



Parent of Nippers Information 2025/2026

- Information on how to register and renew your membership for Nippers is available on the Club website at this link www.stocktonsurfclub.com/surf-life-saving/membership/
- When a Junior Active Member joins it is a club requirement that an accompanying parent or guardian join as well. (Nipper Parent (General) membership)
- New members including new nippers: Can register online or face to face at one of the below registration days at the surf club: Nippers bring proof of age Must be seen before membership can be processed. Dates and times for face to face registrations are set below:
 - Sunday August 24th and 31st (10.00 to 11.00)
 - Sunday September 14th, 21st, and 28th (10.00 to 11.00)
 - All so you will be able to register each Sunday before nippers.
- Nippers will commence on Sunday 28th September 2025 **9.30am report 10am start** and last Sunday will be 22nd February 2026 with TWO week break over Christmas see calendar for dates
- Nippers Fair Play Codes and Codes of Conduct must be read, signed, and handed back to the child's respective Age Manager OR Registrar.
- Nippers will go down to the beach and line up at their age flag and have their name marked off to undertake their proficiency and then have some fun activities/skills and a BBQ after nippers in front of the club.
- There will be a COMPETITION day held once a month, normally the LAST Sunday.
- U9's-U14's who are proficient in the pool or still water can also undertake their ocean swim and will be graded according to their ability. The Nipper **MUST** undertake and **be competent in** the ocean swim to be able to compete in carnivals.
- We understand that a parent may have Nippers in different Age Groups however they are to inform the relevant Age Manager if they are staying with the other Nipper in a different age group. **They are to personally sign out all Nippers.**
- Clothing can be purchased at the club on Sunday mornings between 08.30 – 09.30 see Hayle Bernard.
- Supplied Rash shirt and age, coloured caps are mandatory – No rashie & cap no participation. PLEASE see age Supervisor for instructions. The coloured cap given at registration remains until under 13's
- Water safety risk assessment is undertaken by the Water Safety Supervisor on the day prior to every Nipper session being run. There must be a minimum water safety ratio of 1 water safety person to 5 children.

- At the end of the day each Age group **MUST PUT THEIR GEAR/EQUIPMENT ON/NEAR GEAR TRAILER.**
- It is your responsibility to ensure that you have read the following handouts:
 - The Essential Guide to Nippers.
 - Nippers Fair Play Codes and Codes of Conduct.
 - Stockton SLSC Surf Sports Competition Policy
- All Nippers must have their parents or guardian sign them in and out with their supervisor. **No Nipper SHOULD leave until a parent or guardian signs them out with their supervisor.**

Please monitor the Stockton SLSC Facebook, website and team app for the most up to date information and important matters. A weekly newsletter is emailed to members. (What's On)

Age Group, Preliminary and Competition

Evaluations Factsheet

Junior Age Groups

Listed below are the age groups members will be in for the 2025/26 season. These age groups are determined as at midnight on 30 September 2025. Check/change Table below

<u>BIRTHDATE BETWEEN THESE DATES</u>	<u>AGE GROUP/SURF EDUCATION</u>
1st October 2019 to 30th September 2020	U6 (Surf Play One)
1st October 2018 to 30th September 2019	U7 (Surf Play Two)
1st October 2017 to 30th September 2018	U8 (Surf Aware One)
1st October 2016 to 30th September 2017	U9 (Surf Aware Two)
1st October 2015 to 30th September 2016	U10 (Surf Safe One)
1st October 2014 to 30th September 2015	U11 (Surf Safe Two)
1st October 2013 to 30th September 2014	U12 (Surf Smart One)
1st October 2012 to 30th September 2013	U13 (Surf Smart Two)
1st October 2011 to 30th September 2012	U14 (SRC)

Note: Proof of age/birth certificate must be sighted for all new children joining a SLSC.

A child may join a SLSC as soon as he/she turns five years of age. No SLSC is to accept membership of a child until they have reached the age of five years to comply with insurance requirements. ***A child who reaches five years of age after 30th September may join nippers at that time for the remainder of the season; however, this child will be required to stay in the U6 nippers age group again the following season. It is the SLSC's responsibility to explain this to the parents of the child.***

Junior Preliminary Evaluations

The Preliminary Skills Evaluation was introduced nationally to reflect industry standard research in aquatic skills, and there is a greater focus on foundation skills in the water which assist in making rescue ready lifesavers.

Clubs are required to meet the new preliminary skills evaluation which is available in this document and in the SLSA Members Area.

Many activities that will be completed by children as part of Junior Activities will be conducted in the water. To ensure that all children have a suitable swimming ability to allow them to participate in these activities, SLSA has developed a Junior Preliminary Evaluation for each age group. Every junior member is required to participate in this evaluation prior to any water-based activities being undertaken. Clubs can set standards that go over and above the requirements set by SLSA, but not below this standard.

Note: It is not an assessment which if not completed competently precludes the child from becoming a member or continuing with junior surf education or training activities. Any child that does not meet the required evaluation level will require a higher level of supervision when involved in water-based activities at the discretion of the club. Refer to SLSA Water Safety Procedure 1.01.

A member who is delegated to assess Junior Preliminary Evaluations must:

- Be proficient in SRC (at minimum) and have an understanding at the requirements of the evaluations for juniors
- Be familiar with the process of reasonable adjustment
- Adhere to the program of skills maintenance requested by the SLSC
- Complete any paperwork required accurately and return in a timely manner
- Delegate names must be minuted at a SLSC Management Team meeting annually.

Conducting the Evaluation

Evaluations should be conducted in a low-risk environment, as determined by a completion of a pre-activity risk assessment. All new junior members should be supported by a 1:1 water safety ratio (water safety personnel: activity participant) when completing their evaluation. For all returning junior members, where knowledge of their ability is known by the SLSC, a 1:5 water safety ratio (water safety personnel: activity participants) may be used (Refer to SLSA Water Safety Procedure 1.01).

The pool evaluation is conducted "in a safe constructed pool/still water environment with a water safety ratio as per the SLSA Policy 1.01 – Water Safety – a 1:5 water safety ratio is to be implemented for all members under evaluation." may now also be conducted in open water (ocean,

rock pools and ocean baths) away from surf conditions for both new and returning nippers, effective immediately.

In instances where evaluations cannot be completed, a qualified and accredited swim coach can be endorsed to sign off the preliminary skills pool assessment. Swimming coaches are required to provide their Australian Swimming Teachers and Coaches Associate (ASTCA) number, their name and email address and the name of the children who have successfully completed the swim.

Following the Evaluation

Any child that does not meet the required evaluation level will require a higher level of supervision when involved in water based activities at the discretion of the club. Any child that does complete the Preliminary Skills Evaluation competently can progress to water based junior activities noting a 1:5 water safety ratio (water safety personnel: activity participants). For still water / pool activities or low-risk conditions (ascertained after a formal risk assessment) the ratio may be expanded to 1:10 water safety ratio (water safety personnel: activity participants) as per SLSA Water Safety Procedure 1.01.

A maximum supervision ratio of 1:5 (WSP: participants) applies as per SLSA Water Safety Procedure 1.01 to ensure the evaluations are conducted in a safe aquatic environment. Refer to the SLSA Age Managers Learner Guide and SLSA Water Safety Procedure 1.01 for more information on Junior Preliminary Evaluations.

Junior Competition Evaluations

From the age of 7 (Under 8) juniors can begin to compete in intra-club, inter-club and branch competition, while from the age of 8 (Under 9) juniors can participate in state competition. To ensure that all junior members that wish to compete in any inter-club, branch, state and national events/championships have the required ability, strength and fitness to compete they must be able to complete the junior competition evaluation for their age group.

Note: The definition of 'Open Water' is sourced from NSW Maritime and refers to 'navigable waters' which includes beaches. It does not include inland and coastal rivers, lakes and enclosed bays, harbour or rock pools.

For more information on SLSA Surf Sport competition eligibility and requirements refer to.

- SLSA Policy 5.04 – Competition Eligibility Policy
- SLSA Surf Sports Manual

Branch and State Competition Requirement

Any competitor wishing to compete at Branch or State carnivals (water and/or beach events) must have successfully completed:

- Junior Preliminary Evaluation
- Junior Competition Evaluation, All so (**Under 14's MUST complete their SRC**)
- Appropriate Surf Education award for their age group by 31 December 2025.

Junior Activities members (i.e. members comprising Under 14 and below), are not required to perform patrol hours to compete in junior activities competitions. **However, if eligible members wish to compete in Under 15 competitions, they must fulfil their patrol hour obligations as set out in SLSA Policy 5.04 – Competition Eligibility. This Policy can be found in the SLSA Members Area.**

These three components must be entered into SurfGuard prior to close of entries. For assistance in uploading this information into SurfGuard please contact the SurfGuard helpdesk on 1300 724 006 or ithelp@slsa.asn.au.

SLSA Age Group Evaluation and Surf Education Awards

The following table outlines the national standard for preliminary and competition skills evaluation. Some branches may set distances above the standard below. Please ensure that you liaise with your respective branch for confirmation of the specific requirements.

STAGE ONE: UNDER 6, UNDER7, UNDER8			
Aquatic Play and Fundamental Aquatic Skills (FAS). Minimum depth of safe aquatic environment-1metre			
MINIMUM AQUATIC SKILLS	U6	U7	U8
Floatation	Back or front float minimum 5 sec recover to stand	Back or front float minimum 10 sec recover to stand	Back or front float minimum 15 sec recover to stand
Submersion	Submerge to retrieve object from bottom of water with hands (e.g dive ring)		
Propulsion	Push and glide from wall (distance 1-2 metres) recover to stand	Push and glide from wall, kick (distance 2-3 metres) recover to stand	Swim on front any stroke (distance 20 metres) followed by swim underwater (distance 2-3 metres)

STAGE TWO: UNDER 9, UNDER10, UNDER 11			
Applied Aquatic Skills. Minimum depth of safe aquatic environment - 1.5 metres			
MINIMUM AQUATIC SKILL	U9	U10	U11
Floatation	Front to back or back to front float - 5 seconds each side. Tread water and/or sculling for minimum 1 minute		Front to back or back to front - 5 seconds each side. Tread water and/or sculling for a minimum 2 minutes
Submersion	Submerge to touch bottom with hands		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	Swim on front any stroke for 75/100 metres followed by survival stroke(s) breaststroke	Swim on front through water any stroke for 75/100 metres followed by survival stroke(s)	Swim on front through water any stroke for 75/150 metres followed by survival stroke(s)

	and/or sidestroke for 50 metres	breaststroke and/or sidestroke and/or sculling for a minimum 25/50 metres.	breaststroke and/or sidestroke and/or sculling for a minimum 50 metres.
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STAGE THREE: UNDER 12, UNDER 13, UNDER 14			
Junior/trainee lifesaver - pathway to SRC. Minimum depth of safe aquatic environment - 1.8 metres			
MINIMUM AQUATIC SKILL	U12	U13	U14
Flotation	Front to back float or back to front float - 5 seconds each side. Tread water and/or sculling for minimum 3 minutes		
Submersion	Submerge to perform forward or backward roll/somersault underwater, recover to surface, submerge to touch bottom with hands		Submerge to perform forward or backward roll/somersault underwater, do not recover to surface, submerge to touch bottom with hands
Propulsion	Swim on front through water any stroke for 75/100 metres followed by survival stroke(s) breaststroke and/or sidestroke for minimum 50 metres	Swim on front through water any stroke for 100/200 metres followed by survival stroke(s) breaststroke and/or sidestroke for minimum 50 metres	Swim on front through water any stroke for 100/200 metres followed by survival stroke(s) breaststroke and/or sidestroke for minimum 100/50 metres

AGE GROUP and CAP COLOUR	COMPETITION EVALUATION
U6 Blue	Nil
U7 Green	Nil
U8 Orange	Nil (no water competition, except for wade which takes place in waist deep water)
U9 Yellow	Minimum 150 metres open water swim (any recognised stroke)
U10 Red	Minimum 150 metres open water swim (any recognised stroke)
U11 Purple	Minimum 200 metres open water swim (any recognised stroke)
U12 Pink	Minimum 200 metres open water swim (any recognised stroke)

U13 Club cap	Minimum 200 metres open water swim (any recognised stroke)
U14 Club cap	Minimum 200 metres open water swim (any recognised stroke) MUST also complete their SRC

To qualify for competition points, a nipper must have attended at **least 75%** of the scheduled club Sundays.

6. CLUB TEAM SELECTIONS

6.1 Team Selections:

The objective of the team selection process is to achieve the best possible competition teams. This process applies to athletes, team managers and coaches. Team selection will be based primarily on the following two objectives using a balanced view:

- **Performance:** To select the strongest teams to represent SSLSC in each age group or category and to achieve the best possible results for SSLSC based on ability and expected performances of the competitors.
- **Participation:** To encourage, recognize and reward maximum participation in and commitment to training and development as part of the SSLSC Surf Sports program.

6.1.1 Team Selection Criteria

Team selections will be judged by the following criteria, in order of weighting:

Performance

- Results at club endorsed carnivals in current season
- Results at Club championships and point score events
- Performance and ability demonstrated at training, as judged by coach
- Time trials: If there is a close call between two or more competitors (based on the above criteria) the subcommittee may elect for time trials to be held in race conditions at training.
- At the start of the season when there have not been many carnivals, team selection will be based on the previous season and/or preseason training.

Participation

- Attendance at training, ie Club endorsed training sessions
- Commitment, consistency and attitude to training
- Participation in carnivals
- Attendance at club competition (For Nippers, 60% attendance is considered a prerequisite for age award and hence eligibility for competition.)

Other considerations

- Teamwork: Competitors' abilities to "work well together" in a team
- Injury / illness: Any injury / illness which could impair, inhibit or prevent the competitor from appropriate level of performance or represent an unacceptable risk

- Conditions: Expected conditions at the carnival venue and on the day. Also conditions during carnivals during the current season, which may have skewed performance results.
- Surf Sports Culture': Commitment and attitude to fellow club members and surf lifesaving in general

6.1.2. Selection Process

The Surf Sports Subcommittee will be responsible for team selection, taking into account the above criteria. Team selections decided upon by the Surf Sports Subcommittee will be final. This shall not prevent, limit or restrict the selectors (e.g. Head Coach or proxy) changing the selection of any team at any time, in the interest of club spirit and competitive focus and/ or other relevant circumstances.

6.2. Right of Appeal

If parents, carers or competitors wish to dispute a team selection they should NOT approach any other parent, carer or competitor. Parents, carers or competitors should make first contact with the DoSS. An appeal against team selection/s should be forwarded in writing to the DoSS 10 days prior to the carnival. <mailto:surfsports@stocktonsurfclub.com> The DoSS will communicate the appeal with the Surf Sports Subcommittee and considerations will be made based on the specifics provided within the appeal. An appeal should be backed with evidence in line with the Team Selection Criteria (6.1.1) Where a unanimous decision cannot be reached, the appeal will be passed onto an impartial panel to undertake an assessment and provide judgement.

A full copy of the Stockton SLSC Surf Sports Competition Policy can be seen on the club web page.