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Title:	2023-2024 SLSQ Junior Activities Information Update
Document ID:	130.08.2023
Department:	Membership
Audience:	All SLSQ Clubs and Branches, All JAC's, All SLSQ Staff, Junior Activities Advisory Panel, Member Services Committee, All Youth Development Officers.
Summary:	Major Update to SLSQ Junior Activities. This circular will cover each area of Junior Activities to assist delivery throughout the 2023/2024 Season and beyond.
Date:	10 th August 2023

Surf Lifesaving Queensland are committed to ensuring all necessary information is readily available for all members going into the 2023/2024 Season. To ensure all Surf Life Saving Clubs and their respective Junior Activities Committees have the most up-to-date information to commence the season, please review all updates outlined below.

1. ADMINISTRATION

RESOURCES

- There are several areas where you can locate information on Junior Activities that will assist you in running your programs.
 - [SLSQ App – Junior Activities](#) (Nippers)
 - [SLSA Members Portal](#) (you must have a login)
 - SLSQ Training Operations Manual
 - Branch Websites
 - [SLSQ Point Danger Branch](#)
 - [SLSQ South Coast Branch](#)
 - [SLSQ Sunshine Coast Branch](#)
 - [SLSQ Wide Bay Capricorn](#)
 - [SLSQ North Barrier Branch](#)
 - [SLSQ North QLD Branch](#)
- *Please note that, at times, the requirements of SLSA and SLSQ may differ – the affiliated Clubs of SLSQ are required to adhere to the requirements of Queensland.*

DATES

Season Dates 2023/2024

North Queensland – Saturday 1st April – Sunday 26th November 2023

Rest of the State – Saturday 16th September 2023 – Monday 6th May 2024 (Labour Day Public Holiday)

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MEMBERSHIP

- All Nipper members must be registered for the 2023/2024 season using the SLSA Approved Membership Form/Renewal or Application via the SLSA Members Portal.
- For renewing members – ALL memberships should be processed no later than 31 October 2023. Please note, all members who are not registered for the current season will be automatically archived at midnight on this date.

FEES

SLSQ Junior Registration Fees for Nippers are: \$26.00 + GST.

All Junior Registration payments are based on figures from the previous season, 2022/2023. All clubs are required to pay SLSQ a junior registration fee, and these are made annually. The fee for this season will cover the 2023/2024 Season.

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES HEALTH CHECKS

Each season, every club is required to complete a Junior Activities Health Check. The SLSQ Regional Staff will assist with ensuring all steps are taken and will complete visits where necessary to support your clubs operationally in delivering compliant and fun Junior Activities.

There are two components of the JA Health Check.

- 1) The Junior Activities Gap Calculator, which identifies any award and child safety compliance issues.
- 2) The JAC JotForm, which assists the regional staff in identifying what clubs need support operationally and who may need a visit.

See SLSQ App for explicit dates - [JA Health Checks](#).

The Junior Activities Advisory Panel (JAAP) are currently constructing a non-compliance process that will be released in due course.

PAPERWORK SUBMISSIONS: JUNIOR EVALUATIONS: Not Using SLSA Nipper App

- All paperwork should be submitted to the Branch within 7 working days of the skills evaluation or awards taking place.
- Clubs are required to submit all items electronically (scanned). No hard copies will be accepted.
- All Forms 14's must be signed by a Club Assessor or JAAO.
- Only submit Form 14 documents to the branch. You no longer need to submit working sheets, but these must be filed at the club and are subject to random review.



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PAPERWORK SUBMISSIONS: JUNIOR AGE AWARDS: Not Using SLSA Nipper App

Please refer to your Branch for their specific due dates for Age Awards.

Noting all age awards should be submitted in time for processing prior to any Championship events, whether this be Branch or State Championships.

For more information on the procedure on how to process the Junior Age Awards U6 – U13 please refer to the SLSQ App for the latest guide, [Junior Activities Age Award Processing Procedure Flowchart \(Feb 2023\)](#)

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY CHANGES

Under 14 Nippers: Throughout the season, the under 14 Nippers will gain their Surf Rescue Certificate – this does make them eligible to be in the Active Cadet category. However, we ask that clubs do NOT make this change during the season (unless specifically requested by the member or parent).

If a member enrolls as a Nipper at the commencement of the season, then they are to remain in this category.

End of Season: We ask that Clubs refrain from updating membership registration until after the 3rd of December (North Queensland Branch) and the 13th of May 2024 if you are from all other SLSQ Branches; that way, SLSQ can pull all relevant statistics for the season.

Members who Gain Bronze or SRC: Please ensure any parents/persons who gain a Bronze throughout the season are updated to an Active category, i.e., Active Senior (excluding the Under 14 nippers)

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES Gap CALCULATOR

An additional tool for clubs to use is the Junior Activities Gap Calculator. This is used for clubs to get further details on expiry dates for a range of courses specific to Junior Activity Volunteers, for example, SLSQ Child Youth Risk Management Strategies (CYRMS), SLSA Child Safe Awareness (CSA) Courses, Coaching Awards, Age Managers etc.

For more information on this, please refer to the SLSQ App at [Junior Activities Gap Calculator](#) or contact your region's Membership Development Coordinator.

2. CHILD SAFETY

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK (BLUE CARD)

Refer to Circular [032.02.2023](#) for more clarification on the requirements when applying for your Working with Children Check (Blue Card).

Both the SLSQ Child Youth Risk Management (CYRMS) Course and the SLSA Child Safe Awareness Course (CSA) will need to be completed upon renewing or applying for your blue card in Queensland. If you completed both courses in the 2021/2022 season, you don't need to re-do them again until your Blue Card expires.

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For further information please visit – [Blue Card Screening](#) on the SLSQ App.

3. JUNIOR EDUCATION

WHO CAN SIGN OFF AWARDS

POOL EVALUATION	
Bronze or SRC Assessor	Junior Activities Accreditation Officer (JAAO) as referred to below.
Accredited Pool or Austswim Coach	Foundation Coaching
BEACH EVALUATION	
Bronze or SRC Assessor	Junior Activities Accreditation Officer (JAAO) as referred
COMPETITION EVALUATION	
Bronze or SRC Assessor	Junior Activities Accreditation Officer (JAAO) as referred
AGE AWARDS	
Bronze or SRC Assessor	Junior Activities Accreditation Officer (JAAO) as referred

SLSQ POLICY STATES THAT THE ASSESSOR/ACCREDITATION MUST WITNESS THE EVENT/COMPETENCY.

SUPPORTING ROLES FOR NIPPERS

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES ACCREDITATION OFFICER (JAAO)

JAAO process has remained the same. Previously for a brief period, JAAO's were required to hold an SRC as a minimum; this is no longer a requirement, only a **recommendation**.

JAAO's who wish to utilise the Nipper app will need to complete the Age Manager Assistant Award to gain access to this function. SLSA has set only Age Managers & Assistants as those who are able to access the Nipper section of the members portal to sign off evaluations & awards.

For further information on this, please refer to the updated flowcharts on the SLSQ App – [Junior Activities Accreditation Officer \(JAAO\)](#).



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NIPPER ADULT ASSISTANT INDUCTION (NAAI)

- [SLSQ – NAAI – Online Assessment Portfolio March 2023](#)
- [SLSQ – NAAI – Process Flowchart March 2023](#)

Bronze/SRC

Under 14's can begin their lifesaving careers with undertaking their Surf Rescue Certificate (SRC). This course is the minimum water safety qualification for Junior Activity supervision on successful completion will allow members to begin patrolling.

The Bronze Medallion qualification can be gained at the minimum age of 15 and after you are able to complete a 400m pool swim in less than 9 minutes. As a Bronze Medallion holder, you will have the required skills and knowledge relating to surf awareness, rescue techniques, radio communication, CPR and first aid.

Officials

If you are interested in becoming an SLSQ Official, please reach out to your club's Director of Surf Sports. Each Branch will have their official's accreditation process that you will need to follow. There is an online component to complete along with practical assessments before you can be an official.

For more information, please refer to the SLSA website at [Surf Sports Officials](#).

Or contact your Surf Sports or Officials Liaison Officer.

4. SURF SPORTS

For all information pertaining to Junior Surf Sports, please see the SLSQ APP - [Surf Sports](#)

When the SLSQ Surf Sports Calendar is released, it will be uploaded to the SLSQ App – [SLSQ Surf Sports Calendar](#).

5. YOUTH PROGRAMS

BRANCH DEVELOPMENT AND YOUTH EVENTS

South Coast + Point Danger Branch

- Gold Coast Youth Development (GCYD) Camp – TBC, Late 2023/ Early 2024
 - Under 13 – Under 15
- Gold Coast Youth Development (GCYD) Ball – May 2024
 - Under 12 – Under 17



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Sunshine Coast Branch

- PULSE Jr – 13th December 2023
 - Under 14 and Under 15
- CAMP COMMANDO – 7th - 10th January 2024
 - Under 14 and Under 15
- YOUTH BALL – 18th May 2024

Wide Bay Capricorn Branch

- Youth Surf Sports – 20-22 October 2023
 - 14 – 17 years old
- TBC – January 2024

North Barrier Branch

- Camp Alva – January 2024
 - Under 12 and Under 13

North Queensland Branch

- NYSE – 20th - 26th September 2023
 - Age Groups Under 14

SLSQ STATE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Youth Excellence Program (YEP)

- Dates: 1st – 4th September 2023
- Venue: QCCC Brookfield, Brisbane
- Attendees: 50 x Participants, (Age Group; 15 – 17 Years) 12 x Leaders
- Applications Open – June 2023
- Applications Close – July 2023

Lifesaving Development Program (LDP SEQ)

- Dates: Monday 1st April to Sunday 7th April 2024 - TBC
- Venue: Southeast Queensland
- Attendees: 24 x Participants, (Age Group: 16 – 20 years), 20 x Management Team
- Participant Applications: December



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Lifesaving Development Program (LDP NQ)

- Dates: Monday 24th to Sunday 30th June 2024 - TBC
- Venue: Northern Queensland
- Attendees: 24 x Participants, (Age Group: 16 – 20 years), 20 x Management Team
- Participant Applications: December

6. NEW INFORMATION

Under 8 Boards

U8 Nippers are permitted to use Boards at both midweek training and Nipper days. Nippers must complete the U9 Preliminary Evaluations in order to utilise this from January 1, 2024.

Refer to this page on the SLSQ app for the latest updates - [SLSQ Under 8 - Board Training Requirements](#).

JA Equipment Register

SLSQ is asking clubs to fill out the below JotForm for all currently non approved equipment being utilised in your junior programs. Anything from Hula Hoops to Tug of War ropes. This will allow SLSQ to put together a register & aim to progress with an approvals process for any new equipment in the future.

Refer to [Junior Activities Equipment Register](#)

Age Manager Lanyards

If clubs want to order Age Manager Lanyards, clubs are required to fill in the [Junior Activities Lanyards Order Form](#) and send this to the Junior Activities Coordinator, Ella Kinneally.

Come and Try Nippers Day

For information on Come and Try Nipper Day's please see the SLSQ App – [Come & Try Nipper Days](#).

SLSQ Photography NON-Consent Form

SLSQ recently updated the Photography Form and process. The previous form was to allow members to give consent to use their images in life-saving areas. However, this form has now been updated based on the number of members we have; it will now follow a non-Consent for the use of imagery.

The form can be found on the SLSQ app at [Photography NON-Consent Form](#).

Family Inclusion Program (FIP)

The Junior Activities Advisory Panel has recently reviewed and updated the FIP for 2023/2024. Previously known as Family Participation Program, it is now renamed to 'Family Inclusion Program'. For further information on where these resources can be found, please refer to the SLSQ app at – [Family Inclusion Program](#).

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Moving Age Groups

It is currently approved that nippers may move down one age group. I.e., an u9 child may participate in u8's should they complete the u8 preliminary evaluations. They will only receive the age award for the lower age group & will be unable to compete.

Moving up is currently unapproved by SLSQ.

Please note that moving age groups is not supported in the SLSA Nipper App as it is built in to Surfguard.

Age Manager Assistant

Age Manager Assistants have been reintroduced and members are now welcome to complete this award once they turn 13 years of age.

To become an age manager assistant, members will need to complete the online component of the Age Managers Course and submit the certificate of completion along with a Form 14 to branch, as well as completing both the Child Safety Awareness & Child Youth and Risk Management Strategies courses.

Age Managers

The minimum age to be an Age Manager for the 2023/2024 season is 16 years old. (18 years old for Under 6 and Under 7 age groups).

For more information including prerequisites for SLSQ members please refer to the SLSQ App – [Age Managers](#)

SLSA Nipper App

SLSA has recently taken over the Life-Saving Victoria Nipper App. It has been rolled out across Surf Life Saving Queensland. North Queensland, are currently trialling it within their nipper programs with the rest of Queensland encouraged to utilise it when their 23/24 Nipper season starts.

SLSA has been facilitating training sessions for SLSQ; these sessions run for approximately 1 hour and recordings will be made available on the SLSQ app. Trainings have been delivered through July and August 2023.

Please note: Age managers should ensure parents/guardians are there to collect their child/children when they sign out using the app.

JAOs must complete the age manager online & all other Age Manager Assistant prerequisites to gain access to the nipper app.

For more information and to find the SLSA Nipper App User Guide, please see the SLSQ App – [SLSA Nipper App](#).

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7. JUNIOR AGE GROUPS

Listed below are the age groups members will be in for the 2023/24 season. These age groups are determined as of midnight on 30 September.

BIRTHDATE BETWEEN DATES	AGE GROUP
1st October 2017 to 30th September 2018	U6 (Surf Play One)
1st October 2016 to 30th September 2017	U7 (Surf Play Two)
1st October 2015 to 30th September 2016	U8 (Surf Aware One)
1st October 2014 to 30th September 2015	U9 (Surf Aware Two)
1st October 2013 to 30th September 2014	U10 (Surf Safe One)
1st October 2012 to 30th September 2013	U11 (Surf Safe Two)
1st October 2011 to 30th September 2012	U12 (Surf Smart One)
1st October 2010 to 30th September 2011	U13 (Surf Smart Two)
1st October 2009 to 30th September 2010	U14 (SRC)

Note: For all new children joining an SLSC, proof of age/birth certificate will be required. If you need to change your Date of Birth, send an email with proof of identity to slsq@lifesaving.com.au

CHANGES TO FIVE-YEAR-OLDS JOINING

A child may join a SLSC as soon as he/she turns five years of age. No SLSC is to accept membership of a child until they have reached the age of five years to comply with insurance requirements.

A child who reaches five years of age after 30th September may join Nippers at that time for the remainder of the season; however, this child will be required to stay in the U6 Nippers age group again the following season. It is the SLSC's responsibility to explain this to the parents of the child.

PROGRAMS FOR UNDER 5

Please refer to [Circular 080.05.2023](#) for further clarification on the immediate cease of programs being delivered to persons aged 0 – 4 years old. These programs are not covered by insurance are not approved Junior Activities programs within SLSQ.

2023/2024 JUNIOR AGE GUIDES

For all Junior Age Guides & Stages worksheets, please see the SLSQ APP – [23/24 Age Guides](#)

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8. JUNIOR EVALUATIONS

FOR ALL JUNIOR EVALUATION DISTANCES & FORMS PLEASE SEE SLSQ APP – [Junior Evaluations](#).

Evaluations should be conducted in a;

- Low-risk environment, as determined by the completion of a pre-activity risk assessment.
- All new junior members should be supported by a 1:1 water safety ratio (water safety personnel: activity participant) when completing their evaluation.
- For all returning junior members, where knowledge of their ability is known by the club, a 1:5 water safety ratio (water safety personnel: activity participants) may be used (Refer to [SLSA Water Safety Procedure 1.01](#)).

In instances where evaluations cannot be completed, a qualified and accredited swim coach can be endorsed to sign off the skills pool assessment. Swimming coaches are required to provide their Australian Swimming Teachers and Coaches Associate (ASTCA) number, their name and email address and the name of the children who have successfully completed the swim.

Following the evaluation

Any child that does not meet the required evaluation level will require a higher level of supervision when involved in water-based activities at the discretion of the club.

Any child that does complete the Preliminary Skills Evaluation competently can progress to water based junior activities noting a 1:5 water safety ratio (water safety personnel: activity participants).

For still water / pool activities or low-risk conditions (which have been ascertained after a formal risk assessment) the ratio may be expanded to 1:10 water safety ratio (water safety personnel: activity participants).

A maximum supervision ratio of 1:5 (water safety personnel: activity participants) applies as per SLSA Water Safety Procedure 1.01 to ensure the evaluations are conducted in a safe aquatic environment.

Refer to the SLSA Age Managers Learner Guide and [SLSA Water Safety Procedure 1.01](#) for more information on Junior Preliminary Evaluations.

Junior Beach Evaluation/ Run Swim Run

Nippers must complete a Beach Evaluation/ Run Swim Run in the ocean to assess ability and competency before completing other aquatic activities.

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Junior Competition Evaluation

From the age of 7 (Under 8) juniors may begin to compete in inter-club competition. From the age of 10 (Under 11) juniors can participate in state competitions.

To ensure all junior members who wish to compete have the ability, strength, and fitness standard to complete the course, they must be able to complete the junior competition evaluation for their age group.

The junior competition evaluation is based on the swim competition distances as set out in the current SLSA Australian Surf Sports Manual for that age group and is a standard in the form of an open water swim. Individual branches may have a higher standard for their competition evaluation. Contact your relevant branch office for confirmation.

Before Junior Activities Members can complete the Junior Competition Evaluation, they must complete the Junior Preliminary Skills Evaluation.

For more information on SLSA Surf Sport Competition eligibility and requirements, refer to;

- SLSA Policy 5.04 – Competition Eligibility Policy
- SLSA Surf Sports Manual

Branch or State Competition Requirements

Any competitor wishing to compete at Branch or State carnivals (water and/or beach events) must have successfully completed:

- Junior Preliminary Evaluation (Including Run/Swim/Run – Beach Evals)
- Junior Competition Evaluation
- Appropriate Surf Education award for their age group prior to the close of entries for their branch titles or the SLSQ State Titles each season.

The above three components must be entered into SurfGuard prior to close of entries. For assistance in uploading this information into SurfGuard please contact the SurfGuard helpdesk on 1300 724 006 or ithelp@slsa.asn.au

9. HELP DESK

SURFGUARD HELP

Surfguard Help Desk

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SLSA IT HELPDESK

[Support Center Home](#)
[Knowledgebase](#)
[Open a New Ticket](#)
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OPEN A NEW TICKET
Please fill in the form below to open a new ticket.

<p>Contact Information</p> <p>Email Address *</p> <input type="text"/> <p>Full Name *</p> <input type="text"/> <p>Phone Number *</p> <input type="text"/>	<p>Help Topic</p> <p>— Select a Help Topic —</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>
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[Create Ticket](#)
[Reset](#)
[Cancel](#)

Or you can watch several ICT webinars available on the SLSQ Help Desk page.

- [Surfguard Help Desk](#)
- [ICT Webinars](#)

For more information, please reach out to the Membership Team – membership@lifesaving.com.au

Or Junior activities directly on ja@lifesaving.com.au

Regional Membership Development Coordinators:

North Queensland Branch	Karen Smith-Marron	northqueensland@lifesaving.com.au	07 4049 1200
North Barrier Branch	Emily Donoghue	edonoghue@lifesaving.com.au	0447 517 143
Wide Bay Capricorn Branch	Nick Hodgson	nhodgson@lifesaving.com.au	0432 106 137
Sunshine Coast Branch	Jessica Roberts	jroberts@lifesaving.com.au	0448 674 224
Gold Coast Region	Paul Ryan	pryan@lifesaving.com.au	0409 621 568

Natalie Jarrott

State Volunteer Junior Activities Advisor

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Ella Kinneally

SLSQ - Junior Activities Coordinator

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