



JUNIOR PARENT HANDBOOK
2023/24

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1. WELCOME

Welcome to the Somerton Surf Life Saving Club. This handbook contains information regarding our Nippers training program, procedures, and policies.

If you have any questions about the junior program, please contact either the Junior Coordinator or Junior Administrator:

- juniorcoordinator@somertonsurfclub.com.au
- junioradmin@somertonsurfclub.com.au

If you have any concerns related to child safety, please refer to section 10.5 and contact:

- memberprotection@somertonsurfclub.com.au

Please visit the Club web site somertonsurfclub.com.au for latest details about the Board of Management and Junior Committee members.

We look forward to sharing a fun and successful season with you and your children!

2. AIMS

At Somerton Surf Life Saving Club we focus on having fun, teaching, enhancing skills and emphasising community awareness. We aim to ensure that Somerton beach is a safe place to swim; to prevent the loss of life and to develop and educate our youth.

The vision for our Nippers Program is to provide a safe, friendly and welcoming environment where both Nippers and parents can learn about surf life saving and to prepare our Nippers to eventually be patrolling members of our Club.

The aims of the Nippers Program are to:

- Develop surf awareness;
- Increase confidence and skills in beach related activities;
- Offer training to those wanting to pursue competition or awards;
- Instil and re-enforce sun smart philosophies;
- Encourage enjoyable and healthy participation;
- Progress members towards surf awards for relevant age groups;
- Promote a positive non-threatening environment; and
- Meet new friends.

3. ABOUT THE NIPPER PROGRAM

The Nippers Program provides a fun way for children to enjoy the beach in a safe environment. It is also educational as the children participate in the Surf Life Saving Australia Junior Development Program, a sequential program of skills and surf understanding.

Surf life saving is an amazing activity for developing a child's confidence, knowledge, and skills in the beach environment. The Nipper program at Somerton is run by a group of dedicated volunteers including members of the Junior Committee, Age Group Managers (AGMs), water cover personnel and coaches.

3.1. Age Groups

To join the Nipper program your child needs to be 5 years of age at any time during the season. The Nipper program accommodates age groups from under 6 to under 13. A youth program runs for under 14 and above.

Age groups are determined by age on the 30th September each year. Each age group wears a coloured cap which they keep each year until they finish the Nipper program after Under 13 (Section 5.3).

We encourage all children to participate in their correct age group to ensure that they can fully engage with the opportunities that our program provides, which includes achieving surf education awards (Section 7), participating in carnivals and being eligible for Club-based Awards (Section 13).

On occasion, parents may request that their child participates with a group that is outside of their child's age. Such requests are approved at the discretion of the Junior Committee and consider a child's physical, intellectual, and emotional development. Generally, friendship requests are not considered a suitable reason.

Age Group	Cap Colour	Date of Birth
Under 6	Fluorescent green	1 st Oct 2017 to 30 th Sept 2018
Under 7	Fluorescent yellow	1 st Oct 2016 to 30 th Sept 2017
Under 8	Sky blue	1 st Oct 2015 to 30 th Sept 2016
Under 9	White	1 st Oct 2014 to 30 th Sept 2015
Under 10	Purple	1 st Oct 2013 to 30 th Sept 2014
Under 11	Green	1 st Oct 2012 to 30 th Sept 2013
Under 12	Red	1 st Oct 2011 to 30 th Sept 2012
Under 13	Deep blue	1 st Oct 2010 to 30 th Sept 2011

3.2. Registration and Records

All new members must complete a Registration Form. Details of approved applicants are entered on the National database, Surf Guard.

Parents of children with **pre-existing medical and/or behavioural concerns must inform their child's AGM** as soon as possible, to ensure that they are fully aware of the issues and how to manage a situation if it arises. Parents must always remain with their child's age group in case of any emergencies. (Please remember to bring asthma inhalers, Epi-pens, etc to the beach if required.)

3.3. Number of Participants in the Nipper Program

The number of Nippers participating in any given age group shall be at the absolute discretion of the Junior Coordinator, the Junior Committee and the Board of Management. Membership and participation may be restricted so that each age group can maintain a healthy, manageable, and safe level of participation.

3.4. Special Requirements for under 6 and under 7 Age Groups.

The emphasis in these age groups is to allow for Nippers to have fun and experience a small taste of surf lifesaving. They will participate in a range of beach activities and will also be introduced to life saving equipment such as foam boards, Inflatable Rescue Boats (IRB's) and rescue tubes.

Under 6 and under 7s may participate in shallow water activities only. They will be introduced to boards (in shallow water) at the discretion of their AGM.

Under 6 and 7s may not under any circumstances participate in Junior State Carnivals or other formal competition outside the Club.

Participation in the Nippers program is subject to the following non-negotiable conditions:

- Having completed a registration form for the child prior to participating; and
- The child being at least 5 years of age at the time of enrolment; and
- A parent/guardian remaining on the beach and assisting the AGMs when requested and as required (except where a parent(s) is involved as an AGM with another group, is on General Life Saving Patrol or is performing another Active Member role); and
- Wearing a Club-branded fluorescent yellow high visibility rash shirt; and
- At least one parent MUST be a current registered member of the Club (as defined in the Club's Constitution).

3.5. Swimming Policy

Being able to swim competently is an integral part of making children safe at the beach as well as allowing them to actively participate and enjoy surf life saving activities.

THE NIPPERS PROGRAM IS NOT A "LEARN TO SWIM" PROGRAM. We strongly encourage you to enrol your children in "learn to swim" classes depending on their current ability.

We do recognise that swimming in the sea is a new experience for many children and that even competent pool swimmers can find this challenging at first. Our aim is to encourage children and to help develop their confidence and skills swimming in the sea as well as provide surf education.

3.6. Compulsory Skills Assessments

Many activities are conducted in the water. To ensure that all Nippers have a suitable swimming ability to allow them to participate in these activities, Surf Life Saving Australia has developed a Junior Skills Evaluation for each age group. **These consist of two different assessments, and one cannot be used to qualify a child for the other requirement.**

PRELIMINARY evaluation: Every Nipper must participate in the Preliminary Skills Evaluation, conducted by us, prior to participating in any deep water activity training at the Club. The Preliminary Skills Evaluation consists of a swim and a float which is progressively increased by age group and must be achieved before the Nipper may undertake any deep water related activities (such as boards and swim) at the Club. This assessment assists AGMs to understand each child's level of confidence and capability, and plan for appropriate water cover.

As under 6 and 7 Nippers do not participate in deep water activities, their preliminary evaluation will be conducted during the season when weather conditions are favorable.

Assessments for under 8-13 are conducted at the beginning of each season. **For Season 2023/24, preliminary evaluations for under 8-13 are being held at Westminster pool (FREE ENTRY) on Saturday October 14th from 11:30am-1:00pm.** To spread children across the session, families are asked to attend between the following times:

- Surname A-M: 11:30-12:15pm
- Surname N-Z: 12:15-1:00pm

If your child misses this assessment, they will be assessed at a subsequent Saturday training session in the sea.

It can take time to develop confidence and competency in open water swimming. Consequently, we strongly encourage Nippers to complete their preliminary evaluation in the pool as this will give children the opportunity to participate in deep water activities early in the season.

COMPETITION evaluation: If the Nipper shows successful demonstration of the Preliminary Skills Evaluation a second assessment known as the Competition Evaluation is conducted. This assesses the Nipper for participation in water related events in competitions/carnivals (under 8 and above). The Competition Evaluation involves an open water swim of varying distances. This is a compulsory assessment for Nippers who wish to compete in water events at Junior State Carnivals (under 8 - 13).

This assessment will be conducted at the beginning of the Nipper season, subject to weather conditions. If your child misses this assessment they will be assessed at a subsequent training. Nippers are given many opportunities to pass this assessment during the season.

Important Note: All under 8-13 Nippers must pass the **preliminary** evaluation to compete in beach events at Junior State Carnivals. They must also pass the **competition** evaluation to compete in water events at Junior State Carnivals.

The Preliminary and Competition age level skill evaluations are summarised in the following table:

UNDER 6 and 7

PRELIMINARY EVALUATION Approximate depth of safe aquatic environment – 1 metre		COMPETITION SKILLS EVALUATION
Floatation	Back or front float for minimum 5 seconds, recover to stand	Nil <i>(as Under 6 & 7 nippers do not participate in inter-club competition)</i>
Submersion	Submerge to retrieve object from bottom of water with hands (eg. dive ring)	
Propulsion	Push and glide from wall/sand, recover to stand U6 = 1-2 metre distance; U7 = 2-3 metre distance	
CONTINUOUS SKILL SEQUENCE		
Wade through water for 5 metres then float (on back or front) for 5 seconds then recover to stand, submerge to retrieve object from bottom of water with hands, recover to stand		

UNDER 8

PRELIMINARY EVALUATION Minimum depth of safe aquatic environment – 1 metre		COMPETITION SKILLS EVALUATION
Floatation	Back or front float for minimum 5 seconds, recover to stand	Minimum 150m open water swim (any recognised stroke)
Submersion	Submerge to retrieve object from bottom of water with hands (eg. dive ring)	
Propulsion	Swim on front (any stroke) for 20 metres followed by swim underwater for 2-3 metres	
CONTINUOUS SKILL SEQUENCE		
Swim on front through water (any stroke) for 20 metres, followed by back or front float (5 seconds) followed by submerge to retrieve object from bottom of water with hands (do not recover to stand in between each task)		

UNDER 9

PRELIMINARY EVALUATION Minimum depth of safe aquatic environment – 1.5 metres		COMPETITION SKILLS EVALUATION
Floatation	Front to back float or back to front float – 5 seconds each side Tread water and/or sculling for minimum 1 minute	Minimum 150m open water swim (any recognised stroke)
Submersion	Submerge to retrieve object from bottom of water with hands (eg. dive ring)	
Propulsion	Survival stroke(s), breaststroke and/or sidestroke and/or back sculling, for minimum 50 metres	
CONTINUOUS SKILL SEQUENCE		
Swim on front through water using combination of breaststroke, sidestroke, freestyle for 50 metres, followed by tread water and/or sculling for minimum 1 minute, followed by submerge to retrieve object from bottom of water with hands (do not recover to stand in between each task)		

UNDER 10

PRELIMINARY EVALUATION Minimum depth of safe aquatic environment – 1.5 metres		COMPETITION SKILLS EVALUATION
Floatation	Front to back float or back to front float – 5 seconds each side Tread water and/or sculling for minimum 1 minute	Minimum 150m open water swim (any recognised stroke)
Submersion	Submerge to retrieve object from bottom of water with hands (eg. dive ring)	
Propulsion	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	
CONTINUOUS SKILL SEQUENCE		
Swim on front through water using combination of breaststroke, sidestroke, freestyle for 50 metres, followed by tread water and/or sculling for minimum 1 minute, followed by submerge to retrieve object from bottom of water with hands (do not recover to stand in between each task)		

UNDER 11

PRELIMINARY EVALUATION Minimum depth of safe aquatic environment – 1.5 metres		COMPETITION SKILLS EVALUATION
Floatation	Front to back float or back to front float – 5 seconds each side Tread water and/or sculling for minimum 2 minutes	Minimum 250m open water swim (any recognised stroke)
Submersion	Submerge to perform forward or backward roll/somersault underwater, recover to surface, retrieve object from bottom of water with hands (eg. dive ring)	
Propulsion	Swim on front through water any stroke for 50 metres followed by survival stroke(s), breaststroke and/ or sidestroke and/or back sculling, for minimum 50 metres	
CONTINUOUS SKILL SEQUENCE		
Swim on front through water using combination of breaststroke, sidestroke, freestyle for 50 metres, followed by tread water and/or sculling for minimum 2 minutes, followed by submerge to retrieve object from bottom of water with hands (do not recover to stand in between each task)		

UNDER 12 and 13

PRELIMINARY EVALUATION Minimum depth of safe aquatic environment – 1.8 metres		COMPETITION SKILLS EVALUATION
Floatation	Front to back float or back to front float – 5 seconds each side Tread water and/or sculling for minimum 3 minutes	Minimum 250m open water swim (any recognised stroke)
Submersion	Submerge to perform forward or backward roll/ somersault underwater, recover to surface, retrieve object from bottom of water with hands (eg. dive ring)	
Propulsion	Swim on front through water any stroke for 100 metres followed by survival stroke(s) breaststroke and/or sidestroke for minimum 50 metres	
CONTINUOUS SKILL SEQUENCE		
Swim on front through water using combination of breaststroke, sidestroke, freestyle for 100 metres, followed by tread water and/or sculling for minimum 3 minutes, followed by submerge to retrieve object from bottom of water with hands (do not recover to stand in between each task)		

4. AGE GROUP MANAGERS (AGMs)

All age groups will be allocated AGMs who are parents or interested members, who have volunteered to manage the age group. They are responsible for the coordination of activities on Saturday afternoons along with overseeing event entries and activities at Carnivals and State Championships.

4.1. Qualifications of AGMs

All AGMs must:

- Be current registered members of the Club; and
- Have a current National Police Clearance certificate or DCSI Clearance; and
- Be a minimum 15 years of age; and
- Complete the Age Managers Course; and
- Complete the online Child Safe Course

We also encourage AGMs to gain their Bronze Medallion or Surf Rescue Certificate.

The responsibilities of AGMs may be interchangeable with other interested parents who are willing to participate and assist the AGMs. We are always looking for new parents to be AGMs (up to 5 per group) and strongly encourage any interested person to speak to the Junior Coordinator or a member of the Junior Committee.

5. SATURDAY NIPPER TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

5.1. Times

U8-13

Parents and Nippers should **arrive at the Club by 1:45pm for a parent briefing and to sign their child in. This is an essential safety requirement.**

Nipper activities for this age group run from 2:00 pm to 4:00pm

U6 & 7

Parents and Nippers should **arrive at the Club by 2:15pm for a parent briefing and to sign their child in. This is an essential safety requirement.**

Nipper activities for this age group run from 2.30pm to 3:30pm (can be extended at discretion of AGMs)

Parents/carers are also required to sign their child(ren) out at the end of Nippers. This will enable us to account for all Nippers on the beach.

The Club is not a child-minding service, and **it is a requirement of Surf Lifesaving Australia that at least one parent/carer is always on the beach with their child/children.**

Please advise the Junior Coordinator or your child's AGM if your child's designated guardian/carer will not be present.

The following table provides a timeline for the Saturday Nipper program.

TIME	ACTIVITY	Comments
1.15pm	Beach Set Up	Parents of a different age group are rostered each week
1.40pm	AGM Briefing	AGMs to meet with Junior Coordinator for pre-training briefing
1.45pm	Short information session for under 8-13 Nippers and parents.	On the beach
2.00pm	Warm Up	
2.00pm	Under 8-13 move to first activity	
2:15pm	Under 6 & 7 arrive and sign-in	Parent briefing by AGM
2:30pm	Under 6 & 7 move to first activity	
3.30pm	Under 6 & 7 conclude and sign out	
4.00pm	Under 8-13 activities conclude and sign out. Beach pack up, all equipment cleaned and stowed	All parents to assist with pack up Stay for BBQ and a drink at the Club
4.15pm	Club Swim (approximately 400 metres) - Seniors and competent juniors	Assemble at the top of the ramp outside the Club

5.2. Uniform and Equipment

Your child will need the following items each week:

- Bathers
- Fluorescent yellow or pink visibility vest (Under 8-13) OR fluorescent yellow visibility rash shirt (Under 6 and 7)
- Age group coloured cap
- Long sleeve shirt (Club-branded green shirt preferred. Required when representing the Club at competitions – section 12)
- Wide brim or bucket style hat or legionnaire style cap
- Goggles
- Towel
- Water bottle (filled with water only)
- Recommended: Wetsuit and clothes for after training (optional for colder days)

High visibility vests/rash shirts, bathers, and caps are available for purchase at the Club on Saturdays. *Please label all belongings.*

Other Club merchandise can be purchase through the online Club portal, including hats, t-shirts, hoodies, jackets, and bags. Opening and closing dates for the portal are regularly communicated via email and through the Clubs closed Facebook page.

5.3. Age Group (Coloured) Cap and Competition Cap

All Nippers **must** wear a coloured cap that identifies them with an age group. This assists AGMs in identifying those Nippers in their age group and assists you in locating an age group on the beach. If your child competes at carnivals, you will need to purchase a Somerton Competition Cap (green/black/white). These caps can be purchased at the Club.

5.4. High Visibility Vests (Under 8-13) and Rash shirts ((Under 6 and 7)

All children who enter the water from under 8 upwards **must** wear a fluorescent yellow or pink high visibility vest. This is essential for the child's safety as well as to help water cover identify swimmers. A child without a vest will not be allowed to enter the water.

All children in the under 6 and 7 age group **must** wear a Club-branded fluorescent yellow rash shirt. As children in this age group frequently move away from the main group, this is essential for the child's safety and enables easy identification by AGMs (and other Club members) on the beach.

5.1. Board Usage

During Saturday afternoon trainings, under 8 – U10 age groups use foam boards only. Fibreglass boards may be used by under 11-13 age groups at the discretion of the relevant AGMs. Fibreglass boards may be used by U11 and above age groups during weekday training at the discretion of the Boards Coach.

All children in the U11 and above age groups must have achieved a certificate of completion for the 'fibreglass board handling course' prior to using Club fibreglass boards. This certificate confirms that the user has been trained in, and can demonstrate, correct handling and care of a fibreglass board.

5.1. Come 'n Try Program

Come 'n Try sessions are designed to introduce children new to the sport to a range of Nipper activities. Children can participate in two sessions at no cost during October-December. Depending on the schedule of activities during the season, a Come 'n Try session may not run on some weeks. These dates will be determined at the start of the season.

Parents must complete a Waiver prior to their child participating in these sessions.

Children who are eligible for under 6-8 will join their age group for both sessions and take part in beach and shallow water activities. Older children (under 9-13) will first join a specific Come 'n Try group to assess their confidence in the water and be introduced to key skills in a slower paced environment. The second session will be completed with their age-group. If only a small number of older children attend a Come n' Try session on a given Saturday, their first session may be with their age group.

Children will be provided with a high visibility vest or cap which must be returned at the end of the session.

It is a requirement of Surf Lifesaving Australia that at least one parent/carer is always on the beach with their child/children. This is not a "drop and go" session.

5.2. Sunscreen

It is a parent's responsibility to ensure that their child is always covered with protective sunscreen during the program.

5.3. Hot Weather Policy

Saturday Training: If the forecast temperature is 38°C or higher, junior activities will usually be held as a modified program that is based on water activities. We have found that training is possible in high heat if a sensible approach is adopted, shade and additional water is provided, and the training is water based. However, attendance is discretionary, and parents should decide whether their child attends. Parents should monitor the Club's communication channels (SMS, email, and Facebook) for information updates. In some circumstances training may be cancelled at the discretion of the Junior Coordinator.

Carnivals: For high temperatures, a modified carnival may be run (e.g. 8am start with no beach events). The decision to modify or cancel is up to the discretion of the carnival referee on the day.

5.4. Inclement Weather Policy

Inclement weather shall be deemed as low temperatures, high winds, high seas or poor water quality. The junior activities training program will be modified depending on the conditions (in adopting our duty of care) or may be cancelled. The decision to cancel junior activities will be the responsibility of the Junior Coordinator and/or the on-duty Patrol Captain. Where possible notification will be sent via the Club's communication channels (SMS and Facebook).

5.5. Photographs of Training and Carnivals

Please be mindful of the privacy and cultural values of other members when taking photographs.

Photographs of children competing at carnivals can only be taken by the pre-nominated volunteer Club photographer. The Club will post photographs of carnivals and some training sessions and events on our closed Facebook site.

If you have concerns regarding someone taking photographs of children at the beach, please advise a Club representative.

5.6. Toilets, Change Rooms and Showers

Change rooms, toilets and showers are available for all Club members. The facilities are not for the use of the general public. These areas are not supervised. They are located along the corridor that is behind the gymnasium.

Children aged 6 and above should use the appropriate change room for their sex.



THE USE OF CAMERAS, VIDEOS
AND CAMERA PHONES
ARE NOT PERMITTED
IN THE CHANGE ROOMS.



6. ADDITIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

The Club provides additional training opportunities for Nippers who want to improve their skills and fitness. These are scheduled based on the availability of volunteers to coach and water safety personnel (no water cover, no training). Training times are set at the start of the season and communicated via Club channels once confirmed (Facebook, website).

Please monitor these channels for any alterations to the schedule due to coach availability or weather.

The Club runs a swimming program on Tuesday nights. This is designed to build the aerobic fitness of competent swimmers (i.e. not "learn-to-swim").

Our mid-week Nipper training "No Guts No Glory" (NGNG) is on Wednesday nights. NGNG training is squad based and introduces Nippers to Iron-person training (swim/board/run). It is designed for carnival competitors who can complete multiple 200m circuits in the iron person format (200m swim, 200m board, 200m run – multiple times).

Board training for U8 upwards runs on Friday nights.

Additional opportunities are available for U11-13 beach (sprints, flags) and water (iron) competitors to train with senior athletes on Saturdays, prior to Nippers. Nippers wishing to participate in these sessions must confirm their suitability with the senior coaches. Nippers must meet behaviour expectations as set by senior coaches (i.e. arrive on time, maximum effort, attentive)

As per Saturday Nippers training, all children participating in water activities must wear a fluorescent visibility vest – **no vest, no training as per SLSA rules.**

Parents should attend mid-week trainings or arrange for suitable adult supervision of their child(ren). These are not drop and run sessions and water cover/coaches do not have capacity to manage children who decide to stop training early. A responsible adult must be available immediately in case a child is injured.

Enquiries about additional trainings can be directed to the Junior Coordinator.

7. SURF EDUCATION AWARDS

Surf Life Saving Australia has developed a comprehensive training program for Nippers. The content is tailored to each age group and except for the Surf Rescue Certificate (SRC), the program is based on participatory evaluation and not assessed on competence. In other words, Nippers need only be actively involved in the training to be eligible for an award. We believe this is the best way to introduce children to surf life saving where fun takes priority over being 'tested'.

There is a surf education award for each age group (refer to table below which lists the award for each age group). Education modules are completed throughout the season, so regular attendance is encouraged to ensure that Nippers complete their Award.

Nippers must attain these Awards to be eligible to participate in the Junior State Championships (see section 12.3).

The SRC is the introductory award for patrolling members of the club. This is usually obtained as an U14 member and **does** require assessment which includes:

- Written or oral examination
- Performance of basic skills
- Simulation of rescue scenarios

Our goal is for all Nippers to go on and complete their SRC and become patrolling members.

Please refer to the SLSSA website for a summary of each award listed in the table below. (<https://www.surflifesavingsa.com.au/Nipper-program-resources>).

Age Group	Surf Education
Under 6	Surf Play 1
Under 7	Surf Play 2
Under 8	Surf Aware 1
Under 9	Surf Aware 2
Under 10	Surf Safe 1
Under 11	Surf Safe 2
Under 12	Surf Smart 1
Under 13	Surf Smart 2
Under 14	Surf Rescue Certificate

8. PARENT INVOLVEMENT

As parents, you have an important role in the delivery and support of sporting activities for your children. We encourage you to share the experiences of the Nippers Program with your children, especially with the younger age groups.

We **welcome involvement** within all aspects of the Club. This may include gaining various qualifications to assist in providing water cover, coaching specific disciplines, officiating, assisting with general administration and participating in social and fundraising activities.

We need help every week with the following activities and you will be rostered to assist with some of these:

- Setting up the beach 45 minutes before training This responsibility is shared among age groups who are rostered to do this each Saturday across the season.
- Assisting with "sign in" and "sign out" on Saturdays
- Washing boards at the end of training
- Assisting with packing up beach equipment at the end of training
- Assisting or becoming an AGM
- Assisting with fundraising activities
- Assisting with the BBQ on Saturdays
- Volunteering in the Buddy Bar – food sales
- Assisting with water safety (by first gaining a Surf Rescue Certificate (SRC) or Bronze Medallion)
- Becoming an Official to assist at carnivals (short training courses are provided by Surf Life Saving SA)
- Sponsorship of Junior Equipment such as boards

9. PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

It is important that you **NEVER** leave your child **unattended** at Nippers. If a child is left unattended, we may exclude that child from future participation in the program.

A parent/guardian must remain on the beach and assist the AGMs when requested and as required (except where a parent(s) is involved as an AGM with another group, is on General Life Saving Patrol or is performing another Active Member role).

As parents, you always have a responsibility to act in a constructive and encouraging manner.

10. BEHAVIOUR CODES

We have adopted the following codes of behaviour for all participants in the Nipper program, this includes parents/caregivers, spectators, Nippers, AGMs and coaches:

Parents, Caregivers & Spectators' Code of Behaviour

- Remember that children participate in sport for their enjoyment and development.
- Encourage children to participate, do not force them.
- Focus on the child's efforts.
- Encourage children to play according to the rules and settle disagreements without resorting to hostility or violence.
- Never ridicule or yell at a child.
- Appreciate good performances by all participants.
- Respect officials' decisions.
- Show appreciation for coaches, age managers, officials and administrators.
- Respect the rights and dignity of others.

Junior Member Code of Behaviour

Please take time to discuss this code of behaviour with your child:

- Play by the rules.
- Do not argue with an official.
- Control your temper.
- Work hard for yourself and your team.
- Treat all participants as you would like to be treated.
- Cooperate with your coach, AGM, teammates and opponents.
- Participate for your own enjoyment.
- Respect the rights and dignity of all other participants.
- Respect the equipment you use.
- Respect the Club house.
- Be a good sport and applaud all performances.

Coaches/Officials' Code of Behaviour

- Remember that young people participate for pleasure and winning is only part of the fun.
- Never ridicule or yell at a young competitor for making a mistake or not coming first.
- Be reasonable in your demands on a competitor's time, energy and enthusiasm.
- Operate within the rules and spirit of surf life saving and teach your competitors to do the same.
- Ensure that the time competitors spend with you is a positive experience. All young people are deserving of equal attention and opportunities.
- Afford all competitors equal time.
- Ensure that equipment and facilities meet the safety standards and are appropriate to the age and ability of all competitors.
- Display control, respect and professionalism to all involved with surf life saving. This includes opponents, coaches, officials, administrators, the media, parents and spectators. Encourage competitors to do the same.
- Show concern and caution toward sick and injured competitors. Follow the advice of a physician when determining whether an injured player is ready to recommence training or competition.
- Obtain appropriate qualifications and keep up to date with the latest coaching practices and the principles of growth and development of young people.
- Any physical contact with a young person should be appropriate to the situation and necessary for the competitor's skill development.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Treat each competitor as an individual. Respect the talent, development stage and goals of each competitor, and help each competitor reach their full potential.
- Don't interfere with the progress and/or conduct of competition unless called to do so by another official.
- Abide by the officials' decisions.

By joining Somerton Surf Life Saving Club you acknowledge and accept these codes of behaviour.

11. SAFETY

Safety is our priority for all activities. Safety extends to safety on the beach, in the water, and also gives consideration to the protection of all children.

11.1. Beach Safety

We aim to teach children about all aspects of surf/beach safety, including sun protection. We encourage all participants and spectators to follow these procedures:

- Regularly drink water
- Seek shade wherever possible
- Wear a long sleeve top
- Wear a wide brimmed hat, bucket style hat or legionnaire style cap to protect face, ears and back of neck
- Use a maximum protection broad spectrum sunscreen (at least SPF 30+) even on overcast days and re-apply after water activities
- Slip, Slop, Slap and Wrap.

11.2. Water Safety

We endorse the guidelines laid down by Surf Life Saving Australia (which can be found on our website). An Inflatable Rescue Boat (IRB or "duck") is present during all water events, but we need as many qualified parents as possible to assist in the water to accompany the children during water activities.

We cannot commence any race or activity unless there is the correct number of water safety personnel. The minimum ratio for water cover for Nippers is one qualified adult to 10 children (1:10), however this ratio changes depending upon weather conditions. For less competent swimmers (such as younger age Nippers) this ratio is one qualified adult to 5 children (1:5).

To be qualified for water safety at a 1:5 or 1:10 ratio, you need to hold a Bronze Medallion or Surf Rescue Certificate. Parents can also become a Water Safety Assistant which enables them to provide cover for children under 10 at a ratio of 1:3. This is a great way to become involved with your children and we appreciate any assistance. We run courses periodically so please contact us if you are interested.

Please note that parents are not to accompany children in the water unless they have achieved their Bronze Medallion or Surf Rescue Certificate (SRC) and are wearing a high visibility cap or top.

All Bronze and SRC water safety personnel must wear a fluorescent orange cap or shirt during water activities. Water Safety Assistants must wear a fluorescent green cap or shirt. These are provided by the Club.

All personnel must sign the Water Cover Log Book on each occasion that they provide cover.

Please note: As there is no water cover provided before 2.00pm on Saturdays, no children will be allowed to take Club boards into the water. Children who go into the water prior to 2.00pm and after they are signed out are under the supervision of their parent/guardian.

11.3. Dangerous Conditions

Dangerous conditions will include:

- Extreme low or extreme high weather temperatures; or
- High or strong winds; or
- Rough or dangerous seas; or
- Any other condition which causes concern for the safe participation of all members.

It should be assumed that Saturday training will proceed regardless of the inclement conditions but that such activities will be modified to take account of those conditions and to ensure the safe participation of all members.

In the rare event that it is deemed necessary to cancel training this will be at the sole discretion of the Junior Coordinator and/or the on-duty Patrol Captain. In such a case the Coordinator or Patrol Captain will advise parents and/or guardians of the cancellation as soon as practicable by SMS and email. Notification of any cancellation will also be posted on our website. If unsure it is advisable to check our web-site before leaving home.

11.4. Medical Conditions

Please advise your child's Age Group Manager if your child has a medical condition that you think is relevant or could affect your child's safety e.g. Asthma, severe allergies etc.

11.5. Member Protection

Somerton Surf Life Saving Club is committed to the protection of all members.

The Club abides by the Surf Life Saving Australia Member Protection Policy: SLSA Member Protection Policy 6.05

Safeguarding Children and Young People

Surf Life Saving's 'Safeguarding Children and Young People Program' has been designed to support clubs and members to minimise the risk of harm to children and young people involved in Surf Life Saving.

All volunteers working with children are required to complete an online awareness course as well as a face to face facilitated program based around their responsibility in mandatory reporting and ensuring that the Club complies with all aspects of the Safe Guarding Children and Young Person program.

The Safeguarding Children Training Program has been designed to provide:

- an awareness of child abuse & child protection
- an understanding of responsibilities for reporting
- the strategies and confidence to take action to prevent abuse

For more information about the program, click on the following link: <https://www.surflifesavingsa.com.au/member-protection>

Each club has had carefully selected members complete a Child Safe Officer in Recreation and Sport course. These members are called Child Safe Officers.

If you, as a parent, member, or AGM, have the slightest concern about any of the children you see at Nippers, then you are encouraged to speak to one of our **Child Safe Officers** (somertonsurfclub.com.au/wp/Nipper-safe/)

The abuse could be:

- **Physical**– a physical injury resulting from practices such as hitting, punching, beating or otherwise harming the child/young person
- **Emotional**– damage to a child's self-esteem or social competence through chronic negative behaviour directed at them
- **Carnal**– when someone in a position of power to the child or young person uses their power to involve the child/young person in a molestation activity of any nature
- **Neglect**– failing to provide for the child/young person's basic needs, including safety

All reports are STRICTLY Confidential.

The Board of Management of the Somerton Surf Life Saving Club encourages everyone to report any suspicion of child abuse either to the Child Abuse Report Line direct on 13 14 78 or to one of the Child Safe Officers listed above.

All volunteers are mandated by LAW to report.

Working with Children Checks (WWCC)

For all those who wish to be involved in the training, management or care of these children you have to be a member and complete a Working with Children check – this is to protect our children.

To apply for a WWCC please email; memberprotection@somertonsurfclub.com.au and the Club can arrange one free of charge for any active volunteers working with children.

For more information about the screening please go to: <https://screening.sa.gov.au/>

11.6. COVID-19

The COVID 19 pandemic has led to the implementation of several changes to the way we run training at Somerton. The Club abides by relevant State and Federal Laws, and when required specific COVID related directives are implemented. These measures are taken to ensure the safety of all Nippers and parents. Plans are made available on site at the Club and also communicated via the weekly Nipper email, as required.

When implemented, it is important that all members abide by the procedures outlined. This is especially important because Nipper activities are conducted in full public view and any breaches can be captured by a passing member of the public, potentially causing reputational damage to the Somerton Surf Club through negative media attention or a fine imposed on the Club.

12. COMPETITION & CARNIVALS

12.1. Informal Competition

Each Saturday we encourage all Nippers to achieve, do their best, and develop to their full potential, whilst having fun. Challenging competition is just one element of this development process. The Club will hold up to three Club Championship days during the season in which Nippers gain practice in competing with their peers within the Club.

12.2. Interclub Training (Branch Carnivals)

The Club will hold interclub training days or "Branch Carnivals" with our neighbouring clubs. These are fun training events and allow our juniors to train with local children from other clubs.

12.3. Formal competition – Junior State Carnivals

Nippers in **under 8-13** participate in Junior State carnivals. Depending on the season there are 2 to 4 Junior Carnivals, followed by Junior State Championships. These are open to all clubs and run by SLSSA. Dates for each carnival are set by SLSSA at the start of each season. These will be communicated to Nippers via email and Facebook, and are published on the SLSSA website: <https://www.surflifesavingsa.com.au/calendar>

Eligibility, Division Allocation and Team Selection

While carnival attendance is not compulsory, we encourage all Nippers to participate as Junior State Carnivals are a great way for Nippers to practice their skills in a friendly atmosphere.

Eligible Nippers (see below re proficiency requirements) are placed into divisions, so they compete against children of similar capability. Divisional allocation is partly determined by SLSSA who advise Clubs on the distribution of children based on number of Club entries (e.g. suggested distribution for 9 boys in under 10 is 3 x Division 1, 3 x Division 2, and 3 x Division 3).

As outlined in Section 3, Nippers must have successfully completed the preliminary evaluation to compete in beach events at carnivals, and their Competition Evaluation to compete in water events. In previous years, the competition evaluation swim has been a timed event, however the timed element has been removed. To ensure capability of completing the competition course in a reasonable time, AGMs will monitor performance over the season and advise on suitability for entry in water-based competition events.

As part of our commitment towards developing our Nippers, we engage specialist coaches to help train and develop those Nippers who compete at Junior State Carnivals.

Our commitment to formal competition is to field our "A" Teams in Division 1 with Nippers who exhibit high performance and commitment to the Club. We select those Nippers based on their individual performance, participation in Club mid-week trainings, as well as contribution to the team. We also consider the conditions, the course, and the physical and emotional state of each Nipper on the day of the Carnival. Our AGMs and specialist coaches are responsible for allocating nippers to divisions and selecting the teams. Please respect and support their decisions.

Fees

There is a small entry fee paid to SLSSA to participate. Payment should be finalised at least one week before the carnival (no payment, no entry). Payment cannot be made on the day.

Carnival format

Generally, Nippers must report to their AGM in the Somerton tent by 7.00 am. It is important to arrive on time as assistance is needed with unloading boards from the competition trailer and setting up the club tents. Most events usually start at 8:00am with marshalling prior to this. Communications will be released before each carnival that confirm the specific arrangements for the day. Nippers must stay with their AGMs for the duration of the Carnival.

Uniform

A team culture is important. Nippers representing the Club at State Carnivals **must wear the Club-branded long-sleeve green shirt** and broad-brimmed hat when marshalling (getting in line), and the Club-branded high visibility vest (as worn on Saturdays) and competition cap (green/black/white) when racing.

Parent Involvement

It is expected that parents will be present on the beach for the duration of the carnival. Parents can assist AGMs on the day. Parents are reminded that they are to stay outside of the roped competition areas. This will enable the AGMs and officials to complete their tasks without interference. Parent code of conduct is important and if there are any issues then please raise them with the Somerton Carnival Team Manager not the AGMs.

Officials and Water Cover

Somerton is required to provide officials and water cover for each carnival. Quotas for officials and water cover are based on the number of competitors and if they are not met the club is fined or restricted from competing. Parents of children who compete at carnivals are encouraged to become an official or volunteer to provide water cover (accredited parents only).

12.4. Junior State Championships

These are usually held at the end of the season (March). There is an entry fee payable by each Nipper who competes.

We expect that Nippers will attend a minimum of two Junior State Carnivals prior to attending the Junior State Championships. Some events require a nipper to qualify at a Junior State Carnival held prior to State Championships.

Division allocations and state team selection is at the discretion of AGMs who consider capability, participation in previous carnivals and participation in extra mid-week Club trainings (which promotes repeat performance over multiple events on the day – “one and done” versus “train and sustain”). Nippers who only wish to compete in individual events at the Qualification and State Championships may not be entered as the Club places a high emphasis on team events.

The results of Nippers competing in Division 1 contribute to State Championship points awarded to the Club.

13. JUNIOR PRESENTATION DAY AND AWARDS

At the end of the season, we recognise the efforts of our Nippers at two separate awards presentations. The U6 and U7's will have their presentation on the last day of the Nipper season. The U8 -U13 will have a presentation after the end of the season (please check calendar for dates).

The dates for these events are set by the Junior Committee prior to the season start and are communicated in the Club Calendar, via email and Facebook.

The following Awards will be presented:

Club Champion (Under 8-13)

Junior Club championships will be held on two days during the season (see Club calendar). The results of the **two days will be averaged** for each Nipper and used to determine the age group winners (i.e. the highest average score).

Medals will be awarded to overall 1st, 2nd and 3rd place getters in each age group from under 8 - 13 for both boys and girls.

Note: Only children participating in their correct age group who have attended at least 50% of Saturday training sessions (not including Club Championship days) are eligible for this award.

Southern Cross Meats Junior Long Swim (Under 11-13)

Awards to be given to overall 1st place swimmer (Southern Cross Meats Shield) as well as for 1st, 2nd and 3rd boys and girls in each age group from under 11 to under 13. See Club calendar for the date of this event.

Note: Only children participating in their correct age group are eligible for this award.

Commitment Medals (Under 8-13)

Presentation of Commitment Awards for under 8 - 13 children who meet the following criteria;

- Miss no more than three Saturday Training Sessions at Somerton throughout the season (parents should actively ensure that their children are signed in and out at each session to ensure accurate record keeping).
- Attend at least two carnivals – this may include either a Branch carnival or Junior State Carnival,
- Compete in State Championships in both individual and team events.

Note: Only children participating in their correct age group are eligible for these awards.

Participation Awards (Under 6 & 7)

All under 6 and 7 Nippers will be presented with participation medals.

Surf Education Certificates (Under 6-13)

Nippers who complete all education modules specific to their age group Award (Section 7) will be provided with a certificate to recognise their achievements.

Note: Only children participating in their correct age group are eligible for these awards.

Warwick Holland Perpetual Award for Contribution to the Junior Program

In addition to junior awards, the Club recognises the achievement and efforts of those involved in running the nipper program via the **Warwick Holland Perpetual Award**. This is awarded by the Junior Coordinator and Junior Administrator to someone who has made a significant contribution to the nipper program during that season. This award is presented at Club Awards Night.

14. COMMUNICATION

There are several main points of contact for information.

14.1. Age Group Managers and Saturday Briefing

At 1:50 pm at the commencement of Saturday training there will be a brief information session for parents.

AGMs are happy to answer any of your questions about the Club and the Nipper program.

14.2. Facebook

We post information on a designated Facebook Page. This is a closed page so you will be required to search for "Somerton SLSC" and then request to be added.

14.3. E-mail

It is vital that you have provided the Club with a designated e-mail address for Nipper communication throughout the season. Our system only allows for one email address per child/family, so please use the parent's email address that is most likely to get checked.

14.4. SMS

Please provide your mobile number for SMS updates (no charge to you). You can opt out of this service

14.5. Team App

Information will also be posted on the "Somerton SLSC" TeamApp. Step by step instructions on how to join TeamApp and how to sign up for push notifications for specific groups are available via this link:

http://somertonsurfclub.com.au/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Directions-to-join-Team-App-2.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2W2GNkdOYFBXkCe-BzfDG6g1ph9oit8fWG8t4dzDzhYVH0LGUSjSV-_ul

15. MEMBERSHIP FEES

The schedule of current membership fees and the various options available is on our website (www.somertonsurfclub.com.au/wp/membership-categories). We encourage parent/family membership which is vital for our operational success.

Note: there is a reduction in cost for fees paid before 1 November 2023.

16. INSURANCE

All members who sign the Surf Life Saving South Australia (SLSSA) membership form, pay the Club's designated fees and have participated in the preliminary evaluation for Nippers or are proficient in their category requirements, are insured under Surf Life Saving South Australia's policy. This includes participation in Club training and competing at sanctioned SLSSA events. For further details, contact a member of the Somerton SLSC Board of Management (refer to website) or SLSSA on 8354 6900.