

Nippers 26-27 General Information and FAQ



Surf lifesaving is an amazing activity for growing a child's confidence, knowledge and skills in the beach environment. Not only will your child have fun and meet new friends, they will become part of an iconic organisation that has served the Australian community for over 100 years.

Not only is Nippers a fun way for children aged 5 to 13 to enjoy the beach in a safe environment, it also offers children an educational pathway through the Junior Development Program. This program is designed to ensure children have fun at the beach while participating in lessons that will pathway them to becoming a fully rounded participant in both lifesaving and sport - we like to call it 'Serious Fun'.

Junior Development Program

The specially designed program progressively introduces knowledge and skills learning outcomes through lessons that are tailored to each of the age groups; ensuring the content is relevant and most of all exciting! Each age group has its own individual set of lessons – between 10 and 16 depending on the age group. The program pathways lead towards the Surf Rescue Certificate which members can begin training towards from the age of 13. More details on the program for each age group can be found on the SLSSA website - <https://www.surflifesavingsa.com.au/nippers>

When does Nippers run?

Saturday 1.00pm-3.30pm or 1.00-3.00pm for Tiny Tots (U6 & U7)
Saturday 24th Oct - Saturday 20th Feb (2 weeks off over Christmas)

What does my child need?

Club skull cap and hi-viz rash vest
Bathers +/- wetsuit
Long sleeve rashie
Broad brim hat

Towel, water bottle and goggles
Sunscreen applied
Tiny Tots are supplied with a hi-viz long sleeve rashie for each session

What is expected of parents?

Parental involvement is essential – your support, encouragement and participation can make a big difference, especially for younger Nippers or those who are a bit unsure of the ocean.

Parents will be asked to assist Age Group Leaders for various activities during Nippers sessions, as well as to help with pack up and running the Nippers BBQ. There are also pathways for parents to become more involved in Nippers – from being a Nippers Water Safety Assistant, an Age Group Leader or even signing up to do your Bronze Medallion!

Does my child need to be able to swim?

Nippers is a combination of beach safety and awareness, beach sports and water sports – it is not a specific learn-to-swim / stroke correction lesson. We strongly encourage swimming lessons outside of Nippers.

To participate in any deep-water sports, such as swimming or boarding, Nippers need to pass a swim proficiency to ensure it is safe to allow your child to participate in deep water activities. If your child is unable to pass the swim proficiency, they can still participate in beach activities.

Age	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12 & U13
Distance	20 m	50 m	75 m	100 m	150 m

Can I use a school sports voucher?

Yes, we are registered to use the SA Government School Sports voucher – please fill it in and return with your registration for \$100 off each eligible child's membership. (more than one voucher can be used i.e. 2=\$200 if registering as a family)

Can I drop my child off and come pick them up?

No, Nippers is not a drop-and-go program. The program leaders and age group managers do not take duty of care for your child/children while they are participating in the program, this remains with you. A designated carer is required to stay on the beach while your child is there and be accessible to assist them. If you are not able to stay on the beach for whatever reason you must delegate the duty of care of your child or children to another responsible person over the age of 18 and let the group leaders know.

What age group will my child be in?

Nippers age groups run on an October 1 to September 30 cycle. The group that your child is calculated to be in is the age they were on 30th September. Eg a child who has their 12th birthday on 30th July will be in the U13 age group; a child who has their 12th birthday on 30th October will be in the U12 age group. Nippers stay in the same age group for a whole season.

My child is not yet 5 can they still participate?

Unfortunately, your child can not start participating in the Nippers program until their fifth birthday, as soon as they turn 5 they can join up and start participating. The Surf Babies programs are suitable for under 5s.

My child's friend is in a different age group. Can they participate with that group instead?

It is possible for your child to participate up or down an age group. Children will need to be able to pass the swim proficiency of the age group before participating. Nippers who wish to compete at carnivals can only do so in their correct age group.

Key Nipper Dates

Date	Day	Event	Time	Location
17-Oct	Sat	Registration Day	12:00 - 2:00	Aldinga Bay SLSC
24-Oct	Sat	Swim proficiencies	2:00 - 4:00	State Swim Seaford
31-Oct	Sat	Nippers Day 1	1.00-3.30	Aldinga Bay SLSC
21-Nov	Sat	Junior Branch Carnival	TBC	Normanville SLSC
19-Dec	Sat	Christmas Break up	12:30 - 2:45	Aldinga Bay SLSC
9-Jan	Sat	Nippers start after Christmas break	1.00-3.30	Aldinga Bay SLSC
6-Feb	Sat	Junior Club Champs Inc. Tots (+Iron)	1.00-3.30 (4.30)	Aldinga Bay SLSC
20-Feb	Sat	Final Fun Day (JCC back up date)	1.00-3.30	Aldinga Bay SLSC
TBC	Sat	Nippers Presentation Night	TBC	Aldinga Bay SLSC

Carnival Dates

Date	Day	Event	Location
6-Dec	Sun	Junior Carnival	Seacliff SLSC
24-Jan	Sun	Junior Carnival (no nippers at club)	Semaphore SLSC
13-Feb	Sat	Junior Carnival (no Nippers at club)	Normanville SLSC

28-Feb	Sun	Junior State Championship Day 1	Venue TBC
20-Mar	Sat	Junior State Championship Day 2	Port Noarlunga SLSC
21-Mar	Sun	Junior State Championship Day 3	Port Noarlunga SLSC

What if the weather is extreme?

Too hot? To ensure everyone's safety, we follow a heat policy based on SLSSA and Sports Medicine Australia guidelines. According to the Bureau of Meteorology (www.bom.gov.au), if Saturday's maximum temperature at Noarlunga is forecasted as:

- **35°C and over:** Water-based activities only for all age groups.
- **38°C and over:** All age groups will be cancelled.

Decisions will be made by 4 pm on Friday and communicated via the club Facebook page and the Spond communication app if activities are cancelled.

Too cold – Nippers sessions and training are not cancelled due to cold weather. In extreme circumstances the program may be modified to only include beach events only. Wetsuits are recommended for children who feel the cold – especially in the first few weeks of the season.

Too windy – Windy weather is a fact of life at Aldinga Beach. On days when windy conditions are deemed to be dangerous for beach or water events – especially with the use of boards - the program will be modified to ensure participants remain safe.

Storms and lightning – Surf life-saving enforces a 30 for 30 rule regarding lightning. If a lightning strike occurs and the subsequent lightning is heard within 30 seconds the beach must be cleared for the next 30 minutes. We choose to take a proactive approach and use lightning-tracking technology to identify if a lightning strike has occurred within a 10 km radius.

