

# SLSQ Policy

<b>Title:</b> Junior Activities & Patrol Services	<b>Department:</b> Membership Services
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## Introduction:

Lifesaving is something for the whole family to get involved in. Junior Activities is an amazing activity for growing a child's confidence, knowledge and skills in the beach environment.

The program is focused on play, participation and fun. It offers an educational pathway through the delivery of the Junior Developments which is designed to ensure children have fun at the beach while participating in lessons that will develop them to become a knowledgeable participant in both lifesaving and sport.

As they progress through the various age groups, nippers will undergo lessons in wading, running, swimming, board paddling and lifesaving skills including working towards resuscitation and first aid.

## Application:

This policy applies to all affiliated Clubs and members of Surf Life Saving Queensland

## Definitions:

- Nipper Program : scheduled and approved days occurring regularly (usually weekly) at Clubs
- Patrol Service : volunteer patrol or lifeguard service

## Legislative Framework:

- [SLSQ Policy LS09 – Lifesaving Activities at Closed Beaches](#)
- [SLSA Policy 1.01 - Water Safety](#)
- [SLSQ Policy MS13 - High Visibility Clothing](#)

## Policy

### Nipper Program

All Clubs running a Nipper Program must ensure that a patrol service is on the beach prior to the commencement of any activities

A Nipper Program is to be in line with the provisions of the requirements of SLSQ. These can be found on the SLSQ App [here](#)

Should a club wish to hold a Nipper Program without a Patrol Service on the beach, the Club can apply for a [Special Event Application](#)

### Surf Sports Training

Some clubs may wish to conduct additional training outside of the normal Nipper program day/s. For each training session, clubs are required to

- nominate a primary and a secondary venue
- nominate a Water Safety Supervisor.
- Complete the [Mid-Week training form](#) and submit this to the Club for approval
- All activities at Nipper Surf Sports training are to be carried out in adherence to the [SLSA Water Safety Policy](#)

### Surf Sports Carnivals

All Surf Sports Events are to be run as per the requirements of the [SLSA Surf Sports Manual](#)

### Beach and Competition Evaluations

Every junior activity member must also complete the competency beach evaluation (run-swim-run) prior to participation in a junior activities program and competition evaluation prior to any junior activity's competition being undertaken, and prior to gaining their age award.

This ensures all children can demonstrate a standard of competence to enable preliminary levels of survival skills at a beach with conditions similar to what would be experienced during weekly junior activities programs.

Oftentimes Clubs will run the Beach Evaluation (Run swim run) and Competition evaluation for members prior to the commencement of the nipper and/or patrol season.

Clubs are not required to have a patrol service present for this activity. All requirements of the SLSA Water Safety Policy should be adhered to during this activity.

*Note : clubs must have a 1 : 5 ratio for water safety*

### Interclub Nipper Event

Depending on the nature of the event will determine the requirements of the Club

- Joint Nipper Day : As per the requirements of the Nipper Program
- Interclub Carnival : This should be approved by the Branch (as a sport event) and run in line with the SLS Sports Manual

### Closed Beach

When the sea conditions are extremely hazardous and have been assessed as unsafe for the public to swim, the beach will be closed

As per [SLSQ Policy LS09 – Lifesaving Activities at Closed Beaches](#) - no junior activities are to be conducted at Closed Beaches

Clubs must have the alternate venue approved via their Club minutes. If a Club has to use an alternate venue for a Nipper Program there is no expectation to have a patrol service but Clubs must adhere to the SLSA Water Safety Policy including the completion of a risk assessment

## **General**

Clubs must ensure the following

- That a Risk Management form is completed prior to the commencement of any activity involving Junior Activities. This can be done via a hard copy form or via the SLSA Water Safety App (this can be downloaded by contacting SLSA on [ithelp@slsa.asn.au](mailto:ithelp@slsa.asn.au) )
- Attendance for all activities should be recorded
- Adherence to relevant rules/policies of SLSQ/A as it relates to Junior Activities, Water Activities/Safety and Hi Vis Clothing
- All documents (attendance, risk management) should be centrally filed at the Club Office

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