



CIRCULAR

SUBJECT	ISSUE DATE	NUMBER
Nipper Ocean Training Procedures & Policies Post Season	11 March 2021	44/2020-21

To SLS Sydney Club Presidents, Secretaries, Nipper Chairpersons - Water Safety Supervisors and Club Captains

From Doug Hawkins - Director of Junior Development

CC BOM, LSEC, JDC, MSC

The JDC Executive would like to check in with all Clubs, to ensure the required protocols are in place for all formal club nipper ocean training, commencing after the 20/21 Nipper season has been completed.

Age Group and Assessment Clarification

- The Nipper Season for Age Groups, is based on the overall SLS Patrolling Season, so an U8 remains an U8 until the SLS season (April 25 or thereabouts) has been completed.
- They can then re-register with their club, if formal registrations are open, for the following season as an U9 (based on their age as at 30th September for the new registration season).
- The Nipper must also complete their U9 Proficiency assessment, under the SLSNSW or their Club Proficiency guidelines prior to any water training as an U9.

Please Note: The minimum level of these assessments is released by SLSNSW, usually in late August.

Also, and just to clarify, **SLSA Water Safety Protocols** must be adhered to for **ALL water Nipper training**, no matter the skill and age of the nippers or the location; ocean or still.

It is highly recommended that U9's water training has only U9's participating, as it's realistically their first season in the water.

Craft training with appropriate age groups and their appropriate craft must be as per SLS Protocols.

Please read the [SLSA Water Safety policy 1.01](#) to ensure you and your team are covering all aspects of the Policy.

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As we all know this is a great time of year to get some solid training in, and we commend all those clubs who have plans in place to get our Nippers more skilled and experienced in their ocean skills...well done!

During these training sessions we ask all clubs to please ensure your team at the beach have the following in place, when running club endorsed ocean based training:

- Water Safety Supervisor in place and staying on the beach while training is on - must be BM Proficient and have Comms with them.
- Water Safety ratios in place at all times as per [SLSA Water Safety Procedure 1.01](#).
Low: 1:5 Medium 1:4 High = No Training
- The water safety team are **all proficient SRC or BM**, and have the required hi vis orange shirt on and cap.
- All Water safety members who are in the water should have either a rescue board or rescue tube.
- Water safety team's focus is the Nippers in the water - not doing training themselves. They need to be alert to respond if any issues arise.
- **All Nippers in their Pinkies at all times. No Pink Singlet = No Training**
- SLS Risk Assessment done prior to the training event commencing via the SLS WS App or paper, and sent to the Club as per your Club SOP's.
- All weather and surf conditions to be taken into account for the age group's skill level.
- Nippers are on appropriate boards for their age group, as per their age group this season.
- Have direct access to your club's rescue gear, including - first aid kit, oxygen and defib should it be required. If not able, then you will need to have comms with the Lifeguards.
- Advise your Local lifeguards so they are aware, especially if a large group
- Recommend Water Safety Supervisor (WSS) to have a Radio, so they can contact Lifeguards and SurfCom if needed.
- All Nippers to sign in and out of sessions, and the WSS should have the emergency contact numbers for all those attending.
- Should any member injury occur, please advise SurfCom immediately who are on duty 7.00am - 7.00pm, and ensure you advise your Club Captain.

If any Club has any questions re the above please contact Doug Hawkins, Director of Junior Development

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Doug Hawkins
Director of Junior Development

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