on the left side of the podium. The MC is at the right side of the podium. Once all people are in position, the music fades out.

### **Presentation begins**

- The MC introduces the presenters: “*The Medals will be presented by (title) (forename) (name), (function)*”.
- The MC speaks: “*The winner(s) of the bronze medal(s), is/are (name(s)), representing (country/club as appropriate)*”.
- The competitor steps onto the platform and the medal presenter takes the medal(s) and steps to the competitor, place the medal over the head to the neck and then shakes his/her hand to say “*congratulations*” or similar.
- The MC speaks: “*The winner(s) of the silver medal(s), is/are (name(s)), representing (country/club as appropriate)*”.
- The competitor steps onto the platform and the medal presenter takes the medal(s) and steps to the competitor, place the medal over the head to the neck and then shakes his/her hand to say “*congratulations*” or similar.
- The MC speaks: “*The winner(s) of the gold medal(s), and European Youth Champion(s) is/are (name(s)), representing (country/club as appropriate)*”.
- The competitor steps onto the platform and the medal presenter takes the medal(s) and steps to the competitor, place the medal over the head to the neck and then shakes his/her hand to say “*congratulations*” or similar.

### **National Anthem**

- The MC speaks: “*Ladies and gentlemen, please raise in respect of the national anthem of (country)*”.
- The National Anthem is played.
- Flag bearers raise the national flags on the national anthem of the gold medallist.
- Medallists, presenters, and cast turn to face the flagpole to witness the raising of the flags for the duration of the anthem.

### **Closing**

- The MC speaks: “*Ladies and gentlemen, congratulate the medallists*”.
- Photo time of maximum 30 seconds.
- The MC speaks: “*Ladies and gentlemen, this concludes the Medal Ceremony for the (race). Please let us once again congratulate the medallists*”.
- Signature Tune start, the escort followed by the competitors, followed by the presenters followed by the medal carrier exit the stage to the sport presentation waiting tent or area.

## **2.2. VICTORY CEREMONY: DRESS CODE**

Victory ceremonies are extremely important to the competitors, their federations, their nations, the spectators and the media. They will, therefore, be carefully planned and conducted in a dignified manner. Victory Ceremonies that are well-prepared and conducted in a proper setting, with official announcements, medal presentations, flag raising, and music provide traditional and memorable opportunities to recognise medal-winning competitors’ accomplishments in a dignified and attractive atmosphere.

### **Dress Code**

The ILSE enforces proper dress code for participants of the ceremony. Before entering the stage, the Victory Ceremony team will ensure that the athletes are correctly dressed. The organiser will refuse to let any athlete take with him/her any forbidden items. No Sports Equipment or Accessories may be brought to the victory ceremony location. No personal accessories, including but not limited to mobile phones, water bottles, national flags and camera devices, are permitted on podiums. National Flags cannot be brought to the stage for any victory ceremony

The Team Manager is primarily responsible for ensuring that all items worn or used by the members of their delegation comply with these ILSE Guidelines.

### **Dress code – Competitors**

#### Allowed (in order of preference):

- Team uniform and normal or sports shoes.
- Team track suit: long pants and jacket and under the jacket a polo shirt or t-shirt, or short pants and track suit jacket or, short pants and a national polo or t-shirt.
- Team competition caps at ocean event presentations.
- Sport shoes, thongs or barefoot is allowed.
- National Flags or other Flags cannot be brought to the stage for any victory ceremony.

#### Not Allowed

- Swimming costumes.
- National Flags or other Flags.
- Competitors are not allowed to bring signs, sunglasses, hats, caps, headbands, bottles, competition equipment and other such items to the stage.

The sports attire may include the name of the company producing the training jacket and pants. If that name is present, it should not exceed 120 cm<sup>2</sup> for the jacket and 120 cm<sup>2</sup> for the pants. An additional sponsor can be added on the jacket, but such cannot be larger than 120 cm<sup>2</sup>.

### **Dress code – Medal Presenters**

The medal presenters shall wear appropriate clothing.

The following is allowed (in order of preference):

- For men: jacket suit and tie. For women: robe, skirt and blouse.
- For men: long trousers and a collared shirt. For women: skirt and blouse or collared shirt.
- Footwear: Shoes
- Medal presenters are not allowed to bring signs, sunglasses, hats, caps, headbands, bottles, competition equipment and other such items to the stage.

## **3. CLOSING CEREMONIES**

### **3.1. CLOSING CEREMONIES**

A Closing Ceremony may be conducted for all Championships where medals are still to be presented and/or where point score trophies are to be awarded. All ceremonies should include a Ceremonial presentation.

In addition, a final closing ceremony shall be conducted following the completion of the final EYLC competition.

The closing ceremony may be conducted at the pool and/or ocean venue or at the Lifesaving Village where medals are presented.

#### **Awards Presentation**

The awards presentation:

- Any outstanding medals in individual and team events are awarded.
- For the Youth National Teams the point score results are announced for the pool, then SERC and finally the overall winner pool or ocean classification. For the pool and ocean trophy the results from the tenth placed team to the fourth placed team are announced. The Team Manager or Captain of the third, second and first placed team accepts the trophy on the podium. The competitors and a maximum of two team management of the third, second first placed team accepts the trophy in that order on the podium.
- The Trophies to be awarded at the various ceremonies are:  
**Youth:**  
Overall winning team pool and ocean– A Perpetual Trophy  
SERC Winning Team - medals

### **Ceremonial Presentation**

The Ceremonial presentation includes:

- The EYLC Signature Tune is played.
- The Announcement of the start of the Closing Ceremony for the respective EYLC.
- Completion of any outstanding medal ceremonies in individual and team.
- Announcement and presentation of point score awards and trophies.
- The Master of Ceremony invites the ILSE President or his/her representative to the podium to speak.
- A closing message by the Master of Ceremony.
- Closing music is played.

In addition, the final closing ceremony shall involve further components and follows the completion of any outstanding medal ceremonies including:

- The Announcement of the start of the Closing Ceremony of the whole EYLC.
- The naming of the nations present at the EYLC and statistics on participation.
- The Master of Ceremony invites the speakers one by one to the podium in order of highest-ranked local authority, the Host President, Organising Committee Chair and the ILSE President.
- The Master of Ceremony invites the participants to stand for the national anthem of the host country and flag.
- The national anthem is played, and the national flag is lowered.
- The ILS song is played, and the ILSE flag is lowered.
- The flag is handed over from the host of the current EYLC then to ILSE and finally to the host of the next EYLC (if known).
- A speech by the host of the next EYLC and a video (if any) on the next championships.
- A closing message by the Master of Ceremony.
- A closing music is played.

## **4. MEDALS FOR THE EUROPEAN YOUTH LIFESAVING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026**

The medals for all EYLCs (Youth National Teams) must be of the same design and quality.

### **Specifications**

Recipients: the top three competitors/teams in each event receive medals.

The competitors and a maximum of two team management of the top three teams in Youth National EYLC receive medals.

The medals for the winners are in golden colours, the medals for the second place are in silver colours and the medal for the third place are in bronze colours.

The ribbons may also include the EYLC and ILSE logos.