

2026/27

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES HANDBOOK



Version 1

Junior Activity Committee | Noosa Heads SLSC

1 WELCOME

Welcome to the 2026/27 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 AGE GROUPS

Age groups are determined by the child's age as of 30 September 2026:

Age Group	Date of Birth Range
Under 6	1 October 2020 – 30 September 2021
Under 7	1 October 2019 – 30 September 2020
Under 8	1 October 2018 – 30 September 2019
Under 9	1 October 2017 – 30 September 2018
Under 10	1 October 2016 – 30 September 2017
Under 11	1 October 2015 – 30 September 2016
Under 12	1 October 2014 – 30 September 2015
Under 13	1 October 2013 – 30 September 2014
Under 14	1 October 2012 – 30 September 2013

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nippers@noosasurfclub.com.au

4 SEASON DATES

- Season Opening (Raising of the Flags): Saturday 19 September 2026 at 6:30am
- First Nipper Session: Sunday 11 October 2026
- Last Nipper Session: Sunday 7 March 2027
- Christmas Holiday Break: No session 13 December 2026 – Sessions resume 24 January 2027
- No Session: Sunday 1 November 2026 (Noosa Triathlon Weekend)

Sessions are held every Sunday morning starting at 7:30am. Sign-on opens at 7:00am. Please arrive early so your family is ready to help with set-up!

Two Intra-Club Carnival Saturdays are also scheduled this season (see Section 13 and the Season Calendar but note these may be subject to change).

5 SESSION TIMES

Sign-on opens at 7:00am each Sunday. Sessions commence at **7:30am** sharp.

Please arrive early!

AGE GROUP	SESSION TIME	DURATION
Under 6 & Under 7	7:30am – 8:30am	1 hour
Under 8, Under 9 & Under 10	7:30am – 9:00am	1.5 hours
Under 11 to Under 14	7:30am – 9:30am	2 hours

Please ensure your child arrives with: sunscreen already applied, age cap, Pink Hii-Vis rashie, RFID band, goggles, and water bottle.

Parent/Guardian Expectations

- **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."
- Parents are expected to actively volunteer and assist with the running of the program each session.

6 REGISTRATION & MEMBERSHIP

To enrol a Nipper, at least one but preferably both parents/guardians need to become an Associate Member (but preferably an Active Member) of Noosa Heads SLSC (for insurance purposes).

Membership Fees

- 1 Nipper + up to 2 Parents/Guardians: \$310
- 2 Nippers + up to 2 Parents/Guardians: \$360
- 3 or more Nippers + up to 2 Parents/Guardians: \$420

Registration Dates

- Membership applications open 1 June 2026 and close 30 August 2026

NEW MEMBER — Steps

1. Go to SLS Hub (hub.sls.com.au)
2. At the bottom of the page, click to join.
3. Select SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB → select **NOOSA HEADS SLSC** from the drop-down menu.
4. Select FAMILY and use your surname as your FAMILY GROUP NAME.
5. Enter your family's details. Each child's membership must be accompanied by at least one parent or guardian's membership application.
6. Complete online payment. You will receive an email from SLSC to confirm your SLS Members Portal account — please complete this step.

RENEWING MEMBER — Steps

7. Go to the SLS Hub MEMBERSHIP tab.
8. Select FAMILY → click RENEW MEMBERSHIPS for your family group.
9. Tick the names you wish to renew and follow the prompts.

IMPORTANT — Blue Card must be completed after membership approval.

Neither your Blue Card application nor the Child Safety Awareness Course can be completed until your membership application has been approved by the club. See Section 12 for the full Blue Card process. Families who do not provide a blue card for at least 1 parent/guardian will not be able to participate in the program.

7 PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS

To ensure safety, all Nippers must complete SLSQ approved swim assessments before participating in the program.

Preliminary Pool Swim

All Nipper Families must attend a 15-minute pool proficiency assessment prior to the first session. This is a safety requirement and cannot be waived. Bookings are essential — spots are strictly limited.

Pool proficiency sessions will be held at Diamond Swim, 115 Noosa Eumundi Road, Noosaville 4565:

DATE	DAY	TIME
30 August 2026	Sunday	10:00am – 4:00pm
5 September 2026	Saturday	11:00am – 4:00pm
13 September 2026	Sunday	10:00am – 4:00pm



Additional Requirement — U6, U7 & U8 Parents/Guardians

One parent or guardian of a child in Under 6, Under 7 or Under 8 must also bring their bathers (togs) to their child's pool session. You will be required to complete a 50-metre swim proficiency as a prerequisite for the Nipper Surf Awareness (NSA) Award, which qualifies you for water safety duties on Sunday sessions.



Important: Swim proficiency assessments completed through private coaches or external instructors **will not be accepted**. Proficiency must be completed at one of the three official NHSLSC pool sessions listed above.

Run-Swim-Run Assessment

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

Carnival Competency

- Required for Nippers wishing to participate in surf sports 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 and children will be assessed **an age above by default**. Should they not pass the age above competency, they will be tested at their own age level. Failure to pass their own age group competency requirements will mean they cannot participate in the program and it is recommended you attend swim lessons for a season and try again next season.

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JUNIOR PRELIMINARY SKILLS EVALUATION TABLE					
	Preliminary Evaluations				Competition Evaluation (Required before competing in any carnival)
	Floatation	Submersion	Propulsion	Competency Beach Evaluation (Run-Swim-Run) (To be completed on first day of Nippers)	
Water Safety	New Members 1:1 Returning Members 1:5	New Members 1:1 Returning Members 1:5	New Members 1:1 Returning Members 1:5	New Members 1:1 Returning Members 1:5	New Members 1:1 Returning Members 1:5
Under 6	Back or front float for a minimum of 5 seconds, recover to stand.	Submerge to touch the bottom with hands. (Minimum depth of safe aquatic environment - 1 metre)	From standing position in waist deep water, perform a front glide (1-2 metres) & recover to stand.	Nil (shallow water activities only)	N/A (No Competition)
Under 7	Back or front float for a minimum of 10 seconds, recover to stand.		From standing position in waist deep water, perform a front glide (2-3 metres) & recover to stand.	Nil (shallow water activities only)	N/A (No Competition)
Under 8	Back or front float for a minimum of 15 seconds, recover to stand.		Swim on front any stroke (distance 20 metres) followed by swim underwater (distance 2-3 metres).	25m-25m-25m Run-Wade-Run	25m-25m-25m Run-Wade-Run
Under 9	Front to back float or back to front float - 5 seconds each side. Tread water and/or any stroke sculling for a minimum of 1 minute.	Submerge to touch the bottom with hands. (Minimum depth of safe aquatic environment - 1.5 metre)	Survival breaststroke and/or sidestroke and/or back sculling for minimum 50 metres	50m-50m-50m Run-Swim-Run	Minimum 150m open water swim (competition course distance as per competition manual)
Under 10			Swim on front through water any stroke for 25 metres followed by survival breaststroke and/or sidestroke and/or back sculling for minimum 50 metres	50m-50m-50m Run-Swim-Run	Minimum 150m open water swim (competition course distance as per competition manual)
Under 11	Front to back float or back to front float - 5 seconds each side. Tread water and/or sculling for minimum 2 minutes.	Submerge to perform forward or backward roll underwater, recover to surface, retrieve object from bottom of pool with hands (e.g. dive ring) (Minimum depth of safe aquatic environment - 1.5 metre)	Swim on front through water any stroke for 50 metres followed by survival breaststroke and/or sidestroke and/or back sculling for minimum 50 metres	50m-100m-50m Run-Swim-Run	Minimum 288m open water swim (competition course distance as per competition manual)
Under 12	Front to back float or back to front float - 5 sec each side. Tread water and/or sculling for minimum 3 minutes.	Submerge to perform forward or backward roll/somersault underwater, recover to surface, retrieve object from bottom of pool with hands (e.g. dive ring) (Minimum depth of safe aquatic environment - 1.8 metre)	Swim on front through water any stroke for 100 metres followed by survival stroke(s) breaststroke and/or sidestroke for minimum 50m	50m-100m-50m Run-Swim-Run	Minimum 288m open water swim (competition course distance as per competition manual)
Under 13				100m-100m-100m Run-Swim-Run	Minimum 288m open water swim (competition course distance as per competition manual)
Under 14		Submerge to perform forward or backward roll/somersault underwater, do not recover to surface, retrieve object from bottom of water with hands (e.g. dive ring). (Minimum depth of safe aquatic environment - 1.8 metre)	Swim on front through water any stroke for 100 metres followed by survival stroke(s) breaststroke and/or sidestroke for minimum 100 metres.	100m-100m-100m Run-Swim-Run	Minimum 288m open water swim (competition course distance as per competition manual)

8 UNIFORM & EQUIPMENT

Each NEW Nipper will receive: Age Group Cap, Pink Hi-Vis Rash Vest, RFID Wristband, and Nippers T-shirt.

Each returning Nipper will receive: Pink Hi-Vis Rash Vest and Nippers T-shirt (returning nippers are to use their existing Age Group Caps and RFID Wristbands – (Lost or replacement Caps can be purchased for \$15 and RFID bands for \$5 at the club's uniform shop)

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

Uniform Policy

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

9 SIGNING IN AND OUT

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

- New members will be issued a wristband in their welcome pack.
- Returning members: your child's wristband from the 2025/26 season remains valid.
- Wristbands are unique to each Nipper and must be worn every session.
- Lost wristband replacement cost: \$5.

10 COMMUNICATION

Primary Channel — Stack Team App

- **Download the Stack Team App** or visit www.teamapp.com. Sign up, log in, and search for **"Noosa Heads SLSC"** to request to join.
- For Nippers information — search "Noosa Heads SLSC"
- For training and carnival information — search "Surf Sports – Noosa Heads SLSC"

Other Channels

- Club Website: noosasurfclub.com.au
- Social Media: Facebook and Instagram — news and photos.
- Junior Activities Administrator: nippers@noosasurfclub.com.au
- Junior Activities Director: dir_jac@noosasurfclub.com.au

11 PARENT INVOLVEMENT & VOLUNTEER ROLES

Our Nipper program thrives on active parent participation. Volunteering is a condition of your child's participation in the program. All families are expected to acknowledge this during the online registration process and to **contribute each session**.

Water Safety Roles

- Nipper Safety Assistants (NSA) Award — water safety for U6–U8 shallow water activities (parent swim proficiency required — see Section 7)
- Surf Rescue Certificate (SRC)
- Bronze Medallion (BM)

Beach & Dry Roles

- Age Manager or Assistant Age Manager
- Parent Liaison
- Safety Monitor
- Setup & Pack-Down Crew
- BBQ & Canteen Crew
- Registration & Admin Support
- Club Photographer
- Carnival Support Roles
- Age Group Assistants

Training and support are provided for all roles. Not sure where to fit? The JAC will help you find the right role. Please complete an Expression of Interest form at registration.

12 BLUE CARD REQUIREMENT

In alignment with Queensland legislation, 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**.



CRITICAL — Your membership must be approved FIRST

Neither the Blue Card application nor the Child Safety Awareness Course can be completed until your NHSLSC membership application has been approved by the club. Do not attempt to apply for a Blue Card before you have received membership approval confirmation.

Please allow sufficient processing time. We strongly recommend registering for membership as early as possible.

Step-by-Step Blue Card Process

Once you receive confirmation that your NHSLSC membership has been approved, follow these steps:

10. **Step 1 — Apply for NHSLSC membership** and wait for approval confirmation from the club before proceeding.
11. Once approved, you will receive a request to obtain a Blue Card and complete the Child Safety Awareness Course.
12. Visit the Blue Card Services website (qld.gov.au/law/blue-card-services) and begin your volunteer Blue Card application.
13. **During the application you will receive a 6-digit linking code.** Make a note of this code — you will need to provide it to SLSQ.
14. Provide your 6-digit linking code to SLSQ via the SLSQ link that will be provided to you by the club.
15. SLSQ will process the linking request. You will receive an email from SLSQ confirming you are now linked.
16. Return to the Blue Card Services website and **finalise your volunteer Blue Card application.**
17. Once approved, Blue Card Services will electronically notify SLSQ of your Blue Card details — no further action is required on this step.
18. **Log into your SLS Hub account and complete the Child Safety Awareness Course** (mandatory under Queensland legislation). This can be found under the courses section of the SLS Hub.

Existing Blue Card Holders

If you already hold a current volunteer Blue Card through another organisation, your card can be linked to NHSLSC via the SLSQ linking process described above (Steps 4–6). However, you must be an approved NHSLSC member first.

⚠ Non-Compliance — Children Will Not Be Permitted to Participate

Families who fail to complete and register a valid Blue Card with the club prior to the commencement of the season will not be permitted to have their child participate in the Nippers program.

No refunds will be issued in circumstances where a child is unable to participate due to a parent or guardian's failure to obtain or register a valid Blue Card. This policy is in place to protect the safety of all children in our program.

For assistance with the Blue Card process, contact the admin: nippers@noosasurfclub.com.au

13 INTRA-CLUB COMPETITIONS

This season, Noosa Heads SLSC will host two Intra-Club Competition days. These events are open to all Nippers and are a fantastic opportunity to showcase skills, celebrate the season, and strengthen our club community. In a carnival style atmosphere competitive surf sports events will be run to determine age group champions and expose Nippers to surf sports events.

Proposed Dates/Times (Subject to Change)

DATE	TIME	NOTES
Saturday 14 November 2026	7:00am – 10:00am	Intra-Club Carnival Day 1
Saturday 13 February 2027	7:00am – 10:00am	Intra-Club Carnival Day 2

Full event details, disciplines, and scheduling will be communicated to all families via the Stack Team App and email prior to each event and the above is a guide only.

14 RECOGNITION & ACHIEVEMENT

U8–U10: Focus on Participation and Development

- In line with SLSQ guidelines, there will be no official age championships for U8–U10.
- The emphasis is on fun, skill-building, and teamwork.
- Excellence will be recognised through Junior Development Awards, certificates, and age group acknowledgements.

U11–U14: Age Champion Points System

Age Champion and Runner-Up Age Champion (per gender) will be awarded at the end of the season based on a **points system accumulated across both Intra-Club Competition Saturdays** — Proposed 14 November 2026 and 13 February 2027.

Full event details, competition disciplines, and the points allocation system will be communicated to families prior to each event. Please note to be eligible to receive an Age Championship award a Nipper must;

- Participate in at least 10 of 15 scheduled Nipper Sunday sessions.
- Note attendance at an **SLSQ-endorsed carnival** on a Sunday when a Nipper Sunday is scheduled counts toward the 10-session attendance requirement.

Rising Stars Awards

At the end of the season, we celebrate the efforts of all Nippers — not just those who place in surf sports events, through the Rising Stars Awards, recognising:

- Consistent effort and team spirit
- Personal improvement
- Participation in Nipper Sundays and Surf Sports Carnivals

Because 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, additional ocean skills opportunities are available for U8 and above, led by our development coach.

- U8s are invited to attend Wednesday afternoon Ocean Swim sessions.
- Ocean Skills Nipper Board sessions are available to U8s from approximately January 2027 — check Stack Team App for updates.
- U9–U10s can participate in training sessions on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons (subject to coach availability).

All Nippers must wear their RFID bands, Hi-Vis Rashie and bring goggles. Parents are also required to stay for the session, volunteer as water safety (if qualified), sign their Nipper in and out, and assist on the beach.

All Nippers must attain all proficiencies prior to attendance at any training session.

All sessions will be communicated via the Stack Team App

16 TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES & CARNIVALS

Nippers in the U11–U14 age groups can participate in club training sessions and inter-club competitions. These programs help junior members improve beach, ocean swimming, and board skills, build fitness, and develop lasting friendships.

- All communication from coaches regarding session changes will be shared in the U11–U14 Ocean Skills chat on Stack Team App.
- Training schedules are shared on Stack Team App under "Surf Sports – Noosa Heads SLSC".

Carnivals and Championship Competitions

Carnivals are held from October through March for children U8–U15.

While participation is optional, it is strongly encouraged.

Nippers wishing to compete must meet competition distance proficiency requirements in addition to initial assessments.

To be eligible to compete in championship competitions; Nippers also need to;

- Attend 10 out of 15 Nipper Sunday Sessions (Carnivals on a Sunday count in Lieu)
- Complete their Age Award
- Note for U14 members the relevant Age Award is SRC

Check Stack Team App "Surf Sports – Noosa Heads SLSC" for registrations and locations.

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nippers@noosasurfclub.com.au

17 2026/27 SEASON CALENDAR

⚠ Please Note: This calendar is proposed and subject to Noosa Council approval. Sign-on opens at 7:00am. Sessions subject to weather and surf conditions.

Gold — School holiday session

Blue— No session scheduled

Maroon — Intra-Club Carnival Saturday

DAY	DATE	SESSION	TIME
Sunday	11 October 2026	Session 1	7:30am – 9:30am
Sunday	18 October 2026	Session 2	7:30am – 9:30am
Sunday	25 October 2026	Session 3	7:30am – 9:30am
Sunday	1 November 2026	No Session	Noosa Triathlon Weekend
Sunday	8 November 2026	Session 4	7:30am – 9:30am
Saturday	14 November 2026	Intra-Club Carnival	7:00am – 10:00am
Sunday	15 November 2026	Session 5	7:30am – 9:30am
Sunday	22 November 2026	Session 6	7:30am – 9:30am
Sunday	29 November 2026	Session 7	7:30am – 9:30am
Sunday	6 December 2026	Session 8	7:30am – 9:30am
Friday	11 December 2026	Nipper Xmas Party	4:00pm – 6:00pm
Sunday	13 December 2026	No Session	Christmas Break begins
Sunday	24 January 2027	Session 9 — Australia Day Weekend	7:30am – 9:30am
Sunday	31 January 2027	Session 10	7:30am – 9:30am
Sunday	7 February 2027	Session 11	7:30am – 9:30am
Saturday	13 February 2027	Intra-Club Carnival	7:00am – 10:00am
Sunday	14 February 2027	Session 12	7:30am – 9:00am
Sunday	21 February 2027	Session 13	7:30am – 9:00am
Sunday	28 February 2027	Session 14	7:30am – 9:00am
Sunday	7 March 2027	Session 15 — End of Season Presentation	7:30am – 9:30am

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, and Teamwork.

Any breaches may result in disciplinary action in accordance with Surf Life Saving Australia's policies.

Please refer to the SLSA Code of Conduct for Members via the SLSA website.

19 FEEDBACK & GRIEVANCES

Order of Escalation - for Any Questions or Information

- First speak with **Parent Liaison**
- Then **Age Manager**
- Then **Deputy Director of JA**
- Then **Junior Activities Director** if further discussion is needed:
dir_jac@noosasurfclub.com.au

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

All links to the above resources are available via the SLSQ website and the Noosa Heads SLSC member portal.