



# George Bass Surf Boat & Ski Marathon 2027



## EVENT INFORMATION

Welcome to the George Bass Surfboat and Ski Marathon  
28<sup>th</sup> December 2026 – 03<sup>rd</sup> January 2027

**We've changed the dates, just one day. This will help facilitate travel for those to the Far South Coast of NSW**

Are you thinking about entering the GBM2027? Is it a bucket list item? Make this your year!!!

Did you know that the George Bass Marathon is the world's longest toughest surfboat race?

The GBM covers 198 kms of the most spectacular piece of Australia coastline.

The George Bass Surfboat Marathon commenced in 1975, with skis added to the event in the 1990's. It is a truly unique experience for competitors, support crews and organizers. An event where personal challenges are met, and lifelong friendships are formed as part of the GBM family.

There's a lot of information contained in the race information pack so here is a more compact version of the information that you will receive once you have registered.

**2027 celebrates 30 years since women and surf skis joined the event, come share the adventure.**

### The Course

The course is Batemans Bay – Eden, moving forward we are looking at removing the legs in and out of Coila/ Tuross Heads, due to the hazardous beach and the insurance implications for us as organisers. Information and maps will be released when final event information comes out in October.

### The Rules

The 2027 George Bass Surfboat and Ski Marathon will be conducted under the rules in the Surf Sports Manual (38<sup>th</sup> Edition- revised October 2025), any subsequent amending bulletins and circulars, and the following **local rules**;

- 1. Minimum age of competitor is 17 years**
- 2. All crews must be made up of competitors that are financial and proficient SLSA members**
- 3. All international competitors and club teams must gain international clearance from their governing body and must be submitted to event organisers 1 month prior to commencement of the event.**
4. Sweeps must hold a minimum of S2 accreditation to be eligible to sweep surf boats in this event.
  - a. Sweeps must be compliant as per SLSA requirement
  - b. Sweeps must undertake personal development during the season leading up to the event to ensure surf skills are current. PD can be in the form of regular competition or attendance at a sweep development program**

5. For insurance purposes a team sheet must be completed daily, to advise organisers of who will be on the water each day.
6. Mixed gender crews: must consist of a minimum 4 female rowers, with 2 in the boat at any time.
7. Deep water changes: Observer must raise and keep the supplied flag in the air from the start to completion of every change over. This sends a clear signal to all following boats both in powerboats and race boats that rowers in the water. The changing power boat (or IRB) will have right of way and all trailing boats must change course to avoid any interference with crew members in the water for the duration of the change. The sweep must raise their arm horizontal to the water for at least 30 seconds as a clear signal to following crews that his/her team is about to complete a change. We will require all powerboats (SLSA Inflatable Rescue boats with a prop guard are exempt) undergo a complete motor shutdown during the process **only if rowers are to enter the boat over the transom**, and sea conditions allow from the time they pull alongside the rowers to be collected from the water. The preferred option for entering a powerboat is via a ladder or the side or having the change made by a SLSA IRB. Under no circumstances are powerboats allowed to use Reverse to pick up rowers from the water. **ANY CREWS FAILING TO ADHERE TO THIS REQUIREMENT WILL FACE DISQUALIFICATION FROM THE EVENT.**
8. A medical replacement is permissible. Must be approved by the Event Referee, Event Medical Coordinator and Safety Officer for compelling grounds, at least **1 hour** prior to the days racing. Once a competitor is ruled out, they are unable to return to the race.
9. In the case of multiple surfboats approaching a single turning buoy, the craft nearest the buoy has right of way and other craft must not impede any that are ahead of them.
10. Smoothing/ slipstreaming behind Powercraft (support or water safety vessels) is not acceptable. Powercraft are requested to move from the immediate vicinity of surfboats ASAP. Any competitor or crew found guilty of this practice will be disqualified from the relevant leg.

**NOTE: Rule 7 is under review. Final information will be released with Final Event information**

The 2027 George Bass Surfboat and Ski Marathon Committee will direct all matters relating to the actual conduct of the competition.

The 2027 George Bass Surfboat and Ski Marathon Committee may, subject to the rules in the Surf Sports Manual (38<sup>th</sup> Edition – revised October 2025) and event rules, any subsequent amending bulletins and circulars, postpone, cancel and/or alter any or all legs of this event, and alter the area of the competition.

## Insurance

The race is conducted under the SLSA insurance cover.

Only members of a Surf Club will be covered under this policy. It is strongly recommended that every member of the team (competitor and support personnel) be joined up as members of the respective Surf Club prior to the race start.

**IF YOU'RE NOT A MEMBER OF THE CLUB YOU WILL HAVE NO EVENT INSURANCE COVER.**

## Mandatory Pre-Race briefing

**A mandatory pre-race briefing will be held on 27<sup>th</sup> December 2026 – Venue to be advised. If your team manager and sweep, or paddler do not attend you will not be able to compete.**

## How is the race run?

For those that have never experienced the “Great Race” here is a brief overview of what you should expect. Final event information will be sent out in late **October** which will give you more information on the actual race and tactics, but this should give some insight into what you’re in for.

The start every day is in deep water between markers at the back of the surf. Under no conditions do we race off a beach. Remember you will have sliding seats fitted and the straight-line start will set you on a course directly down the coast.

During the race the ocean is your oyster. You may steer whatever course you wish, and many crews do just that. Some stay close to shore while others can be found kilometers out to sea.

The finish will always be fair and square to the racing course between markers beyond the break. You will never be asked to complete a race in through the surf. This is a rowing race not a race of chance and the last thing we want to do is place tired crews at risk by asking them to crack waves at the end of a marathon under race conditions.

## Powerboat tips

- Each crew is required to have a motorised craft to convey its additional rowers.
- Powerboats compliant under RMS regulations or IRB as per SLSA requirements
- Clubs are totally responsible for the mechanical condition of their support craft.
- The race will not be delayed because of mechanical failure to any support craft.
- We will be able to help your boat drivers at our briefings each day to provide all the information on local sea and bar conditions.

## Health and Nutrition

First Aid personnel will be on board a support boat for the duration of each leg of the Bass.

Crews and support boats will be told the name of the boat and the radio call sign to contact First Aid, both at the main briefing before the commencement of the event and at each evening briefing.

The George Bass is both physically and mentally demanding event, so before you commit to the GBM ask yourself;

- Am I up for the challenge?
- Am I physically ready for this?
- How has my training been?
- Does my ability or lack thereof put others at risk if I need to be rescued?

## Staying safe at sea

As mentioned earlier, the George Bass is a demanding event. It is important you look after the welfare of yourself and your members.

There will be an event First Aid team who will make determination if rower is unable to continue in race. Injuries should be reported to the event Referee.

Whilst at sea there will be a medical boat equipped with basic first aid equipment. They will be able to provide basic assistance and support. In an emergency/critical incident the event emergency plan will be enforced with professional evacuation sought. This could involve evacuation from the medical boat by helicopter, IRB transport to nearest beach to link up with emergency services etc.

There will be a First Aid team at each of the finish locations providing assistance as required. There will also be First Aid facilities available on either the Referees Boat and on a boat specifically designated for this purpose. Clubs should also come equipped with First Aid materials and kits and should ensure adequate drinks, warm clothing, sunscreen and wind protection is available in the support boats.

## SKIS @ sea

- All skis will be scrutineered after the pre-race briefing
- Paddlers will be required to check in daily, before entering the water, with the event ski coordinator
- Paddlers that fail to check in will be disqualified from the event.
- Safety equipment required for all paddlers;
  - 2 litres water
  - PFD 2
  - fluro - event supplied
  - tracker
  - mobile phone with waterproof pouch
  - leg rope/ leash
  - flare - current and in date
- Where possible it would be preferable for paddlers to provide their own IRB water safety.

## GPS Trackers

GPS Trackers were introduced to the GBM in 2016.

For event organizers it gave us peace of mind knowing where competitors were at any given time and was an added safety measure to track your progress.

For family, friends and support crews, trackers gave them the ability to follow your progress from the comfort of home anywhere in the world, via the live site.

## Radio Communication

Each team/support boat needs to provide their own VHF radio in the surfboat or in the support boat which will be on the designated race channel VHF ship to ship 77 so that the Race Officials, can contact every boat at any given time.

## Camping

- The George Bass will have two free camp sites available. Access dates to be confirmed.
  - Bill Smyth Memorial Oval – Narooma
  - Tathra Country Club
- There will be a minimal cleaning fee per camp.
- Teams using these campsites are required to provide a fully refundable security deposit of \$500. In the event of damage refund will be forfeit.
- A non-refundable cleaning fee (\$100 per boat crew & \$25 per paddler applies)

Please email [georgebassmarathon@gmail.com](mailto:georgebassmarathon@gmail.com) if planning on using the camp sites, what days you plan on being there and approximate numbers.

## Daily briefings & Presentations

It is essential that members from each Club, preferably Team Managers and/ or Sweeps, be present at the daily de-brief and safety meeting – non-attendance can result in exclusion from that day's leg. To support our sponsors, it is requested that representation from each Club be present at the daily presentations. Those not present can be excluded from daily prizes and draws.

## GBM 2027 Social Events – subject to change

There are four key events during the week that are as iconic as the overall race. All crews are encouraged to join in the camaraderie and have a bit of fun to help make the week to remember. Days, time & venue - TBA

1. *Red Faces*
2. *Final Presentation*

This is a great opportunity for all involved in the event to let their hair down and relive the highs of the week.

## ENTRIES 2027

Club: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Division: \_\_\_\_\_ unsure? Talk to us

### Divisions

#### **BOATS**

- **8 rowers – all divisions**
- **3 crews constitute a division**
- **Open Men**
- **Open Women**
- **Vets – Men, Women & Mixed**
  - Minimum age 40
  - Minimum combined boat age 320
  - Mixed Crews refer to Local Rules Item 6
- **Super Vets – Men & Women**
  - Minimum age 50
  - Minimum combined boat age 400
- **Juniors 17-23**

**ALL DIVISIONS ARE DEPENDANT ON NUMBERS OF ENTRIES  
THERE MAY BE SOME COMBINATIONS eg VETS/ SUPER VETS, OPENS/ JUNIORS**

#### **SKIs (Men, Women & Juniors depending on entries)**

- 3 paddlers constitute a division
- Spec ski (single & double)
- Ocean ski
- Vets Ski – minimum age 40

#### Entry fees

BOATS	\$1200 per boat crew	9 competitors
	\$1000 per boat crew	EARLY BIRD ENRTY before 30/09/2026
SKIS	\$350 per paddler	
	\$250per paddler	EARLY BIRD ENRTY before 30/09/2026

Entry fee includes one GBM2027 competition vest and t-shirt per competitor  
Additional GBM2027 t-shirts can be purchased, complete box on page 2

**ENTRIES CLOSE 30 SEPTEMBER 2026**

Please return your form and payment to [georgebassmarathon@gmail.com](mailto:georgebassmarathon@gmail.com)

**FSC BRANCH SLS – GEORGE BASS**

**BSB- 802 124**

**ACCOUNT – 100 095 065**

**Team Manager or Emergency Contact**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Note;** Team manager will be used as the team’s emergency contact and will need to be available during event.

Club bank account details (direct deposit of prize money)

BSB: \_\_\_\_\_ Account: \_\_\_\_\_

**Competition Rash Vest**

Size	Small	Medium	Large	XLarge	2XLarge	3Xlarge	Other
Quantity							

**Event T-shirt**

Size	Small	Medium	Large	XLarge	2XLarge	3Xlarge	Other
Quantity							

**Additional GBM2025 t-Shirts**

Adult @ \$25.00

Size	Small	Medium	Large	XLarge	2XLarge	3Xlarge	Other
Quantity							

Amount: \$

Kids @ \$15.00

Size	4	6	8	10	12	14
Quantity						

Amount: \$

For further information please contact [georgebassmarathon@gmail.com](mailto:georgebassmarathon@gmail.com)

**Competitor details – to be supplied no later than 30/11/2026**

**COMPETITOR AUTHORISATION:**

I hereby declare that the information regarding financial, proficiency and patrol hour compliance of competitors is true and correct:

Authorizing Club Officer

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_ **(PRESIDENT OR CLUB CAPTAIN ONLY)**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

We would be grateful if you could supply us with a profile of each competitor;

- Facts of interest
- Years rowing
- How many GBMs
- Other achievements

**PADDLERS**

	Name	Financial	Proficient
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			

**BOAT CREWS**

	Name	Financial	Proficient
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9	SWEEP		

	Name	Financial	Proficient
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9	SWEEP		