

Nipper Safety Assistant (NSA)

Purpose

Support the water safety team during Nippers by providing extra supervision in shallow water for our youngest age groups, under the direction of the Water Safety Supervisor and in line with SLSA/SLSQ procedures.

Key Responsibilities

Support in the Water (shallow only)

- Assist with shallow-water activities for U8 and below, staying at or below your own waist depth.
- Maintain close proximity to participants, encourage calm and safe behaviour, and alert qualified Water Safety to any issues.

Safety and Risk

- Follow the Water Safety Supervisor's brief and the session risk assessment.
- Monitor changing conditions and help relocate or pause activities when directed.
- Use basic signals and communicate promptly with Water Safety and Age Managers.

Teamwork and Conduct

- Attend pre-briefs and debriefs; sign on/off as directed by the club.
 - Wear appropriate water safety identification as provided by the club.
 - Model child-safe, sun-safe and inclusive behaviour.
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Reporting Line

Reports to the Water Safety Supervisor. Works closely with Age Managers and Water Safety Personnel.

Time Commitment

- Nippers sessions during the season
 - Short annual skills maintenance
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Skills and Attributes

- Confident and calm in shallow surf
 - Good communicator; attentive and safety-focused
 - Supportive and patient with kids
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Prerequisites

- Current financial club member
 - Minimum age 13
 - Hold the relevant Working With Children Check for your state/territory if 18+
 - Complete any club child-safety requirements if 18+
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Proficiency/Assessment (annual)

- 50 m continuous swim from waist-deep water
 - Tread water for 2 minutes
 - Rescue tube orientation and a conscious tube rescue
 - Basic signals: beach-to-water and water-to-beach
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Operating Limits

- Only when deemed suitable by the Water Safety Supervisor
 - Conditions must be assessed as low risk
 - U8 age groups or below
 - Shallow water only (NSA must not proceed past their waistline)
 - NSA must not make up more than 50% of the total water safety team
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Delivery and Assessment

- Conducted face-to-face by a qualified and proficient SRC/Bronze Trainer or endorsed delegate
 - Club submits Form 14 with attendance and NSA sign-off sheet for processing
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Sources

- “NSA can support water safety personnel... U8 or below... shallow water only... NSA do not make up more than 50% of the water safety team... annual skills maintenance (50m swim, 2 min tread, tube rescue, signals).” — SLSA Procedure 1.01B Nipper Safety Assistant Award; SLSQ Junior Activities Manual pages 37–39
- NSA overview, sign-off sheet and flowchart:
 - Junior Activities Manual NSA page: <https://www.manula.com/manuals/slsq-tom/junior-activities-manual/1/en/topic/nipper-adult-safety-assistants-naa-nsa>
 - NSA Sign Off Sheet: <https://cdn.manula.com/user/17850/docs/nipper-safety-assistant-sign-off-sheet-v1-1.pdf>
 - Flowchart – NSA: <https://cdn.manula.com/user/17850/docs/flowchart-nsa.pdf>
 - Water Supervision and Risk Assessments hub: <https://lifesaving.com.au/junior-activities-centre/water-safety#>