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Title:	24.25 Junior Activities Update
Document ID:	106.08.2024
Department:	Membership
Audience:	All Clubs, All Branches
Date:	21.08.2024

First, I would like to congratulate you all for handling all the changes within the junior space with such respect and positivity throughout the past season. Whilst the evaluation changes and the Nipper App were both significant, ever-evolving changes, our Clubs managed them as best they could with the information and training provided to them.

In saying this, I hope that coming into our next season, we will be more educated and prepared for any further changes outlined in this circular. Not only will this document cover some of our important longstanding items and issues, but I hope to inform you about a few new changes we will have this season.

Additionally, the team at SLSQ and the SLSQ Junior Activities Advisory Panel are aware that over the last number of years, it has become increasingly difficult to deploy a JA program, whether that is gaining helpers, compliance requirements, steps to gain awards or any other hold-ups. We want to assure Clubs that SLSQ and the JAAP are working hard to remove this 'red tape' little by little to ensure we can get back to a place where JA programs are accessible and efficient whilst maintaining our core initiatives in ensuring our Nippers are educated and surf safe at the beach!

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Nipper Age Group Birth Dates 24/25

See the table below in relation to the birthdate range for age groups in the 2024/2025 season.

Note: Nippers can move down as many age groups as they require to meet their social or developmental needs for Nipper program days only, not competition. The child is required to complete the Preliminary Evaluation for the age group they are entering. The Nipper App does not yet cater for Nippers changing age groups, these Nippers will need to be monitored using a paper-based process. As per the previous season – Nipper may move down an age group on Nipper days, however SLSA is still working on the Nipper app logistics for this so moving up will remain unapproved at this time. Please refer to the Surf Sports Manual – 27th Edition for information on Competition age guides.

Age Group	Age as of 30 September* 2024	DOB Date range
U6	5	1/10/2018-30/09/2019
U7	6	1/10/2017-30/09/2018
U8	7	1/10/2016-30/09/2017
U9	8	1/10/2015-30/09/2016
U10	9	1/10/2014-30/09/2015
U11	10	1/10/2013-30/09/2014
U12	11	1/10/2012 – 30/09/2013
U13	12	1/10/2011 – 30/09/2012
U14	13	1/10/2010 – 30/09/2011

Age Manager Update

Observers Module Inclusion

The Observers prerequisite has been removed to minimise wait times to get Age Managers on the beach. 3 Modules from the Observers Course (signals, rips and currents) learning have been seamlessly integrated into the Age Manager Course learning. These modules ensure that Age Managers have adequate knowledge to conduct themselves appropriately in an emergency or to pick suitable spots for children to enter the water.

Third-Party Form Removal

SLSA has made changes to the format of an age managers course. This means that a third-party report form will no longer be required. An Age Manager course will automatically process once the online learning has been completed and all prerequisites have been met. This by no means negates the need for your Clubs to run mentoring sessions with your Age Managers before them overseeing Nipper groups on their own.



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aXcelerate Processes

With the transition of the Age Managers Course onto aXcelerate, there is a new process.

To complete an Age Managers course now, you will need to:

1. Log into your [SLS Members Area](#) account and select 'eLearning'. You will then be redirected to the SLSQ Hub (you may be asked to log in again using your member's area details).
2. Click the 'Courses' button and then enrol in the 'Age Managers Course'.
3. Scroll through available courses until you locate your branch listed Age Managers Course "XYZ Branch Age Managers Course". Click enrol.
4. This will then push through to aXcelerate, and the Member will be prompted to either log in and complete the course learning or create an aXcelerate account if they have not done any learning.

Once logged into aXcelerate, the Member will complete three modules from the Observer's course (seamlessly integrated). The award will then be automatically allocated.

If there are any hindrances to this process relating to aXcelerate or the SLSQ Hub, please get in touch with the Helpdesk at 07 3846 8146.

Expiry Dates + Proficiency Video

SLSA has changed the Age Manager expiry timeframe from 5 years to 12 months to ensure all Age Managers are current and receive correct information each year. Every year, SLSA releases a proficiency video before the start of the season. Watching this video will automatically make your award proficient for the season. The award must be completed in full if you do not age manage for five seasons. **Age Managers will not be classed as current until this video has been watched each season.**

This video will be available to watch through the 'Age Manager Skills Maintenance' button on the SLSQ Hub which can be accessed through the 'eLearning' area of your SLS Members Area account. Once the video has been watched each season, your Age Manager or Age Manager Assistant award will automatically update.

Please do not watch this video through SLSA's eLearning system, as our system has been set to auto-allocate awards and auto-update to avoid manual processing.

Age Manager Assistant

Age Manager Assistants need to be at least 13 years of age at the time of learning completion and can be a maximum of 15 years of age. The learning and process for course completion is the same as the Age Managers course, with the exception that the members will enrol in Age Manager Assistant, not the general Age Manager course.

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Age Manager Assistants must also watch the proficiency video (discussed above) and will be ineligible for an upgrade if they have not met this requirement.

Once Age Manager Assistants reach 16 years of age, aXcelerate will automatically allocate a full Age Manager award upon watching the proficiency video – there is no need to redo any learning.

Any existing adult Age Manager Assistants will automatically upgrade to Age Manager on completion of the proficiency video.

Age Manager Mentors

Your Branch can process out Age Manager Mentors. This must be raised as a form 14 and submitted and signed off by your club JAC & Club President. This limits the amount of Age Manager Mentors; each club should have no more than two active Age Manager Mentors.

A complete list of prerequisites can be found in the Members Area Document Library. These resources must be submitted to the branch, with each resource signed by the candidate.

2024/2025 Junior Evaluations

Removal of JAAO award.

This season, we have identified that with the introduction of the Nipper App, the JAAO award is now redundant as they need access to sign-off evaluations. The decision has been made to remove the JAAO award and allow all evaluations (prelim, beach & comp) to be signed off by Endorsed Age Managers.

This award will be archived in SurfGuard and is unable to be gained moving forward.

Signing off JA Evaluations

Moving forward we will allow Age Managers who hold a current Age Manager award and who the club deem as an 'Endorsed Age Manager' to sign off evaluations.

This aims to ease the load on positions required at a Club level. This process should be managed with thorough care and consideration, considering that these members sign their name to Nipper competencies should any issues arise.

Each Club can have up to a maximum of 9 skilled and knowledgeable Age Managers who can complete this task. We ask that you please do not endorse first-year Age Managers for this role unless they have prior lifesaving experience.

How to Endorse Age Managers

To endorse Age Managers, we ask that each season, your Junior Committee list and suggest key Age Managers who will undertake this important role. Once agreed upon at a Junior meeting these Members must also be endorsed and minuted by your senior Club Committee/Board at either a meeting or via flying minute. A copy of your senior minutes or a snipped section showing endorsement must then be forwarded to your Branch office.


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Following the endorsement process, they must be noted under “other” in the notes section below.

Notes for Ella Kinneally @ Surf Life Saving QLD

Organisation: Surf Life Saving QLD

Note Date:  dd/mm/yyyy

Note Type: Other ▼

Heading:

Details:

Endorsed Age Manager - Season 2024/2025

Before a Member is noted in SurfGuard, they must meet all prerequisites, complete the “Endorsed Age Manager Code of Conduct” (formerly the ‘JAAO Code of Conduct’), and submit it to their Club. This must be kept on file for a minimum of twelve months.

When allocating your endorsed Age Managers – these will also be the people you allocate award approval access to within the Nipper App. All other Age Managers will require attendance access only.

Endorsed Age Managers must, like the old JAAO, be 18 years of age, financial, hold a Blue Card, have completed the relevant child safety courses, and now hold a current Age Managers award and watch the Age Manager proficiency video for that season.

All new documents can be found on the SLSQ APP here: [LINK TO ENDORSED AMS](#)

Changes to Evaluations

This season, there are no changes to the Junior Preliminary Pool Evaluations (other than combining the form for Endorsed Age Managers and swim coaches into one form for ease) or Beach Evaluations.

Junior Competition Evaluations have reduced in distance and swims must now be majority overarm stroke. Clubs may choose to exceed the below – these are minimum standard distances set by SLSA.

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Junior Competition Evaluations – SLSQ

Age Group	Competition Evaluation
U6 – U7	Nil
U8	Wade (no water competition, except for wade, which takes place in waist-deep water)
U9-U10	Minimum 150m open water swim (overarm stroke)
U11-U14	Minimum 200m open water swim (overarm stroke)

We ask that all clubs aim to process their pool and competition evaluations through the Nipper App (step-by-step guide available [HERE](#)) and keep paper copies of the Beach Run-Swim-Run form.

All forms can be found on the SLSQ App [HERE](#).

SLSA Nipper App

RFID Bands

SLSA has now activated the implementation of RFID bands for Nipper Attendance, meaning you can scan children in and out of Nippers. Bands can be purchased through the online member's store (Administrator access only).

Note – you must use an Android NFC-enabled device to utilise these bands. This is the [TABLET](#) provided in the Junior G&E grant package.

For instructions on how to set bands up for your Club, please utilise the step-by-step guide found in the [SLSA Nipper App User Manual](#).

Mid-Week Training Sessions

Clubs are more than welcome to use the SLSA Nipper App for attendance at midweek training sessions. Please set these sessions up using the 'Nipper Training' sessions option. All Clubs completing midweek Nipper training still need to complete the [Mid-Week Training Form](#) and submit it to your Branches as required.

Session

Type

Date

Start Time

End Time

Location

Child Safety Course Access

SLSA has changed Nipper App access to include those with current child safety courses. This is to assist Clubs with marking attendance and freeing up Age Managers from this duty. Whilst many of your Members will pop up for access now that this is available, we ask the following:

Surf Life Saving Queensland

18 Manning Street t. +61 7 3846 8000
 South Brisbane QLD 4101 f. +61 7 3846 8008
 PO Box 3747 w. lifesaving.com.au
 South Brisbane QLD 4101 ABN 27 360 485 381

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- You DO NOT allocate anything further than attendance marking for these sessions. If Members outside of Endorsed Age Managers are ticking off awards, these will be deleted by State staff unless there is a suitable reason (i.e. clubs have signed paper copies available, and the Club Admin is merely inputting data)
- You DO NOT allocate a large magnitude of Members to this function. Each person allocated to this will then gain access to the confidential information of junior Members. Limit this as much as possible in the interest of child safety.

Club admins may allocate themselves Attendance, Prelim, Comp and Age Award access in Surfguard for the Members portal so they can view progress in the Nipper app. At NO time should Club Admins be completing attendance or award tick off UNLESS there are paper copies available, signed by Endorsed Age Managers & kept on file at the Club. In this case, should Clubs be audited for their Nipper evaluations, the sign-off would fall on the Endorsed Age Manager from the paper copy, not the admin. It is in the Club's best interest to comply to avoid creating extra work for themselves, Branch and State staff.

Access Requests

- For all Surfguard Nipper App Access requests for persons with existing Surfguard User Accounts, please email ekinneally@lifesaving.com.au
- For all Surfguard Nipper App Access requests for persons without an existing Surfguard User Account, please first complete the [SLSQ Form 049 Surfguard Access JotForm](#)
- For all Members' portal Nipper App Access requests, someone with existing Nipper Surfguard Access can allocate this at the Club level. Please follow the steps in the [SLSA Nipper App User Manual](#).

SLSA Nipper App Training

For basic training on Nipper App functions, please watch the training video from SLSA [HERE](#).

For further breakdown on individual steps please use the step-by-step process guides available [HERE](#).

For further assistance, troubleshooting & bug identification, please contact ekinneally@lifesaving.com.au

Junior Development Resources

All JDRs can now be located both on the SLSA Members Area Document Library and, when on the beach, are accessible through the Nipper App.

Junior Age Award Printing

If your club is utilising the SLSA Nipper app for your junior awards, Clubs can now print these in-house and do not need to go to your Branch. They automatically print on a blue surf lifesaving template, not the coloured nipper certificates.



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Additionally – Clubs are welcome to email certificates in our endeavours to be more sustainable. However, you will need to email Ella (ekinneally@lifesaving.com.au) so she can change your Club's preference. If you choose to email, print will not be an option & vice versa.

Your Branch may have stock of old colour certificates available if you wish to use these this season.

Gear & Equipment Junior Package

Delivery Timeframes

The gear is expected to be delivered to the Clubs by the start of the 2024.25 season.

Questions/Concerns relating to G&E Funding

For all questions or concerns relating to the Junior Package. Please get in touch with the Lifesaving Development Fund Team at lifesavingdevelopmentfund@lifesaving.com.au.

Parents at Nipper Programs

If your Club requires a parent to assist throughout the season, please ensure you are providing reasonable options for all family types.

For example, if you have a single parent with children younger than nipper age, please consider that it is not feasible for them to donate their time to a BBQ or beach setup. Alternative options include a monetary donation instead of time or roles such as clothing coordinator that can provide a safe environment for them and their other children to assist your Club.

Additionally, every Nipper family must have at least one parent or guardian present at a Nipper program. At no time is a child to be dropped off at a Nipper program with no guardian in the area.

Membership Categories

SLSA has introduced a new 'Nipper Parent' Sub-membership category to allow Clubs to differentiate between Associate Members and Nipper Parents. This new category is not for parents who are Active Members (these will remain in the Active category). SLSQ recommends transitioning all parents currently in the sub-category 'Associate' to the 'Nipper Parent' category if they have not obtained a patrolling award.

Club admins will need to edit the Club membership price list in SurfGuard under 'Nipper Parent' if they wish to utilise this category.

There is also an 'Inclusive/Adaptive Program Participant' sub-membership category available under the 'Junior' membership category for any Clubs running inclusive Nipper programs.

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Add Price Item @ Coolangatta

Add price item to Nipper Parent

Price Item Name: *

Transaction Type: * ▼

Price (\$): *

Description:

Status: * ▼

Nipper Newsletter

We are committed to ensuring the Nipper newsletter becomes a regular item for Clubs. To keep this functioning, we need content from Clubs and Branches. Please submit any content you may have at any time to ja@lifesaving.com.au.

JA Health Checks

The JA Calculator has been updated to include more current awards, such as NAAI, and remove some information no longer relevant to junior activities. If your Clubs wish to run the calculator themselves, please get in touch with your Branch membership development coordinator, and they will be able to pass on the files.

AM LANYARDS

Age Manager Lanyards are available for purchase using this [form](#).

Please send the completed order form to ja@lifesaving.com.au.

Child Safety Course Update

All Blue Card holders within the organisation must complete the SLSQ Child Youth Risk Management Strategy and SLSA Child Safe Awareness Courses. Previously, these awards were two separate courses within the system that members had to complete. In July 2024, these two courses have amalgamated into one, meaning you are only required to complete one singular course going into the future.

On your SLSQ Members Hub account, you will still have two separate icons visible for now. This allows for a transition period as most of our Members already hold both awards.

Surf Life Saving Queensland

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It is still a requirement that Members complete their Child Safety Course every three years or upon renewal of their Blue Card.

Regional Training Sessions

SLSQ is looking to run regional workshops for Junior Activities, including skills, Nipper App, compliance, and general Q&A. Keep an eye out for dates in your area in the future.

Nipper Adult Assistant Potential Changes

SLSA is looking to introduce a new award like our NAA award. It will be called the Nipper Safety Award and includes a small tube rescue along with some other requirements. As our NAA induction is below these national requirements, our NAA course is likely to be disabled when this course is introduced. It is currently in the approval stage with SLSA, and we will advise Clubs when changes occur.

It will be at the Club's discretion as to whether you will still utilise the NAAI course, however, SLSQ would recommend putting a hold on the NAAI, given that Members will need to complete the new course when available and if desired.

We cannot comment on the national timeline for the rollout of this award. However, it is anticipated that it will be within the next season.

Key Contacts

SLSQ Junior Activities Coordinator: Ella Kinneally

Ekinneally@lifesaving.com.au

Ja@lifesaving.com.au

0427 418 652

Regional Membership Development Coordinators:

- **North Queensland** – Karren Smith-Marron - ksmith-marron@lifesaving.com.au
- **North Barrier** – Emily Donoghue - edonoghue@lifesaving.com.au
- **Wide Bay Capricorn** – Andrea Berthelsen - aberthelsen@lifesaving.com.au
- **Sunshine Coast** – Jess Roberts - jroberts@lifesaving.com.au
- **South Coast & Point Danger** – Paul Ryan - pryan@lifesaving.com.au