

Dee Why Surf Life Saving Nippers Handbook



2025 – 2026



Welcome to Nippers Dee Why Surf Life Saving Club

Welcome to the Dee Why Surf Life Saving Club Nippers program for the 2025-2026 season! We are excited to have you join us for another fantastic year of fun, learning, and community spirit. Our Nippers program is designed to teach young members essential lifesaving skills, beach safety, and the importance of teamwork.

The Dee Why Surf Life Saving Club has a proud history dating back to 1912. For over a century, our club has been dedicated to ensuring the safety of beachgoers and providing valuable training to our members. Located on the beautiful Dee Why Beach, our club has become a cornerstone of the local community. We are proud of our heritage and remain committed to our core values of service, safety, and community.

As we embark on this new season, we look forward to seeing our Nippers grow, learn, and have fun. We hope you make lasting memories and friendships while developing essential lifesaving skills. Welcome to the Dee Why Surf Life Saving Club family, and here's to a fantastic Nippers season!

Mark Rosenthal – Junior Activities Coordinator



<https://www.surflifesaving.net.au/history/slssnb-clubs/dee-why/>

Nippers Mission Statement

“Dee Why Nippers is dedicated to providing a fun, safe and inclusive environment where children can learn vital surf safety skills, make life-long friends, and grow into active, confident and community-minded individuals.”

The Nippers program at Dee Why Surf Life Saving Club is vital for educating young members about beach safety and lifesaving skills. Through fun activities, Nippers learn to navigate the surf, understand ocean dangers, and develop rescue techniques. This program fosters responsibility, teamwork, confidence, and resilience, ensuring the next generation is well-prepared to contribute to our beach community's safety and well-being.



About the Nippers Program

Overview

The Nippers program at Dee Why Surf Life Saving Club is designed to educate young members about beach safety and lifesaving skills in a fun and engaging environment. The program is open to children aged 5 to 14 (U6 must turn 5 years old by 30 September 2025) and is divided into different age groups to ensure age-appropriate training and activities.

Throughout the season, Nippers participate in a variety of activities that help them develop essential skills such as swimming, board paddling, and surf awareness. These activities are not only aimed at improving their physical abilities but also at building their confidence and teamwork skills.

Nipper Activities

Under 6 & Under 7	Under 8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to club and beach • Sun safety • Who are Life Savers, what do they do • Where to swim “Between the Flags” • Swim safety “Identify holes and gutters” • Marine creatures • Introduction to beach flags/sprints and wade • Shallow water activities • Get your face wet • Introduction and getting comfortable on a board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build on confidence from U7 learning • Sprint and flags • Water wade and wade for competition • Dolphin diving under waves and wave education • Introduction to body surfing • Surf swimming skills • Develop board paddling skills • Introduction to club sports • Introduction to CPR
Under 9 & Under 10	Under 11, under 12 & Under 13
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build on what is learnt in previous years • 150 M open water swim prerequisite for competitors, club champion water events and iron person • Beach flags; sprint; swim and board paddling for competition • Body and surf swimming • Board paddling (foam) and board skill development • Rip awareness and management • Extending on CPR skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build on what is learnt in previous years • 200 M open water swim prerequisite for competitors, club champion water events and iron person • Board paddling advance to fiberglass boards • Introduction to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Beach signals ○ Radio instructions ○ Resuscitation ○ Board & Tube rescue skill ○ Basic first aid and CPR
Under 14	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 200 m open water swim prerequisite for competitors, club champion water events and iron person • Advance to fiberglass longboard • Water safety and active patrol members as SRC (SRC course run over October long weekend) 	



Running of Nippers

Nippers will be held every weekend except for the two weeks over the Christmas period. Please refer to the Nipper calendar for more information (see Appendix 1 Nippers Calander 2025 - 2026).

- **Marshalling:** All Nippers must gather in front of the club at 8:45 AM SHARP. This is when you will receive the day's briefing. All Nippers should Marshall in their respective age pit areas on the beach, indicated by the age flag, wearing their Nippers cap and pink singlet.
- **Start Time:** Events on the beach will commence at 9:00 AM for all age groups.
- **Finish Time:** The sessions will conclude at approximately 10:30 – 11:00 AM for all age groups.
- **Pre-Start Rules:** Nippers must not be in the water wearing their pink singlet or cap prior to the start of Nippers.

Beach Safety Rules

All Nippers should adhere to the following beach safety rules to ensure their safety and promote good practices:

- **Promoting Safe Practices:** Swimming outside the safe flag zone can promote poor water safety practices to the public and other swimmers. If Nippers are seen in the water outside the flagged area without water safety personal, it may give the impression that the area is safe to swim, which can be misleading and dangerous.
- **Uniform Requirements:** For safety and identification purposes, it is compulsory that all Dee Why Nippers always wear their uniform when participating in Nippers and carnivals. The Dee Why Nipper uniform consists of:
 - Dee Why Nipper cap (please label with your child's name in black waterproof texter on white strip of cap) and Fluorescent Pink rash vest with sponsors logo. Further information see [Nippers Clothing | Dee Why SLSC](#)
 - Appropriate swimwear that allows for beach events and swimming is essential. While Dee Why swimmers or shorts/jammers are preferred, they are not mandatory. Uniforms can be purchased online, and pick-up can be arranged through the Dee Why uniform shop, which will be open prior to the start of Nippers. Dates and times will be posted on Dee Why Nippers App. For any inquiries, please contact uniform.officer@dyslsc.org.au

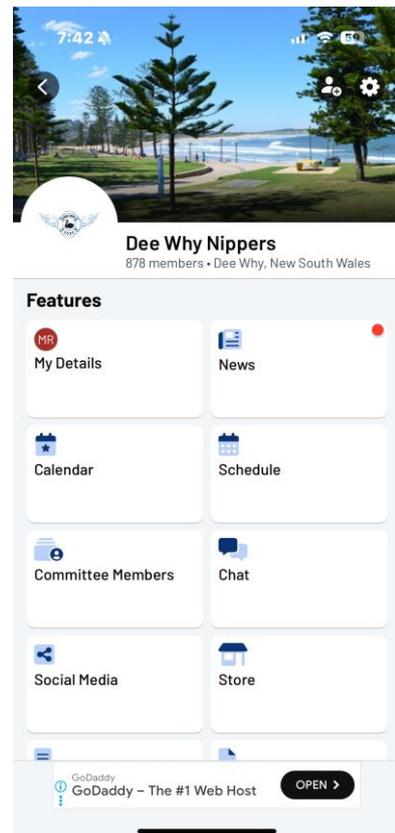


- **Sun Protection and Water:** Ensure all Nippers are well protected from the sun by applying sunscreen 30 minutes before arriving at the beach and wearing a rash vest when appropriate. Bring a drink bottle for hydration and to wash out any sand that may get into their eyes.
- **Sign-In and Sign-Off:** All Nippers must sign on at the start of each session and sign off with their Age Manager before leaving their age group. This must be done in the allocated age pit area in front of the club. If you need to take your child early or they are unwell, ensure the Nipper is signed off by the Age Manager or assistant before leaving the beach. It is the parents' responsibility to ensure their child has signed in and out, regardless of the age group.

Communications

To ensure you stay informed throughout the Nipper season, all communications are done via Stack TeamApp :

1. **Download the App:** Get Stack TeamApp from your favourite app store – it's free!
2. **Sign Up:** Create an account within the app.
3. **Log In:** Once logged in, search for "Dee Why Nippers" and request to become a member.
4. **Join Access Groups:** Request to join the "Nippers Parent" access group and your Nipper's relevant age group, e.g., "Nipper U6 2025".
5. **Approval:** Wait for the admins to approve your request.
6. **Enable Notifications:** Turn on notifications to stay updated.
7. **Stay Engaged:** Regularly check the app for important notices about Nippers, training, carnivals, schedule changes, events, and request for parent helpers (mostly BBQ roster)



Following these steps will ensure you don't miss out on any important information throughout the season.



Swim Proficiencies for Each Age Group

Nippers is not a learn-to-swim program and does not teach children to swim. While being a good swimmer is not required, we highly recommend enrolling your children in learn-to-swim programs or squad training.

To ensure the safety and skill development of our Nippers, we have established specific swim proficiency requirements for each age group. These requirements are tailored to match the abilities and developmental stages of the children, ensuring they are comfortable and capable in the water. To participate in swim proficiencies, the Nipper must be registered along with a parent as a financial member of the club.

If you are not already a financial member, please join DWLSLSC at [surf life saving join](#) or watch [How to Join DWLSLSC video](#) for guidance. Existing members should renew their Nipper membership before attending swim proficiencies at [members.sls](#).

STAGE ONE: UNDER 6, UNDER 7, UNDER 8 Aquatic Play and Fundamental Aquatic Skills (FAS). Minimum depth of safe aquatic environment – 1 metre

MINIMUM AQUATIC SKILL	Under 6	Under 7	Under 8
Propulsion	Push and glide from wall (distance 1-2 metres) recover to stand.	Push and glide from wall, kick (distance 2-3 metres) recovers to stand.	Swim on front any stroke (distance 20 metres) followed by swim underwater (distance 2-3 metres).
Continuous skill sequence	Wade through water (distance 5 metres) float on back or front (5 seconds) recover to stand, submerge to retrieve object from bottom of water with hands, recover to stand.		Swim on from through water any stroke 20 metres, followed by back or front float (5 seconds) followed by submerge to retrieve object from bottom of water with hands (do not recover to stand between each task)

STAGE TWO: UNDER 9, UNDER 10, UNDER 11 Applied Aquatic Skills. Minimum depth of safe aquatic environment – 1.5 metres

MINIMUM AQUATIC SKILL	Under 9	Under 10	Under 11
Flotation	Front to back float or back to front float – 5 seconds each side. Tread water and/or sculling for minimum 1 minute.		Front to back float or back to front float – 5 seconds each side. Tread water and/or sculling for minimum 2 minutes
Submersion	Submerge to retrieve object from bottom of water with hands (e.g dive ring).		Submerge to perform forward or backward roll/somersault



			underwater, recover to surface, retrieve object from bottom of water with hands (e.g dive ring).
Propulsion	Survival stroke(s) breaststroke and/or sidestroke and/or sculling for minimum 50 metres.	Swim on front through water any stroke for 25 metres followed by survival stroke(s) breaststroke and/or sidestroke and/or sculling for minimum 50 metres.	Swim on front through water any stroke for 50 metres followed by survival stroke(s) breaststroke and/ or sidestroke and/or sculling for minimum 50 metres.
Continuous Skill Sequence	Swim on front through water using combination of breaststroke, sidestroke, freestyle for 50 metres, followed by tread water and/or sculling for minimum 1 minute, followed by submerge to retrieve object from bottom of water with hands (do not recover to stand in between each task).		Swim on front through water using combination of breaststroke, sidestroke, freestyle for 50 metres, followed by tread water and/or sculling for minimum 2 minutes, followed by submerge to retrieve object from bottom of water with hands (do not recover to stand in between each task).
STAGE THREE: UNDER 12, UNDER 13, UNDER 14			
Junior/trainee lifesaver – pathway to SRC. Minimum depth of safe aquatic environment – 1.8 metres			
Flotation			
Front to back float or back to front float – 5 seconds each side. Tread water and/or sculling for minimum 3 minutes.			
MINIMUM AQUATIC SKILL	Under 12	Under 13	Under 14
Submersion	Submerge to perform forward or backward roll/somersault underwater, recover to surface, submerge to touch the bottom with hands.		Submerge to perform forward or backward roll/somersault underwater, do not recover to surface, submerge to touch the bottom with hands
Propulsion	Swim on front any stroke for 75 metres followed by survival stroke(s) breaststroke and/or sidestroke for minimum 50 metres.	Swim on front through water any stroke for 100 metres followed by survival stroke(s) breaststroke and/or sidestroke for minimum 50 metres.	Swim on front any stroke for 100 metres followed by survival stroke(s) breaststroke and/or sidestroke for minimum 100 metres.

Nippers who wish to participate in club championship, iron-person and club competitions must be open water proficient.



Note: The definition of 'Open Water' is sourced from NSW Maritime and refers to navigable waters that are not enclosed by land or not within a river, bay, harbour or port. They include coastal and ocean waters.

AGE	Evaluation
U6	Nil
U7	Nil
U8	Nil (no water competition, except for wade which takes place in waist-deep water)
U9	Minimum 150m open water swim (any recognised stroke)
U10	Minimum 150m open water swim (any recognised stroke)
U11	Minimum 200m open water swim (any recognised stroke)
U12	Minimum 200m open water swim (any recognised stroke)
U13	Minimum 200m open water swim (any recognised stroke)
U14	Minimum 200m open water swim (any recognised stroke)

Open Water Proficiencies and Water Events

All water events, including open water proficiencies, will be held at the discretion of water safety, the patrol captain, and the Council Lifeguard. The decision will be made based on the conditions and the group's competency. This ensures that all water activities are conducted safely and that the participants can handle the conditions.

Standard Nipper Session Events

- **Beach Flags:** Run the same as carnivals, with a maximum of 15 starters in each group. The flag winner proceeds to the next round for all age groups.
- **Beach Sprint:** A 70m track with a maximum of 15 starters in each race. The U6's and U7's may use a shorter track.
- **Beach Relays:** A team event with 4 members on the sprint track using a baton.
- **Wade:** Suitable for all age groups, but a carnival event for U8s only. It involves a 70m run on sand and in knee-deep water around bunting held by several helpers.
- **Board:** For age groups U9s and up, involving a board paddle around the cans and relays. Younger age groups may use the boards to familiarize themselves with the equipment, but only under favourable conditions and with sufficient water safety. U6 – U 8s use redback boards in controlled zones catching waves into shore.



- **Swim:** Up to a 150 – 200 m surf swim around the cans for age groups U9s and up. Younger age groups can participate in a shorter course based on their competence, pending good conditions and sufficient water safety.

Surf Education

A necessary part of Nippers, teaching them about the beach, surf, rips, marine life, conditions, pollution, patrols, how to get help, and where to go if they get into trouble.

Introductory Lifesaving Skills

- Board Rescue: For those who are proficient.
- Tube Rescue: For those who are proficient.
- Resuscitation: D.R.S.A.B.C.D.
- First Aid
- Scenarios
- Communication



Other Events

- Suitable events will be created for the younger age groups by their Age Managers to encourage them to get into the water as often as possible. Events such as relays into waist-deep water and diving under waves will be used to help build confidence.
- Beach Relays and Ball Events
- Beach Volleyball



Club Championship, Iron Person and Surf Education Award

Club Championship

During the Nipper season, two Club Championship days will be held: one for beach events (Flags and Sprints) and the second for water events (Swimming, Boards, and Team Relay). The Club Championship point score is for ages U8 - U14 only. The top three positions will be awarded on the day of the event, with points for individual events allocated to the top six places, contributing to the overall age champion.



To participate in the Club Championships, Nippers must be pool swim proficient and complete the ocean swim proficiency before competing in the board event. Time limits may be enforced on swim and board events at the discretion of the Water Coordinator. Water safety may also ask any competitor to return to shore if necessary.



Points allocation for individual beach & surf events	
Place	Points
1	6
2	5
3	4
4	3
5	2
6	1



At the completion of the Club Championship days, points will be tallied for the overall age champion. To be eligible for the overall age club champion award, Nippers must have attended at least 70% of all Nipper sessions up to and including the third last week of Nippers Season. Participation in SLS carnival events will count towards Nipper attendance, as these events provide valuable surf lessons on safety and conditions through coaching and mentorship.

At the end of the season, encouragement awards will be given to the younger age groups (U6 and U7 – Three Girls & Three boys from each age) to recognize Nippers who have:

- Consistent attendance
- Always trying their best
- Positive attitude and teamwork
- Respect for others and listening to Age Managers

These awards are typically informal and designed to boost confidence and celebrate effort, rather than competition.

Iron Person

The Iron Person event will be held at the end of the Nipper season. This is the penultimate event, showcasing all the skills that Nippers have been learning and practicing throughout the season. The Iron Person event is divided into three groups: Junior (U9-10), Intermediate (U11-13), and Senior (U14). At the end of the event, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places are awarded to both boy and girl entrants. Points for the age champion are not allocated for this event. However, points are allocated for placing in the Iron Person event for the Club Nipper of the Year.

To be eligible to participate in the Iron Person event, Nippers must be open water proficient and have attended 70% of Nipper sessions up to the end of the last third week of the season.

Format of the iron person is not for the faint hearted – 290m swim, 70 m run, 400m board paddle and 70m run.



Nippers Surf Education Award

The Nippers Surf Education Awards are designed to recognise the knowledge and skills that children acquire throughout the Nippers program. These awards are an integral part of the Junior Development Program and are tailored to the specific age groups of the participants.

Surf education is a continuous process reinforced throughout each Nippers session. To be eligible for the SLSNSW award, Nippers must achieve 70% attendance across the season. For administration and processing requirements, Nippers must have 70% attendance by the end of the third last week of the season. (Applications for extenuating circumstances regarding missed attendance requirements will be reviewed by the JAC and Education Officer)

AGE GROUP
U6 (Surf Play One)
U7 (Surf Play Two)
U8 (Surf Aware One)
U9 (Surf Aware Two)
U10 (Surf Safe One)
U11 (Surf Safe Two)
U12 (Surf Smart One)
U13 (Surf Smart Two)
U14 (SRC)

Surf Education Award Process

- **Completion of Lesson Plans:** Nippers complete the lesson plans for their age group, which are conducted during Nipper sessions.
- **Award Distribution:** Once the assessments are completed and approved, the awards are processed through surf guard and certificates of completion issued via email.

These awards recognise the effort and progress of Nippers, motivating them to improve their surf life-saving skills. They instil a sense of achievement and pride. By participating and working towards these awards, children gain valuable skills, confidence, teamwork, and a love for the surf environment. For further information on the Junior Surf Education awards please see [Junior Awards and Certificates Factsheet - Surf Life Saving](#)

The **Dee Why Nipper of the Year Award** is calculated based on a combination of factors that reflect a Nipper's overall performance and contribution throughout the season. Here are the key criteria considered:

1. **Competition Results:** Points are awarded based on performance in various surf lifesaving events such as beach sprints, swimming, board paddling, and other competitions.
2. **Attendance:** Regular participation in training sessions, competitions, and club activities is crucial. Consistent attendance demonstrates commitment and dedication.
3. **Sportsmanship:** Displaying good sportsmanship, including fair play, respect for others, and positive behaviour, is highly valued.
4. **Teamwork and Leadership:** Contributions to team events and showing leadership qualities, such as helping peers and setting a good example, are important factors.





Code of Conduct for NSW Nippers Surf Life Saving

The Code of Conduct for NSW Nippers Surf Life Saving outlines the expected behaviour of all participants, including Nippers, parents, and volunteers. This code ensures a safe, respectful, and enjoyable environment for everyone involved in the program. Here are the key points:

- **Respect and Fair Play:** All participants should show respect for others, including fellow Nippers, coaches, officials, and spectators. Fair play and sportsmanship are essential values to uphold.
- **Safety First:** Safety is the top priority. Participants must follow all safety guidelines and instructions provided by the Age Managers, Parent Helpers and Water Safety. This includes always wearing the appropriate uniform and safety gear.
- **Positive Attitude:** Nippers should maintain a positive attitude and encourage their peers. Bullying, harassment, or any form of negative behaviour will not be tolerated.
- **Participation and Effort:** Nippers are encouraged to participate fully in all activities and give their best effort. The focus is on personal development and enjoyment rather than winning.
- **Parental Support:** Parents and guardians should support their children in a positive manner. They should respect the decisions of coaches and officials and refrain from any negative or disruptive behaviour.
- **Volunteer Commitment:** Volunteers play a crucial role in the success of the Nippers program. They should fulfill their responsibilities with dedication and integrity, setting a positive example for the children.



By adhering to this Code of Conduct, we can ensure a positive and supportive environment for all participants in the Dee Why Nippers Program.

For further information please refer to: [Member Protection \(Code of Conduct Extracted\) - Surf Life Saving NSW](#) and [SLSSNB Parent Code of Conduct Declaration](#)



Emergency Procedures for Nippers

To ensure the safety and well-being of all participants, the following emergency procedures must be followed during Nipper's sessions:

- **Supervision:** Children must not leave their age group unless accompanied by an adult, such as their Age Manager or nipper helper, unless given permission by the parent.
- **Injury Reporting:** Any injury during Nippers must be reported to the Age Manager, who will follow up with the WH&S Officer.
- **Emergency Contacts:** Age managers will hold an emergency contact list for each Nipper age group to ensure quick communication in case of an emergency. (note Parents must not leave nippers unattended at the beach. Nipper parents must remain close to age groups during activities just in case nipper needs parent support)
- **Lost Children:** If a Nipper child becomes lost, they should seek assistance from an Age Manager/Parent Helper wearing the blue and white shirt or proceed to the patrol tent or BBQ area for help.

Nipper Parent and Volunteer Help!

We need your help! Our Nipper program is entirely run by volunteers, and we rely on parent enthusiasm, participation, and assistance to make it a success. It is a requirement at registration that at least one parent is financial member of the club. One parent or carer must be present at the beach while their Nipper is participating in nipper sessions. You cannot drop your Nipper and leave.

Active involvement from ALL parents in our Nippers Program is essential. This enables us to provide a fun and, most importantly, a safe environment. The more helpers we have, the better the experience we can deliver for our Nippers. Please do not hesitate to contact any of our Age Managers or Junior Activities Coordinator if you have any questions or would like to understand how you can get further involved. Parents are expected to stay on the beach while Nippers is in progress. Parents are asked to assist where possible and to be involved. It has been found that the more involved the parents get, the more their children learn and gain from the experience.



Each week, an age group will be rostered to assist with setting up and packing up the beach, as well as the BBQ. Age Managers will coordinate this and request parent help. If no help is found, the age group will not participate in activities. All BBQ proceeds support Nipper activities and equipment. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.



Beach Setup and Pack Down

- **Setup:** At least 2 - 3 people are required from the rostered age group to assist their Age Manager at 8:15 AM. Tasks include setting up the beach flag areas and sprint track.
- **Pack Down:** Assistance of 2- 3 people from the rostered age group is needed at the end of Nippers to pack up the equipment.

BBQ Assistance

We require two BBQ shifts from the rostered age group:

- **Shift 1:** Set up from 8:30 AM to 9:45 AM
- **Shift 2:** From 9:45 AM to 11:30 AM



Each shift requires 2-3 people to assist the BBQ Coordinator. This includes, set up, cooking and serving, washing up and putting the BBQ away. Please meet the BBQ Coordinator in the BBQ area at you designated shift time. The Age Manager will arrange shift rosters directly with your age group to ensure everyone is informed and prepared for their assigned duties. Age group BBQ roster please see Appendix 1 Nippers Calander 2025 – 2026.

Water Safety – Bronze Medallion

Parents are not permitted to join their children in the swim or board activities unless they are current proficient bronze holders and signed in as water safety volunteers. Parents are encouraged to obtain their Bronze Medallion [Bronze Medallion Training](#) to fulfill this requirement. Water safety hours contribute to patrol hours performed over the season.



If you wish to become a member of our surf patrol and water safety group, please contact our education team training@dyslsc.org.au or review our education calander at: <https://dyslsc.org.au/education/education-calendar/>



Nipper Parent Helper/ Age Manager and Age Assistant Courses

Parent Helper Course

Becoming involved as a Nipper Parent helper also allows you to actively participate in beach activities, enhancing your experience and connection with the program. This one-hour course is designed to equip parents with the necessary skills and knowledge to assist in the Nippers program. The content includes basic surf safety and awareness, understanding Nipper's activities and events, roles and responsibilities of parent helpers, and effective communication with children and other volunteers. Parent helper courses will be conducted within the first few weeks of the Nipper season.

All parent helpers must obtain a Working with Children (WWC) Check. To do this, apply for the WWC Check please see the below steps.

Nipper Age Manager/Assistant

Becoming a Nipper Age Manager/Assistant at Dee Why Nippers is a rewarding way to support the development of young lifesavers. To start, express your interest by reaching out to the Junior Activities Coordinator junioractivities@dyslsc.org.au or nippers@dyslsc.org.au

A pre-requisite for the course is the Child Safe Awareness online course, which takes 20-45 minutes to complete and is available on SLSA's eLearning platform via the SLS Hub. Once completed, you can access the online theory course content named 'Age Manager'.

Completing this training awards the 'Age Manager' certification. The course covers surf safety, Nipper activities, roles of parent helpers, and effective communication with children and volunteers. It typically takes a few hours and for further information on how to access courses please refer to [SLSA-Age-Managers-Learner-Guide](#)

Finally, get involved by assisting with organising and running activities during Nipper's sessions, supporting Age Managers in coordinating events, and ensuring the safety of all participants. Being an active and positive role model for the children is key to creating a safe, fun, and educational environment for all participants.



All Age Managers/Assistants must obtain a Working with Children (WWC) Check. To do this, apply for the WWC Check please see the below steps.

Working With Children (WWC) Check [2025_26-SLSNSW-Working-with-Children-Check-Requirements.pdf](#)

- **Requirement:** All parents and guardians who volunteer at the club must complete a WWC Check.
- **Process:**
 - Apply for the WWC Check through Service NSW (Application for volunteer is free of charge) - [New Application - NSW Working with Children Check](#)
 - Submit the application online and provide necessary identification documents.
 - Once approved, provide the WWC number to the club for verification by emailing information to childprotection.officer@dyslsc.org.au

Purpose: Ensure the safety and well-being of all children participating in the Nippers program. For further information please review [slsa-policy-6-04-child-safe](#)

Frequently Asked Questions for WWCC [2025_26-SLSNSW-Working-with-Children-Check-FAQs.pdf](#)

Nipper Safety Assistant

“NEW – Nipper Safety Assistant (NSA) Award” – Do you want to help with water activities for the U6 – U8 Nipper groups?

To further strengthen water safety during Nipper activities, a new nationally recognized Nipper Safety Assistant (NSA) Award has been introduced. This initiative is designed to provide clubs with additional resources, ensuring that water activities remain supervised and secure. NSAs play a supportive role alongside water safety personnel, particularly for the youngest participants.

The NSA role is strictly regulated to maintain high safety standards. NSAs may assist water safety teams only when all of the following conditions are met: the Water Safety Supervisor has assessed and confirmed that surf conditions are low risk using the Surf Risk Rating (SRR) tool; the activity involves children in the U8 age group or younger; the activity takes place exclusively in shallow water; and NSAs make up no more than 50% of the total water safety personnel for any given Nipper activity.

Eligibility for the NSA Award is open to members aged 13 years and older. To qualify, candidates must successfully complete a 50-metre swim, demonstrate two minutes of continuous treading water, and participate in practical training and orientation covering safety signals and rescue tube use.



Competitors and Training

Overview

Junior competition at Dee Why SLSC is designed to develop surf skills, teamwork, and sportsmanship in a safe and supportive environment. It includes beach and water events for children aged **U9 to U14**.

Eligibility & Age Groups

- **Age as of 30 September** determines age group.
- Age groups: **U9 to U14**
- Must be a **financial member** of Dee Why SLSC.
- Paid competition Levey (fee amount please refer to [Membership Fees | Dee Why SLSC](#))

U8 competitors can participate in SLSNSW competitions, but with some important limitations and guidelines:

U8 Competition Eligibility

- **U8s are eligible** to compete in **local club and branch-level carnivals**, but their participation is generally **non-competitive** or **participation-based**.
- Events are designed to be **fun, skill-building, and inclusive**, focusing on surf awareness and basic beach skills.
- **No official placings or points** are typically awarded at this level to reduce pressure and promote enjoyment.

Typical U8 Events

- **Beach Sprints**
- **Beach Flags**
- **Wade Races**
- **Wade Relays**
- **Shallow Water Activities** (no board or deep-water swim events)

State Championships

- U8s **do not compete** at the **NSW State Championships**.
- The **Age Championships** at State level begin from **U9 and up**.



For all surf sport events please refer to [Surf Life Saving NSW Surf Sports Calendar](#)

Training Requirements

- **Regular attendance** at weekly training sessions (typically Wednesday, Friday afternoon or Sunday morning prior to Nippers). Official training days and times and updates will be announced via Dee Why Nippers Team App
- **Water proficiency assessments** required for participation in water events.



Competition Events

- **Beach Events:** Sprints, Flags, Relays
- **Water Events:** Swim, Board, Wade, Iron person
- **Team Events:** Cameron Relay, Board Relay, Surf Teams
- **Lifesaving Events:** Rescue Tube, CPR, First Aid (U14+)

Safety & Supervision

- All water activities supervised by qualified water safety personnel.
- Parents are encouraged to assist as **Age Managers, Officials, or Water Safety.**
- Competitors must wear high-vis rash vests during training.
- Club Cap and High-vis rash vest must be worn during all events.

Registration & Communication

- Carnival entries coordinated by the **Junior Competition Coordinator** for any further information or questions please contact junior.surfsports@dyslsc.org.au



Branch and State Competition Requirements

To be eligible to compete in **Branch or State Carnivals** (including both **beach** and **water** events), junior competitors must meet the following criteria:

Mandatory Evaluations

All competitors must have successfully completed:

- **Junior Preliminary Evaluation**
(Basic swim and survival skills assessment)
- **Junior Competition Evaluation**
(Timed swim to ensure surf competency)

These evaluations ensure that all participants are capable of safely participating in surf sports activities.

Surf Education Requirements for junior competitors

- **U8–U13 Competitors:**
Are **no longer required** to complete their **Age Award** by 31 December to compete in championship events. However, Age Awards remain a **core educational component** of the Junior Activities program and should be completed during the season.
- **U14 Competitors:**
Must obtain their **Surf Rescue Certificate (SRC)** to be eligible for championship events, as per the **Surf Sports Manual**.



Tips for Handling Fibreglass and Foam Boards

Handling rescue boards with care is essential to ensure their longevity and safety. Here are some tips for managing both fibreglass and foam rescue boards:

1. **Carry with Care:** Always carry boards properly to avoid damage. Use both hands and avoid dragging them on the ground.
2. **Avoid Hard Surfaces:** Do not throw boards onto hard surfaces. Place them gently to prevent cracks and dents.
3. **Rinse with Fresh Water:** After use, rinse boards with fresh water to remove salt and sand. This helps maintain the board's condition.
4. **Store Properly:** Return boards to the appropriate racks as instructed by Age Managers. Proper storage prevents damage and keeps the boards in good shape.
5. **Supervised Use:** Club Nipper boards should only be used under the supervision of the Gear/Board Steward or Board Coach, as required by insurance policies.
6. **Inspect Regularly:** Check boards for any signs of damage before and after use. Report any issues to the Age Manager or board steward immediately.





Nipper Committee & Age Managers 2025 – 2026

Role	Name	Email
Junior Activities Coordinator*	Mark Rosenthal	jac@dyslsc.org.au
Deputy Junior Activities Coordinator/s	Ben Payne / Andrew Moran	deputy.jac@dyslsc.org.au
Junior Secretary	Katherine Payne	junior.secretary@dyslsc.org.au
Social Event Coordinator	VACANT	nippers@dyslsc.org.au
Age Manager Coordinator	Dean Wayne	nippers@dyslsc.org.au
Registrar 1	Beth Aburumman Richards	junior.registrar@dyslsc.org.au
Registrar 2	VACANT	junior.registrar@dyslsc.org.au
Education Officer	Neil Kafer	nippers@dyslsc.org.au
Junior Parent Representative 1*	Joyce Nehme	junior.parent.representative@dyslsc.org.au
Junior Parent Representative 2*	Kristin Hellmrich	junior.parent.representative@dyslsc.org.au
Child Protection Officer	Sara Buckland	childprotection.officer@dyslsc.org.au
BBQ Coordinator 1	Mal Karamarkovic	bbq.coordinator@dyslsc.org.au
BBQ Coordinator 2	VACANT	bbq.coordinator@dyslsc.org.au
Water Safety Coordinator 1	Lachlan Pike	nippers@dyslsc.org.au
Water Safety Coordinator 2	Scott Alden	nippers@dyslsc.org.au



Uniform Shop Coordinator 1	Mafe Riano	uniform.officer@dyslsc.org.au
Uniform Shop Coordinator 2	Joanna Rosenthal	uniform.officer@dyslsc.org.au
IRB Coordinator	Alex Suhr	irb.captain@dyslsc.org.au
Gear / Board Steward 1	Tony Ma	nippers@dyslsc.org.au
Gear / Board Steward 2	VACANT	nippers@dyslsc.org.au
Junior Surf Sports Coordinator	Chris West	junior.surfsports@dyslsc.org.au
Junior Surf Sports Administrator	Joyce Nehme	junior.surfsports@dyslsc.org.au
Officials Coordinator	Kaori Sloan	junior.surfsports@dyslsc.org.au
Carnival Entries	Monica Auld	junior.surfsports@dyslsc.org.au
Point score Coordinator	Jo Rosenthal	nippers@dyslsc.org.au
Junior Competition Coordinator – Water	Kristin Hellmrich	junior.surfsports@dyslsc.org.au
Junior Competition Coordinator – Beach	VACANT	junior.surfsports@dyslsc.org.au
Junior Board Coach	Neil Kafer	junior.surfsports@dyslsc.org.au
Junior Board Coach	Alex Suhr	junior.surfsports@dyslsc.org.au
Junior Swim Coach	Scott Alden	junior.surfsports@dyslsc.org.au
Junior Beach Coach	VACANT	junior.surfsports@dyslsc.org.au

* Management Committee Positions

**Age Managers for the 2025/26 Season**

Role	Name
U6 Age Manager Lead	Adam Heys
U6 Age Manager	Mark Ryan
U7 Age Manager Lead	Allen Lakeman
U7 Age Manager	Allison Waters
U7 Age Manager	Alex Lakeman
U8 Age Manager Lead	Rowan Holloway
U8 Age Manager	Sara Ryan
U9 Age Manager Lead	Muni Duerinckx
U9 Age Manager	Shawn Preusse
U9 Age Manager	Ian Harris
U10 Age Manager Lead	Cian Fitzgerald
U10 Age Manager	Stan Belchev
U11 Age Manager Lead	Ben Payne
U11 Age Manager	Matt Saxon
U12 Age Manager Lead	Niki Wright
U12 Age Manager	Kylie Grewal
U13 Age Manager Lead	Chris O'Bryan
U13 Age Manager	Dave Bradfield
U14 Age Manager Lead	Sanja Taslaman
U14 Age Manager	Chris West

Appendix 1 Nippers Calander 2025 - 2026

Day	Date	Event	Times	Notes	BBQ /Beach Roster
2025 Nipper, Carnival and BBQ Roster dates					
Saturday	13 th September	SRC Induction	1pm – 3pm	Betty Barry Room, BYO device	
Sunday	28 th September	Age Manager Brief	TBA		
Long Weekend	3 rd - 6 th October	SRC Camp	9 am – 3 pm	Under 14 Surf Education	
Saturday	4 th October	Nipper Open Day	9 am – 11 am	Nipper information sessions and Uniforms	
Saturday	4 th October	WS/Comp Proficiencies	8:30 am – 9:30 am	Pool and ocean prof for comp/WS	
Sat - Sun	4 th – 5 th Oct	Forster weekend Surf		Carnival Forster	
Thursday	9 th October	Nipper info Session	7 pm – 8 pm	Zoom Session	
Saturday	11 th October	Pool Proficiencies Rnd 1	3:30 pm – 5:30 pm	In2Swim Brookvale	
Thursday	16 th October	Nipper info Session	7 pm – 8 pm	Zoom Session	
Saturday	18 th October	Pool Proficiencies Rnd 2	3:30 pm – 5:30 pm	In2swin Brookvale	
Sunday	19 th October	Nippers–Surf Ed 1	9:00 am – 10:30 am	First Nippers Session for Season 😊	U14
Sunday	26 th October	Nippers–Surf Ed 2	9:00 am – 10:30 am		U8
Sunday	26 th October	Junior Beach		Carnival Queenscliff	
Sunday	2 nd November	Nippers-Surf Ed 3	9:00 am – 10:30 am		U6
Saturday	8 th November	Bennet Junior Craft	9:00 am – 1:00 pm	Dee Why - BBQ water safety assistance	
Sunday	9 th November	Junior Beach		Carnival – Nth Narrabeen	
Sunday	9 th November	Nippers–Surf Ed 4	9:00 am – 10:30 am		U11
Sunday	16 th November	Nippers–Surf Ed 5	9:00 am – 10:30 am		U9
Sunday	23 rd November	Nippers-Surf Ed 6	9:00 am – 10:30 am		U10
Sunday	23 rd November	Jnr Fast & Furious		Carnival Freshwater	
Sat - Sun	29 th – 30 th Nov	Interbranch Champs		Avoca Beach	
Sunday	30 th November	Nippers-7 Club Champs 1	9:00 am – 10:30 am	U9 – U14 Club Champs Water or Beach (conditions)	U7
Sunday	30 th November	U8 Carnival		Bilgola	
Sunday	7 th December	Nippers- Surf Ed 8	9:00 am – 11:00 am		U13
Sunday	14 th December	Nippers- Surf Ed 9	9:00 am – 10:30 am		U12
Saturday	20 th December	Nippers-Surf Ed 10	3 pm – 4:30 pm	Twilight Nippers End of Season Party	1 helper per Age Group Split shifts U6 – U9 1 st U10 – U14 2 nd



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Sunday	28 th December – 4 th January	No Nippers Christmas Break Mid-Season Break			
2026 Nipper, Carnival and BBQ Roster dates					
Sunday	11 th January	Nippers-Surf Ed 11	9:00 am – 10:30 am		U6
Sunday	11 th January	Nipper Nats		Carnival Manly	
Sunday	18 th January	Nippers-Surf Ed 12	9:00 am – 10:30 am		U11
Saturday - Monday	24 th – 26 th January	Junior Development Camp		Australia Day long Weekend	
Saturday	24 th January	Nippers-Surf Ed 13	3 pm – 4:30 pm	Twilight Nippers - Australia Day	U13
Sunday	1 st February	Branch Junior Beach		Carnival- TBC & Col	
Sunday	1 st February	Nippers-Surf Ed 14	9:00 am – 10:30 am		U14
Sunday	8 th February	Branch Junior Water		Carnival - TBC	
Sunday	8 th February	Nippers- Surf Ed 15	9:00 am – 10:30 am		U7
Sunday	15 th February	Nippers 16 Club Champs 2	9:00 am – 11:00 am	Club Champs Beach or Water (conditions)	U8
Thur - Sunday	19 th – 22 nd Feb	State Age Championships		Carnival – TBA	
Sunday	22 nd February	Nippers –Surf Ed 17	9:00 am – 10:30 am	Attendance Surf Ed cut-off date	U9
Sunday	1 st March	Nippers–Surf Ed 18	9:00 am – 10:30 am	Iron Person (Club Champ back up)	U10
Sunday	8 th March	Nippers–Surf Ed 19	9:00 am – 10:30 am	Teams Day (Comp Back update)	U12
Sunday	15 th March	Nippers Surf Ed 20 / Presentation	9:00 am-12:00 pm	Last Day nippers Awards during session	One helper from each Age Group split shifts U10 – U14 1 st U6 – U9 2 nd