Radio Operator and Observers

Two awards, done together, that let you patrol. A way onto patrol for members with disability, or for drone pilots.

Email us and we'll tell you when the next course is set.

Radio & Observers — Key info

From age 13 **Free to members**

Minimum age	13, on the day of your final assessment.
Duration	Radio Operator: about 2 hours. That's 21 minutes of eLearning, then about 1 hour 40 minutes face to face.
Cost	Free to members.
Stays current	Until 31 December, every season.

Prerequisites

SLSWA: Radio Operator: no award needed first. You need everyday reading, writing and maths.

SLSWA: Observers: be a financial member of the club

Dates

Email us to book: enquiries@ncslsc.com Email us

Updated 2 Nov 2026.

How to get it

1. **Prepare**
   Do the eLearning in the Surf Life Saving Hub (SLS Hub). Radio Operator: 2 short modules, 21 minutes. Observers: 7 modules and an online theory test.
   How to find your eLearning in the SLS Hub
2. **Do the course**
   Radio Operator: a face-to-face session with radios. Observers: show your trainer every signal, and talk through our beach and how we set up patrol.
3. **Assessment**
   Observers: the online theory test, plus every signal. Radio Operator: assessed by a Bronze trainer, about 1 hour.
4. **Keep it current**
   Each season: a Radio Operator skills session before 31 December, and an Observers test that includes the signals.

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: Chair of Education · Last reviewed 2 Nov 2026 · Next review due 1 Sep 2027 · Questions? enquiries@ncslsc.com