

Junior Activities Handbook

Fun, Friends, Surf Skills for Life



PARENT STARTER GUIDE FOR
THE 2026/2027 NIPPER SEASON

Welcome to Pacific Nippers

Welcome to the Pacific Surf Life Saving Club Junior Activities Program. We are proud to be a family-focused club where children learn essential surf safety skills, build confidence, and create lifelong friendships.

Nippers is designed to be a fun, safe, and inclusive environment, helping every child develop skills for life both in and out of the water. This handbook is here to guide new and returning families through the season, including what to expect on Sundays, how to join, pool evaluations, uniforms, volunteering, and key communications.

Season Overview

Season 2026/27

Sunday, 11th October 2026 to Sunday 21st March 2027.

Nippers is held on Sunday mornings at 8:00am for an 8:30am start, gathering first on the front lawn before heading to the beach. Nipper sessions run for 2-2.5 hours. Dates and locations may change through the season based on weather and conditions, so please check communications regularly.



MEET THE TEAM

JAC COMMITTEE

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE 2024/25	
POSITION	NAME
Junior Activities Chairperson (JAC)	Ryan Fulton
Junior Activities Deputy Chairperson	Alyce Gallen
Secretary	TBC
Nipper Tresurer	Dave Lipinski
Endorsed Age Managers (formerly JAAO) & other approved signatories for evaluations	Ryan Fulton, Alyce Gallen, Louise Clark, Adam Bishton, Todd Harris, Richard Turner, Jason Sherridan
Water Safety Officer	TBC
Gear Steward	Jason Sherridan
BBQ Coordinator	Phil Bamber
Clothing Coordinator	TBC
Club Photographer	TBC
Team Manager U8-U10	Bree Brown
Team Manager U11-U14	Jason Winn

MEET THE TEAM

AGE MANAGERS

AGE GROUP	AGE MANAGER/S
U6	Richard Turner
U7	Kate Fulton
U8	Jason Sherridan, Rodney Schalkwyk, Ian Brown
U9	Brian Fuller, Alyce Gallen, Mark Jewell
U10	Ryan Fulton
U11	Bree Brown, Liz Lipinski
U12	Adam Bishton, Jason Winn
U13	Todd Harris, Angela Harris
U14	Louise Clark, George Love
U15	Patrick Warn, Ryan Fulton

SEASON CALENDAR

NIPPERS 2026/27 CALENDAR

Key season dates for handbook inclusion. Locations marked TBC are to be confirmed.

Date	Day	Event
30 Aug 2026	Sunday	Open Day
5 Sep 2026	Saturday	Pool Swim Evaluation Day
13 Sep 2026	Sunday	Pool Swim Evaluation Day
28 Sep - 2 Oct 2026	Mon-Fri	Nipper Ready School Holiday Program (2 hrs)
10 Oct 2026	Saturday	PDB Interbranch Trials @ Billiga
11 Oct 2026	Sunday	1st Nippers Sunday
17-18 Oct 2026	Sat/Sun	Coolangatta Gold
18 Oct 2026	Sunday	Nippers Sunday
24 Oct 2026	Saturday	U8-10 Teams Carnival Location TBC
26 Oct 2026	Sunday	Nippers Sunday
1 Nov 2026	Sunday	Club Champs - Day 1
7-8 Nov 2026	Sat/Sun	GCCT Location TBC
8 Nov 2026	Sunday	Nippers Sunday
15 Nov 2026	Sunday	Nippers Sunday
22 Nov 2026	Sunday	Nippers Sunday
28 Nov 2026	Sat/Sun	U8-10s Little Mates Carnival Location @ Billiga
29 Nov 2026	Sunday	Nippers Sunday
5-6 Dec 2026	Saturday	Interbranch Champs @ SCB
6 Dec 2026	Sunday	Nippers Sunday
13 Dec 2026	Sunday	Xmas Break-up Party
20 Dec 2026 - 10 Jan 2027	Sundays	Xmas Holiday Break
17 Jan 2027	Sunday	Nippers Sunday
22-23 Jan 2027	Fri/Sat	Combined PDB Surf Rescue Champs/ Senior Champs @ Billiga
24 Jan 2027	Sunday	Club Champs - Day 2
31 Jan 2027	Sunday	Nippers Sunday
7 Feb 2027	Sunday	Nippers Sunday
12-14 Feb 2027	Fri-Sun	PDB Youth Champs Location TBC
14 Feb 2027	Sunday	Nippers Sunday
21 Feb 2027	Sunday	Nippers Sunday
26 -28 Feb 2027	Fri - Sun	QLD Surf Rescue Champs
28 Feb 2027	Sunday	Club Champs - Day 3
6 Mar 2027	Saturday	PDB 8-10s Branch Carnival Location Tailebudgers
7 Mar 2027	Sunday	Nippers Sunday
11-14 Mar 2027	Fri-Sun	QLD State Youth Champs Location @ North Kirra
14 Mar 2027	Sunday	Nippers Sunday
19-21 Mar 2027	Fri-Sun	QLD State Senior Champs Location @ North Kirra
21 Mar 2027	Sunday	Nippers Sunday
21 Mar 2027	Sunday	End of Season Presentation
10-18 Apr 2027	Sat-Sun	Aussies

Sunday Nippers

Sunday mornings are the heart of our Junior Activities program. Nippers start arriving from 8:00am and gather on the front lawn for announcements before heading down to the beach. Parents are required to remain present during the session. This helps keep children safe, supports the Age Managers, and makes it easier for everyone to know what is happening each week.



What to bring each week:

- Club Noddy
- Swimwear
- Goggles
- Pink Rash Shirt
- Sunscreen
- Water Bottle
- Smiles and a Positive Attitude



Beach and Surf Activities

Activities are tailored to the age and confidence level of each group. Younger Nippers focus on water confidence, beach awareness, simple fun races and shallow-water skills. As children move into older age groups they begin to take part in wades, swims, flags, sprints, board paddling and more structured surf sports activities. The focus is always on safety, participation and skill development.

Pool Evaluation Requirements

All children must complete an annual pool evaluation before they can participate in ocean activities. This is a Surf Life Saving Australia safety requirement and helps ensure each child is ready for the water activities in their age group.



There are two ways to complete the evaluation: have a registered swim teacher sign off the official form, or attend one of Pacific's pool evaluation sessions.

Pool evaluation sessions for 2026/27

1. Saturday 5th September, 10:00am–12:00pm
2. Sunday 13th September, 1:00pm–3:00pm

@ Palm Beach Aquatic Centre, Thrower Dr, Palm Beach 4221



Junior Preliminary Evaluations – SLSQ



Child Name: _____ Age Group: _____ Club: _____

Age Group	Flotation	Submersion	Propulsion	Task Complete/Comments
Under 6	Back or front float for a minimum of 5 seconds and recover to stand.		From standing position in waist deep water, perform a front glide (1-2 metres) & recover to stand.	
Under 7	Back or front float for a minimum of 10 seconds and recover to stand.	Submerge to touch the bottom with hands.	From standing position in waist deep water, perform a front glide (2-3 metres) & recover to stand.	
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 a swim underwater (distance 2-3 metres)	
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.	Swim in front through water any stroke for 25 metres followed by survival stroke(s) breaststroke and/or sidestroke and/or back sculling for minimum 10 metres.	
Under 10			Swim on front through water any stroke for 25 metres followed by survival stroke(s) breaststroke and/or sidestroke and/or back sculling for minimum 25 metres.	
Under 11	Front to back float or back to front float, 5 seconds each side. Tread water and/or any stroke sculling for minimum 2 minutes.	Submerge to perform forward or backward roll/somersault underwater, recover to surface, submerge to touch the bottom with hands.	Swim on front through water any stroke for 25 metres followed by survival stroke(s) breaststroke and/or sidestroke and/or back sculling for minimum 50 metres.	
Under 12		Submerge to perform forward or backward roll/somersault underwater, recover to hands.	Swim on front any stroke for 75 metres followed by survival stroke(s) breaststroke and/or sidestroke for minimum 50 metres.	
Under 13	Front to back float or back to front float – 5 seconds each side. Tread water and/or any stroke sculling for minimum 3 minutes.		Swim on front any stroke for 100 metres followed by survival stroke(s) breaststroke and/or sidestroke for minimum 50 metres.	
Under 14		Submerge to perform forward or backward roll/somersault underwater, do not recover to surface, submerge to touch the bottom with hands.	Swim on front any stroke for 100 metres followed by survival stroke(s) breaststroke and/or sidestroke for minimum 100 metres.	

Swim Coach Name: _____

Australian Swimming Teachers and Coaches Association Number: _____

Swim Coach Email: _____

Swim Coach Signature: _____

Date Witnessed : _____

SLSQ Club Assessor Name: _____

Assessor Signature: _____

Date Witnessed : _____

Parent Involvement

Pacific Nippers relies on parents and volunteers every single week. With around 170 Nippers in the program, volunteer support is what makes the program safe, welcoming and fun. Every family can help in some way, whether that is beach setup, BBQ, helping an Age Group, working toward water safety qualifications, or supporting carnivals. Volunteers make Nippers possible.



HOW CAN I HELP?

Each Sunday, parents/s and Nippers are required to assist in making Nippers a great experience for everyone. This is a fantastic opportunity for our Nippers to learn from us the importance of community involvement and community service.

Any member help is greatly appreciated and Many Hands Make Light Work.

SUNDAY NIPPERS SET UP

Please arrive early each Sunday if possible, to assist our Gear Steward set up the beach stations in preparation for Nipper activities.

BBQ

Our BBQ Coordinators require assistance from approximately 9:15am each Sunday to assist with preparing, cooking and serving food for our Nipper families.

Age Groups are rostered for BBQ duty weekly, which will be posted and announced weekly at Nippers.

PACK UP

Please help on the beach at the end of Nippers to assist with packing up the equipment on the beach. Alternately you can assist outside the clubhouse to hose down the boards and pack up the Nippers trailer.

OTHER WAYS TO HELP

- Become an Age Manager
- Become an Official, so Nippers can compete at Carnivals
- Complete a Surf Rescue Certificate (SRC) or Bronze Medallion (Bronze) to assist as Water Safety personnel
- Nipper Safety Assistant (NSA) is a new role formally introduced by SLSQ last year. For the U6, U7 and U8 age groups it is a lot of fun to have parents out in the water with them. We need you trained with some basic skills, however, to keep both you and our Nippers safe. You also need to be easily identifiable to the Age Managers and Water Safety Coordinator. To help with wade and shallow water activities you can obtain the Nipper Safety Assistant (NSA). Nipper Safety Assistants are qualified to provide water supervision for wading and shallow water activities to the age group appropriate depth. No specific fitness requirements are needed.

Training and Development

Pacific offers a training program led by accredited Surf Sports Coach Patrick Warn. Training is open to any member from U8s and up, including parents who join as Associate Members and want to build fitness or surf skills.



Training sessions are held on different days through the week either at the club or nearby locations such as Tallebudgera Creek or Currumbin Creek. The weekly schedule is posted in advance on the Stack Team App and Club Pacific Facebook page and may change if weather requires it. Members can attend one session or many. Training helps Nippers build confidence, improve fitness and prepare for carnivals if they choose to compete.



Competitions and Carnivals

Pacific runs internal and attends local competitions during the season, including Club Championships and Branch, State and Aussie carnivals. Club Championships help introduce children to surf sport competition in a familiar and supportive setting. Carnivals are optional and are designed to be fun and confidence-building, especially for younger age groups. For older age groups there are also more competitive opportunities, with dates communicated during the season.

EVENTS

SHALLOW WADE (U6 & U7) - Competitors run past a line of parents in the water about knee deep helping them to develop skills for surf racing and water confidence.

WADE (U8+) - Competitors run & dolphin dive through a line of parents in the water about waist deep helping them to develop skills for surf racing and water confidence.

SWIM (U9+) - Competitors sprint into water where they swim around a string line of set cans to the finishing line on the beach. Distance varies depending on age group.

SPRINT (U6+) - Soft sand running 70 metres.

FLAGS (U6+) - Competitors lie on the sand face down, when a whistle is blown, they spring to their feet, turn & sprint to obtain a flag at the other end of a 16-metre arena.

BOARD EVENT (U9+) - Competitors run with their boards from the start line, paddle around a triangle of cans (set in the water at varying lengths depending on their age), to the finish line on the beach.

IRON PERSON (U11+) - Competitors complete a board, swim and run course

Age Groups and Progression

Nippers is designed for children from 5 to 14 years of age. Age groups are based on the month and year a child is born, not the calendar year. Nippers must be 5 years old by 30 September to start in U6. Children turning 5 after that date need to wait until the following season. Knowing the correct age group is important for registration, Sunday activities, pool evaluations and any competition pathways.

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Memberships

How to join, Renew,
Pay fees, Setup family
or Play On options



Junior Membership U6-U7 \$90
Junior Membership U8-U10 \$130
Junior Membership U11-U15 \$150
\$110 Associate Member (Parent)
Family membership * (2 x nippers + 2 x parents; or 3 x nippers + 1 x parent) \$360
Family membership * (1 x nipper + 2 x parents) \$310
Extra Child (Nipper Only) \$50.00

Pacific SLSC is proud to be a Play On! Activity Provider and Play On! Vouchers are accepted towards your child's membership costs.

Play On! is the Queensland Government's initiative empowering kids to be more active, more often. Parents, carers or guardians can apply for Play On! vouchers or find out more by following the link below.

[HTTPS://WWW.SPORT.QLD.GOV.AU/SPORT/FUNDING-PROGRAMS/PLAY-ON](https://www.sport.qld.gov.au/sport/funding-programs/play-on)

Redeeming your Play On! Voucher with us

As the Play On! Voucher can only be used against the child who is named on it, you will need to register each child separately (if more than one).

If you are joining or renewing online, when registering each child please select the appropriate Play On! Age group, when making payment select Transaction Type "Pay by another method". (Do not select "pay by Credit Card").

Complete the membership registration and pay any remaining fees

Once registration is completed you will need to email a copy of the Play On! Voucher to office@pacificslsc.com for processing and redemption.

If you have made an additional payment via direct debit for any remaining fees, please email this receipt to the Office also.

AGE GROUPS

Age Groups & What to Expect

Each age group will have a dedicated Age Manager, or sometimes two, who will guide and support our Nippers throughout the season. These wonderful volunteers help keep the sessions organised, fun and safe, and are there to encourage every child as they build confidence, friendships and surf skills. Parents/ Guardians have the option to move their child down a age group whether it to be with friends or to gain the confidence needed to continue attending The below form must be completed prior to attending nippers.

<https://form.jotform.com/232316598894067>

U6 and U7

The 6/7s have their very own dedicated Nipper Zone on Sundays, where the focus is all about having fun, building water confidence and learning basic beach and surf skills in a safe, supportive environment. Activities are held in waist-deep water, with plenty of encouragement and guidance along the way. Nippers in these age groups will be provided with either a pink or green Noddy cap to help identify them from other Nippers on the beach.

Parent involvement is highly encouraged in these younger age groups through the NSA program, where parents are given the skills and confidence to assist in the water and be part of the action alongside their children. It is a fantastic way to get involved, share the experience, and help create a fun and memorable start to your child's Nipper journey.

U8s

For our U8 Nippers, this is where the real fun begins! This age group focuses on developing skills further and “graduating” to the use of Nipper boards. For the first half of the season, U8s will be required to wear a plain blue Noddy cap while they continue building their confidence and competence in the water. Once they have achieved the required skills, they will be presented with their very first Club Noddy cap and will be ready to hit the waves on full-size Nipper boards.

U8s are also the first age group eligible to attend Carnivals, giving them the exciting opportunity to represent the club and compete against surrounding clubs in a fun, friendly and supportive environment. It is a wonderful milestone in their Nipper journey and a great way to experience the spirit of surf lifesaving.

U9-10s

Our U9 and U10 Nippers continue to build on the skills, confidence and knowledge they have developed throughout their Nipper journey.

These age groups are all about strengthening surf awareness, board skills, swimming ability, teamwork and confidence in the beach environment, while still keeping sessions fun, active and supportive. These are the final years of junior Nippers, helping prepare children for the exciting next step into Senior Nippers. It is a great stage where Nippers start to show more independence, take on new challenges and continue growing their confidence both in and out of the water.

U11-14s

Our U11 to U14 Nippers begin to take their surf lifesaving skills to the next level. Along with continuing to develop their beach, board and water skills, they will also start learning valuable life skills such as CPR, first aid, surf safety and rescue awareness.

As they get older, eligible Nippers will also have the opportunity to complete their Surf Rescue Certificate, often known as the SRC. This is an exciting milestone that allows them to become more involved in surf lifesaving and, once qualified, begin attending beach patrols and contributing to the safety of our beach community.

This stage of Nippers is a fantastic opportunity for young members to build confidence, leadership, responsibility and lifelong skills, all while staying connected with their friends, their club and the surf lifesaving community.

U15s

Our U15s program is an exciting next step for our older Nippers as they continue to grow their skills, fitness and confidence in the surf environment. This program will run on Sundays from 7:00am to 8:15am and will focus on further developing board skills, introducing surf ski skills, and fitness training in a challenging and supportive setting. For our U15s who hold the relevant qualifications, we strongly encourage them to stay on after their session and get involved with the Nipper program by assisting with water safety, mentoring younger Nippers and helping set a positive example on the beach.

This is a fantastic opportunity for our U15s to show leadership, give back to the club and demonstrate what our future Nipper graduates are truly made of. Their involvement not only helps support the next generation of Nippers, but also builds confidence, responsibility and pride in being part of the surf lifesaving community.

Uniform and Equipment

It is required that all Nippers wear a club noddie and pink fluorescent rash shirt while taking part in Nipper activities and training. These items help identify children clearly on the beach and in the water. Club swimmers are available in a range of sizes and styles for boys and girls. While swimmers are not compulsory for general Sunday Nippers, children representing Pacific at carnivals are expected to wear club swimmers.



Storage fees apply for members who keep equipment at the club. Board storage levy is \$30 per item for U9 to U15 and ski storage levy is \$50. Families can ask the team at the BBQ stand or sign-on sessions for help with uniform purchases, swimmer sizing and equipment questions throughout the season.





Communication and Contacts

Pacific communicates with members in a number of ways. SMS is used for weather-related updates on Nippers mornings. Each age group will have a WhatsApp group so Age Managers can share age-group-specific information. The Club Pacific Facebook page provides broader club updates, while the Stack Team App is used for training schedules, competitions and other current information. The club website calendar is also updated regularly.

Safety, Blue Cards and Child Safe Expectations

Pacific SLSC is committed to a safe and supportive environment for all children. Parents must remain present during Nippers, children should only participate in activities under the direction of Age Managers and Water Safety personnel, and all children must complete their pool evaluation before entering the ocean. Families should ensure children understand basic expectations such as staying with their age group and listening for instructions.



Volunteers working in official roles with children need a Blue Card. Pacific's Blue Card process follows SLSQ requirements, including linking your Blue Card to the club and completing required child-safe training through the SLSCA Members Portal. If you plan to help in an official volunteer role, the office can help you understand what is required and how to complete the process.

How to get/ Link my Bluecard

Blue Card Application Process

It is a requirement of Surf Life Saving Australia that all patrolling members 18 years or over, and volunteers working in an official role with children, must hold a current Blue Card; Queensland's 'Working with children' check.

If you do not have a current Blue Card, or you need to renew
Visit the Blue Card Online Application Portal

<https://my.bluecard.qld.gov.au/login>.

Please have a QLD Drivers Licence or Customer Reference Number on hand.

Once you have started your application, you will be sent an email asking to link to your Volunteer Organisation. Complete this form and include the number given to you by Blue Card Services to be linked to Pacific.

<https://form.jotform.com/252079401130041>

SLSQ will then link your application to our club. Wait to receive an updated email from Blue Card Services to then complete your application.

What if I already have a Blue Card?

If you already have a Blue Card, please complete this form to send the details to SLSQ to link to Pacific SLSC QLD.

<https://form.jotform.com/252079401130041>

As a teacher/police officer, can I get an Exemption?

Yes, but you must apply for an Exemption Blue Card.

Registered teachers and police officers remain exempt from requiring a Blue Card as part of their professional duties. However, when providing services which fall outside of these duties, visit your Blue Card Portal and apply for an exemption Blue Card

<https://my.bluecard.qld.gov.au/login>

Then asked to be linked to Pacific SLSC Qld using the same survey as above.

Now that I have my Blue Card, do I need to do anything else?

Yes please. Just a little bit of online training.

All organisations falling within the scope of the blue card system are required to develop and implement a Child and Youth Risk Management Strategy (CYRMS) which addresses eight minimum requirements. The SLSQ CYRM Induction Training is required to be undertaken by every member who holds a Blue Card and be updated in line with Blue Card renewal. The training is conducted online and takes approximately 20 minutes.

How do I complete the training?

Login to your SLSA Members Portal, select 'e-learning'. Tip: when you click eLearning for the first time this season from your Members Portal, you will be asked to log in again.

Use your Members Portal login details – this will take you to the new SLSQ Hub.

You will see some Green and Red circles.

- Click on the 'CYRMS' circle to complete the Child and Youth Risk Management strategies training.
 - Click on the 'CSA' circle to complete the Child Safe Awareness training.
- Both courses should take less than 20 minutes combined to complete.

If you require any help, please contact our Office.

Getting Started Checklist



1. Join or renew online at hub.sls.com.au
2. Confirm your child's correct age group
3. Complete pool evaluation before ocean participation
4. Purchase noddy and pink rash shirt
5. Join your age group WhatsApp and download Stack Team App
6. Check communications before Week 1
7. Arrive early (to save the heartache of finding a carpark) Meet your age manager under your age flag to sign on.
8. Stay present during the session and sign off at the end with your age manager

CONTACT US

We're so excited to welcome you to the Nipper program!
If you have any questions, ideas, or concerns along the way, please don't hesitate to reach out to our friendly team. We're here to help, support, and make sure every Nipper has a fun, safe, and memorable season!

Surf Club

Pacific SLSC
Office: 5535 0350

Office hours: Mon & Thu 8:30am–2:30pm
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Nippers

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