Drone Patrol Operator

Fly the club's patrol drone. The Patrol Captain directs you.

No dates yet. Choose Register interest on the form and we'll email you when a course is set.

Drone — Key info

From age 16 **Free to members**

Minimum age	16, on the day of your final assessment.
Duration	About 20 to 30 minutes of online steps. Then online theory, a 3 to 4 hour practical and supervised patrol flights.
Cost	Free to members.
Stays current	Until 31 December, every season.

Prerequisites

SLSWA · any one: Surf Rescue Certificate, current

SLSWA · any one: Bronze Medallion, current

SLSWA · any one: Radio Operator and Observers (both parts), current

SLSWA: An Aviation Reference Number (ARN)

SLSWA: Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) drone accreditation, or a remote pilot licence (RePL)

Club: Commit to at least 2 patrols as operator and 2 as spotter this season

Dates

No dates yet Register interest

Updated 2 Nov 2026.

How to get it

1. **Prepare**
   Before you sign up, do the CASA online steps: a myCASA account, your ARN, then the CASA quiz and video. Email your certificate to enquiries@ncslsc.com.

   Get your CASA operator accreditation
2. **Do the course**
   Online theory modules 1 to 3. Then a one-on-one practical with a trainer, on a Saturday morning from November to March.
3. **Assessment**
   Supervised patrol flights, logged in the Fly Freely app.
4. **Keep it current**
   Each season, keep your patrolling award current and do a check with a drone facilitator.

Book your Skills Maintenance Check (SMC) on Learn →

If you miss your SMC

In short: if you're an Active Member and miss 31 December, your membership is put on hold for a month, then it ends. Until you do your SMC you can't patrol.

If you are an Active Member and are not proficient by 31 December, your membership is automatically suspended for 1 month (from 31 December, or from a later date if the Chair of Education has granted you an extension). If you are still not proficient at the end of that month, your membership automatically ends (By-law 11.3). To ask for an exemption or more time, write to the Chair of Education by 31 December (By-law 11.4). Under SLSWA rules you also cannot patrol, operate rescue craft or compete until you are proficient.

Long Service Members must requalify each season (By-law 6.2.4(f)). Under SLSWA rules you can't patrol until you do.

Owner: Drones Officer · Last reviewed 2 Nov 2026 · Next review due 1 Sep 2027 · Questions? enquiries@ncslsc.com