



2025/26

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES HANDBOOK V2



JA Committee

Noosa Heads SLSC

2025/26

1 Welcome

Welcome to the 2025-26 Nipper season at Noosa Heads Surf Life Saving Club! We are thrilled to have you and your family join our vibrant community dedicated to fostering surf safety, skills, and fun for our young members.

Nippers is the perfect way for kids to learn valuable life skills while having fun! Not only will they discover how to identify beach and surf dangers, they will also learn how to stay safe while enjoying the beach.

2 Program Overview

Our Nippers program is a fun, active, and educational initiative designed for children aged 5 (Under 6) through to 13 years (Under 14). Held on a seasonal basis, it introduces young participants to the surf lifesaving environment through engaging beach and water-based activities.

Nippers gain confidence, build physical skills, and learn essential beach safety knowledge in a supportive and inclusive setting. More than just fun at the beach, the program lays the foundation for a lifelong connection to surf lifesaving and the development of future lifesavers.

3 Season Dates

- **Start Date:** Sunday, 5 October 2025
- **End Date:** Sunday, 15 February 2026
- **Holiday Break:** 13 December 2025 to 31 January 2026.

Sessions are held every Sunday morning, with specific times allocated per age group.

4 Age Groups

Age groups are determined by the child's age as of 30 September 2025:

- **Under 6:** Born between 1 October 2019 – 30 September 2020
- **Under 7:** Born between 1 October 2018 – 30 September 2019
- **Under 8:** Born between 1 October 2017 – 30 September 2018
- **Under 9:** Born between 1 October 2016 – 30 September 2017
- **Under 10:** Born between 1 October 2015 – 30 September 2016
- **Under 11:** Born between 1 October 2014 – 30 September 2015
- **Under 12:** Born between 1 October 2013 – 30 September 2014
- **Under 13:** Born between 1 October 2012 – 30 September 2013
- **Under 14:** Born between 1 October 2011 – 30 September 2012

5 Session Times

- **Under 6 & Under 7:** 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM
- **Under 8 to Under 10:** 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM
- **Under 11 to Under 14:** 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Please arrive 15 minutes early for sign-in and ensure your child is ready with:

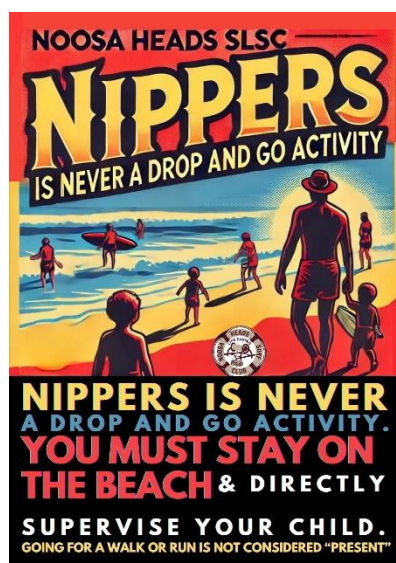
- ☒ Sunscreen already applied
- ☒ Age cap
- ☒ Rashie
- ☒ RFID band
- ☒ Goggles
- ☒ Water bottle

Parent/Guardian Expectations

To ensure the safety of all Nippers and to support your child's full enjoyment of the program:

- Nippers is not a “drop and go” activity.
- A parent or guardian must remain on the beach for the entire session.
- You are expected to actively supervise your child/ren at all times.
- Going for a walk, run, or leaving the beach area is not considered being “present.”

We would love for you to engage in the program—cheer from the sidelines, help out where you can, and be part of the fun! Your involvement makes a big difference in creating a safe, supportive, and enjoyable environment for all.



6 Registration & Membership

In order to enrol a Nipper, at least one, but preferably both parents/guardians need to become an Associate Member or Active Member of the Noosa Heads Surf Life Saving Club (for insurance purposes).

Once at least one parent/guardian has joined, then there is a membership schedule to create a family group of one, two, or three plus children.

Membership Fees:

- **1 Nipper + up to 2 Parents/Guardians:** \$300
- **2 Nippers + up to 2 Parents/Guardians:** \$350
- **3 or more Nippers + up to 2 Parents/Guardians:** \$400

Renewing memberships are available between 6th June 2025 – 13th July 2025.

New memberships, subject to availability, will be open from 14th July 2025.

Registration Requirements:

2025-26 Membership Checklist:

☐ **NEW MEMBER:** Go to [SLS Hub](#)

1. At the bottom of the page, click to join.
2. Select you wish to join a SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB.
4. Select NOOSA HEADS SLSC from the drop-down menu.
5. Select FAMILY and use your surname as your FAMILY GROUP NAME.
6. Enter your family's details.

Note: Each child's membership must be accompanied by at least one parent or guardian's membership application.

After completing your online membership application and payment, you will receive an email from SLSC to confirm your SLS Members Portal account. Please complete this step.

The SLS Members Portal allows you to update personal details, make payments, view/enroll in courses, and renew your membership each season. Save the following link to your device for future access: (https://hub.sls.com.au/SLSC_Online/modules/login/index.php).

☐ **RENEWING MEMBERS:** On the [SLS Hub](#)

1. Go to the **MEMBERSHIP** tab
2. Select **FAMILY**
3. Click **RENEW MEMBERSHIPS** (on the right-hand side) for your family group
4. Tick the names of the family members you wish to renew (on the left-hand side) and follow the prompts to pay and complete your renewal.

☐ Complete [pool swim competency form](#) for all nippers (see section 7 for additional information).

☐ Complete [Expression of Interest](#) form with at least one parents availability

7 Proficiency Requirements

To ensure safety, all Nippers must complete the following assessments:

Preliminary Pool Swim:

- NHSLSC will hold 2 Preliminary Pool Swim Days at Diamond Swim, 115 Noosa Eumundi Road Noosaville 4565
- Sunday 31 August and Saturday 6th September 12-3pm – bookings are essential!
- Conducted prior to the first Nipper session.
- Requirements vary by age group. Please see [Preliminary Skills Evaluation](#)

Run-Swim-Run Assessment:

- Conducted during the first two Nipper Sundays.
- Specific distances based on age group.

Carnival Competency:

- Required for Nippers wishing to participate in inter-club competitions.
- Conducted at designated times early in the season.

Note: The club does not provide learn-to-swim lessons; proficiency assessments are for safety evaluation purposes only.

8 Uniform & Equipment

Each Nipper will receive:

- Age Group Cap
- Pink Hi-Vis Rash Vest
- RFID Wristband
- Nippers T-shirt

Additional merchandise including swimwear and accessories, is available for purchase at the club's Uniform Shop.

Uniform Policy:

- Nippers must wear their age cap and pink hi-vis rash vest during all Nipper activities.
- Failure to wear the appropriate uniform may result in exclusion from activities for safety reasons.

9 Signing In and Out of the Nippers program

The implementation of RFID wristbands for Nipper attendance is now in place. Parents must be present to check your child in and out of each Nipper session using the red RFID wristbands.

New members will be issued with a wristband in their welcome packs. All returning members, your child has been issued an RFID wristband last season (2024/25). These bands are unique to each Nipper and must be worn for each session. Should a RFID wristband be lost, replacement bands cost \$5.

10 Communication

Stay informed through the following channels:

- **Stack Team App:** Primary communication for updates, schedules, and announcements.
 - Download Stack Team App or visit www.teamapp.com.
 - Sign up to Stack Team App and log in to your account
 - For **Nippers information** - Search for “Noosa Heads SLSC” and request to join. Once your request has been approved you will have access to information regarding the Nippers program as well as other events within the NHSLSC
 - For **training and carnival** information – Search for “Surf Sports – Noosa Heads”
 - For everything regarding the Nippers program and other events within the NHSLSC
 - For information on training and competition opportunities, please join “Surf Sports – Noosa Heads”
- **Club Website:** [Noosa Heads SLSC Website](#)
- **Social Media:** Follow us on [Facebook](#) and/or [Instagram](#) for news and photos.

For specific inquiries:

- **Age Managers:** First point of contact for age group related questions.
- **Junior Activities Administrator:** For administrative matters – nippers@noosasurfclub.com.au

11 Parent Involvement

Our Nipper program thrives on active parent participation. Opportunities include:

- Age Manager or Assistant
- Water Safety Personnel (Bronze Medallion or Surf rescue Certificate required)
- Nipper Safety Assistant (Award required): Assist the Water Safety Personnel with the U6-U8 age groups in shallow water activities
- BBQ and Fundraising events.
 - *Families are encouraged to assist with the Friday Night Raffles and Sunday Nippers BBQ's. These fundraising efforts are crucial for supporting our Nippers program. These opportunities are a great way to mingle and get to know other families and support our program. Each age group will be rostered to assist with these fundraising efforts and we will guide and support you all the way!*
- Nippers Sunday Beach Set Up & Pack Down Crew
- Carnival Support Roles
- Club Photographer

Training and support are provided for all volunteer roles. Your involvement enriches the experience for all Nippers. Please complete an [Expression of Interest here](#).

12 Blue Card Requirement

In alignment with Surf Life Saving Queensland's commitment to child safety, it is **mandatory** for adults working with children to hold a valid Queensland Working with Children Check (Blue Card). This is a free service for volunteers and you can link a Blue Card to Noosa Heads SLSC.

Steps to Obtain a Blue Card:

1. Register for a [Blue Card Services](#) online account and record your account number provided to you at the completion of your registration.

2. Provide your account number/valid blue card and date of birth details to Surf Life Saving Queensland (SLSQ) via [SLSQ survey](#). SLSQ will link your account/valid blue card to the organisation with Blue Card Services.
3. Login to your [Blue Card Services Application Portal](#) to complete and submit your application to be processed by Blue Card Services.
4. Blue Card Services will issue your card, Noosa Heads SLSC will ensure your membership details are current in Surfguard. Surf Life saving Queensland will enter your Blue Card details in Surfguard.
5. Complete the SLS Child Safety Awareness and Child Youth Risk Management Strategies Course in the SLS Hub

Valid Blue Card holders are required to have course completed to meet Queensland Legislation under the *Working With Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000*.

13 New Wave Challenge

With a renewed commitment at Noosa to growing surf sports, the Junior Activities Committee will focus on casting the net wider to identify new and emerging talent within the club. The New Wave Challenge is a collaborative initiative of the Junior Activities Committee, Coaches and Surf Sports Director and is designed to maximise participation, identify new talent and foster a positive youth surf sports culture. The challenge will be held across 3 days.

The New Wave Challenge is more than a race day – it's a celebration of surf sports culture, community, and growth. Whether your child is here to compete, connect, or simply enjoy the beach, we're committed to creating an environment where every Nipper can thrive.

The New Wave Challenge has been thoughtfully designed to:

- **Include every child**, regardless of skill level or experience
- **Celebrate effort and enthusiasm**, not just results
- **Offer a low-pressure environment** where kids can try new things and build confidence
- **Encourage family involvement**, with opportunities to volunteer, cheer, and connect

Date	Age Groups	Focus	Format
Saturday 8 th November 2025 (8-10am)	U11-14	Showcase skills, encourage participation	Supported by coaches and senior athletes
Sunday 16 th November 2025 (8-9:30am)	U8-10	Promote inclusion and fun	Integrated into regular Sunday session for comfort and familiarity
Sunday 8 th February 2026 (8-10am)	U8-14	Celebrate the season, strengthen community bonds, showcase skills	Whole-of-Nippers Fun Race Day with senior athlete support and family involvement

14 Recognition and Achievement

U8 - U10: Focus on Participation and Development

- In line with SLSQ guidelines, there will be NO official age championships
- The emphasis will be on fun, skill-building, and teamwork
- Excellence will be recognized through Junior Development Awards, certificates, and age group acknowledgements

U11–U14: Inclusive Recognition of Competitive Achievement

- Age Champion & Runner-Up Age Champion (per gender) acknowledged at season's end
- Based on results from Live Heats at Sunshine Coast Branch and QLD State Championships
- **Must attend at least 8 of 12 Nipper Sundays**

We understand that many of our athletes also compete in carnivals, which sometimes fall on the same weekend as a scheduled Nipper Sunday. To support and recognise this commitment, if a Nipper competes at an SLSQ-endorsed carnival on a weekend when a Nipper Sunday is scheduled, that carnival will count toward their attendance record.

Example:

If a Nipper competes at the Rainbow Beach Carnival on Saturday and does not attend the Nipper Sunday session the following day, their participation in the carnival will still be counted as one of the 8 required attendances for Age Champion eligibility.

This approach ensures fairness and acknowledges the dedication of our athletes who represent the club at external events, while maintaining a strong connection to our Sunday Nippers program.

At the end of the season, we'll also celebrate the efforts and achievements of all our Nippers, not just those who place, through the **Rising Stars Awards**. This is our opportunity to recognize consistent effort, team spirit, personal improvement and participation in Surf Sports Carnivals.

- Team spirit
- Personal improvement
- Participation in surf sports carnivals

Because at the heart of it all, showing up, having fun, and giving it a go are just as important as winning!

15 Ocean Skills Opportunities

As part of our commitment to building the confidence of our Nippers, there are additional opportunities for our U8 and above Nippers to build on their ocean skills with Gary, our development coach. With the guidance of Gary and a supportive team environment, participants will develop the ability to assess conditions, make quick decisions, and trust their capabilities in the water.

- **U8's** are invited to attend the Wednesday afternoon Ocean Swim sessions with Coach Gary.
 - Ocean Skills Nipper Boards sessions to be available to our Under 8's from January 2026 – please check Stack Team App **Noosa Heads SLSC**. All communication from Gary regarding sessions will be shared in the U8-U10 Ocean Skills chat
- **U9-U10's** can participate in training sessions on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons – noting there may be times when Gary may need to cancel sessions due to his Surf Sports commitments.

All nippers are required to wear their Hi-Vis Rashie and bring their goggles. Parents are required to stay for the session and sign their nipper in and out of the session and help on the beach.

16 Training Opportunities

Nippers in the U11-U14 age groups can participate in club training sessions and inter-club competitions. By participating in the Training programs, our junior members can work towards improving their beach, ocean swimming and board skills, confidence and fitness levels and continue to build close and supportive friendships.

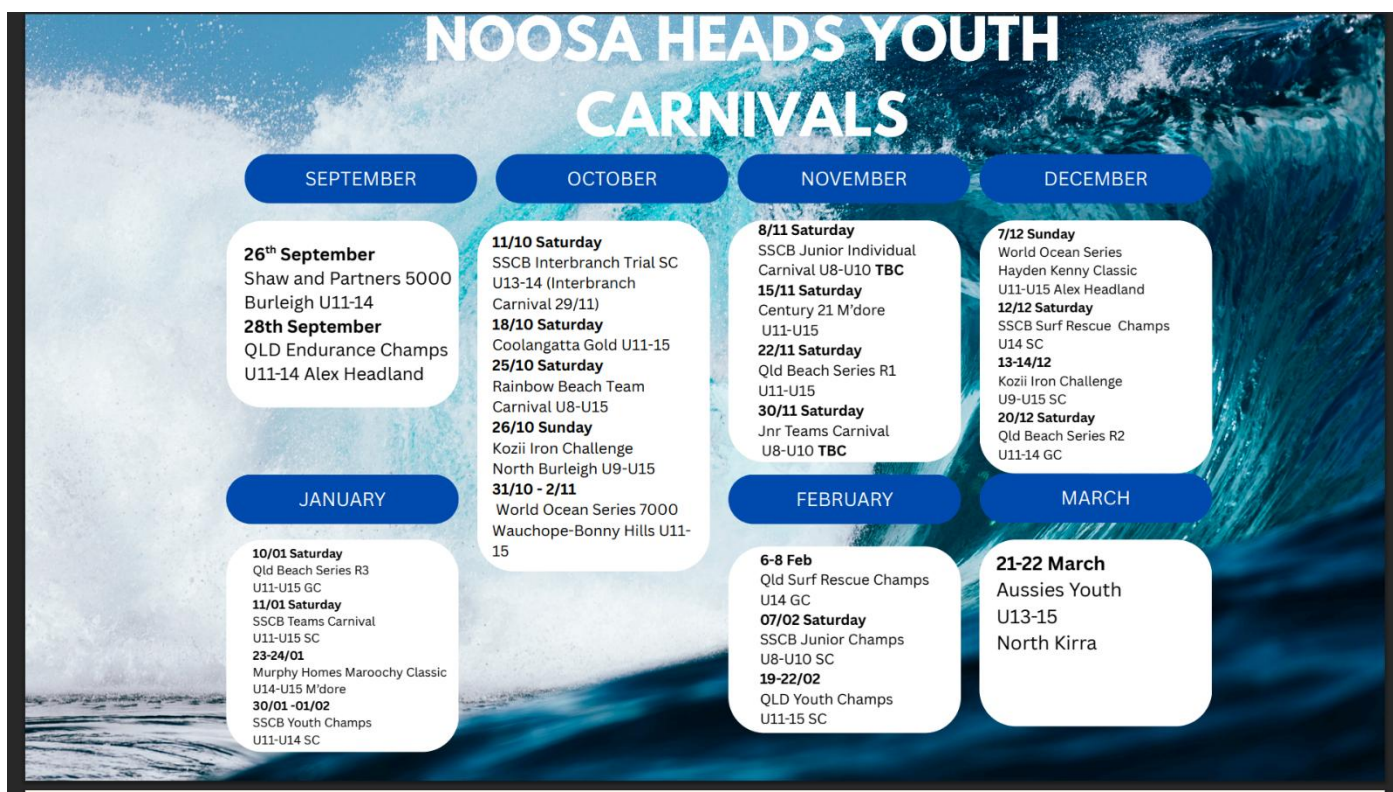
All communication from coach Jansey regarding changes to sessions will be shared in the U11-U14 Ocean Skills chat within Noosa Heads SLSC.

The Surf Sports coaches provide a very comprehensive and professional training program each season for those Junior members in the U11-U14 age groups wanting to participate in Sunshine Coast Branch, SLSQ and SLSC carnivals. U11-U14's Training schedules are shared on the Stack Team App 'Surf Sports – Noosa Heads'.

17 Nipper Carnivals

Carnivals offer more than just a chance to compete—they're an opportunity for young participants to develop new skills, grow in confidence, and form lasting friendships. The excitement of finishing a race, the achievement of learning a new skill, and the camaraderie of team participation all help make carnival days truly memorable.

For children aged 8 to 15, carnivals are held from October through March. These events provide a fun, inclusive environment where nippers can test their abilities against peers from across the Sunshine Coast and Queensland. While participation in carnivals is optional, it is strongly encouraged as a valuable and enjoyable experience. In addition to completing their initial beach and pool proficiency assessments at the start of the season, nippers who wish to compete in carnivals must also meet the competition distance proficiency requirements.



NOOSA HEADS YOUTH CARNIVALS

SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
26th September Shaw and Partners 5000 Burleigh U11-14 28th September QLD Endurance Champs U11-14 Alex Headland	11/10 Saturday SSCB Interbranch Trial SC U13-14 (Interbranch Carnival 29/11) 18/10 Saturday Coolangatta Gold U11-15 25/10 Saturday Rainbow Beach Team Carnival U8-U15 26/10 Sunday Kozii Iron Challenge North Burleigh U9-U15 31/10 - 2/11 World Ocean Series 7000 Wauchope-Bonny Hills U11-15	8/11 Saturday SSCB Junior Individual Carnival U8-U10 TBC 15/11 Saturday Century 21 M'dore U11-U15 22/11 Saturday Qld Beach Series R1 U11-U15 30/11 Saturday Jnr Teams Carnival U8-U10 TBC	7/12 Sunday World Ocean Series Hayden Kenny Classic U11-U15 Alex Headland 12/12 Saturday SSCB Surf Rescue Champs U14 SC 13-14/12 Kozii Iron Challenge U9-U15 SC 20/12 Saturday Qld Beach Series R2 U11-14 GC
JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	
10/01 Saturday Qld Beach Series R3 U11-U15 GC 11/01 Saturday SSCB Teams Carnival U11-U15 SC 23-24/01 Murphy Homes Maroochy Classic U14-U15 M'dore 30/01 - 01/02 SSCB Youth Champs U11-U14 SC	6-8 Feb Qld Surf Rescue Champs U14 GC 07/02 Saturday SSCB Junior Champs U8-U10 SC 19-22/02 QLD Youth Champs U11-15 SC	21-22 March Aussies Youth U13-15 North Kirra	

Please check Stack Team App "Surf Sports – Noosa Heads" for registrations and updates on locations.

18 Code of Conduct

All members, including Nippers and their families, are expected to uphold the club's values of Safety, Trust, Community, Leadership, Respect & Teamwork. Any breaches may result in disciplinary action in accordance with Surf Life Saving Australia's policies. Please click on the following link to the [SLSA Code of Conduct for Members](#).

19 Feedback & Grievances

We value open communication. For feedback or to raise concerns:

1. Speak with your Age Manager as the first point of contact
2. Contact the Junior Activities Director if further discussion is needed dir_jac@noosasurfclub.com.au
3. Formal Complaints: Lodge your Complaint or Grievance via the [SLSA Reporting System](#).

All matters are handled confidentially and in accordance with SLSA guidelines.

20 Resources, Policies and Forms

[SLSA Code of Conduct for Members](#)

[SLSQ Child Safe Policy 6.04](#)

[SLSQ Child Safety Website](#)

[SLSA Blue Card Screening Policy B01](#)

[SLSQ Chaperoning and Supervision of Minors Policy MS02](#)

[SLSQ Photography, Digital Recording & Images Policy 6.21](#)

[SLSQ Member Protection Policy 6.05](#)

[SLSQ Junior Board Guide March 2022](#)