



MEMORANDUM

To	Club Junior Development Directors/Chairs
From	Director Junior Development
CC	Club Presidents, Club Secretaries, Club Captains, BOM, JDC, LSOC, EC, SSC, MSC
Date	Monday 10 January 2022
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Subject	2022 Return to Junior Activities

As expected, our Clubs have planned to return to Junior Activities this month but understandably, the recent resurgence of COVID in a highly contagious variant has cast uncertainty over this.

Thankfully, the COVID safety plans that clubs submitted at the beginning of the season should provide a sufficiently safe means of returning to junior activities, just as they did when the dominant COVID strain was far more harmful, and we did not have the benefit of vaccination.

Of course, we still need to follow public health orders, which are constantly being revised, and are currently less onerous than our COVID plans, which should continue to help keep us safe.

Clubs' COVID plans continue to be supported with the current extension of our Branch vaccination policy [SLSS Sydney Policy COVID Vaccination Policy and Risk Assessment](#) in anticipation of a similar policy proposed by SLS NSW to come into effect later in the season.

Perhaps the most important component of these plans is that only those who are fully vaccinated, financial members of their club, and properly accredited with the Age Managers Award or the SRC, as a minimum, are allowed to enter and assist in the operational areas for junior activities. As with school and/or childrens' sporting activities, it is unavoidable that there will be groups of children congregating within their age groups, but age managers, their assistants, and water safety personnel, should still maintain their distancing as effectively as possible throughout the course of activities, and not congregate at close quarters before or after.

There is no doubt that detected cases of COVID in the community are rapidly growing and may continue to do so for some time. However, it is also highly likely that there may be many more undetected cases too. With this in mind, it is imperative that Clubs should, in accordance with their COVID safety plans:

- ask parents to consider vulnerable family members when deciding on whether to attend nipper activities.
- remind parents not to attend nippers if they or their children are feeling unwell, currently have COVID, or are considered close contacts of those who are infected with COVID.
- remind non-accredited parents, etc. to maintain social distancing and not to congregate around or near the Nippers activity areas.

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It is still preferable, to reduce the risk of transmitting COVID, to maintain an aquatic focus on junior activities and segregate age groups where possible.

If junior activities attract the uninvited attention of the media while they are being conducted, please avoid engaging them directly and refer them to duty officers and/or branch office.

And of course, it is as important as ever to be off the beach early before the general public begins to overcrowd it.

If you have any questions, comments, or advice, please feel free to contact me directly at:

director_juniordevelopment@surflifesavingsydney.com.au

All the best for the New Year

David Love

DIRECTOR JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT