

SOUTH MAROUBRA NIPPERS INFORMATION BOOKLET 2026-2027

SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB
SOUTH MAROUBRA
EST 1959



Welcome to the South Maroubra Nippers Program.

I'm Ashleigh Philp, and I'm excited to welcome you and your family to South Maroubra SLSC for the 2026/2027 season. Our club has a proud history of developing young lifesavers, and we're committed to giving your children a safe, supportive, and confidence-building experience on the beach. After recent events at Coogee, we know water safety is front of mind for many families, and I want to reassure you that our team is focused, prepared, and dedicated to keeping every child safe.

South Maroubra is powered by volunteers; parents, members, and community supporters who show up every week to make Nippers possible. Their energy is what makes our program special. If you're able to help, whether in water safety, age groups, or general support on the sand, we'd love to have you involved. You don't need to be a lifesaver to contribute, but if you'd like to become one, our education team will guide you.

We can't wait to see the beach full of excited kids, supportive families, and the unmistakable South Maroubra spirit. It's going to be a fantastic season at the best beach in Sydney.

If you have any questions or want to connect, please chat with me on the beach or reach out at **doy@southmaroubrasurfclub.com.au** or **nippers@southmaroubrasurfclub.com.au**.

Warm regards,

Ashleigh Philp

Director of Youth Development

2026-2027 SEASON START DATES

Sat 17 October 2026 - U6
Sun 18 October 2026 - U7 to U14

Nipper Committee 2026/27

Ashleigh Philp
Director of Youth Development

Emma Maley
Assistant Director of Youth Development & Nipper Touring Team Manager

Danielle Kondilios - **Youth Registrar**

Matt Brown - **Nipper Gear Coordinator**

Tim Jones **Nipper Water Safety Coordinator**

Coaches
Water: Liam Maley, Tim Jeffries, Michael Renford
Sand: Andrew Newrick, Max Murphy
March Past: George Alexiou
R&R: Cindy Redmond

WHAT IS NIPPERS?

ONE OF THE BIGGEST VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS IN THE WORLD

65,512	7,000+	59 YEARS
young-lifesavers-in-training across Australia	nippers in Sydney Branch – the largest in Australia	South Maroubra nippers has been running



Nippers from the young age of five can commence their development as young lifesavers. Our Nippers participate in a progressive SLSA Surf Education program (Surf Ed). Through the program they will learn:

- to respect the surf, read it and use it to their advantage
- skills and knowledge of beach safety rules
- developing and practicing essential surf lifesaving skills (such as CPR, First Aid, surf rescue skill and more)

In order to obtain the Surf Education awards nippers must complete Surf Education and attend at least 75% of nipper sessions. This is all done in a fun, safe and friendly environment that promotes a healthy lifestyle and camaraderie unique to surf lifesaving.

A typical Nipper session will run for 1-1½ hours, subject to weather and water conditions. Depending on the Age Group activities may include - wading, board paddling, swimming, beach sprinting and beach flags. These fun activities and games are designed to increase engagement and develop teamwork.



U6 & U7

Fun and games on the beach which build basic surf skills and awareness, emphasizing safety and what to do if they get into trouble at the beach.

This includes shallow water activities carried out at the far South End of Maroubra Beach in the rock pool.

U8 to U14

A structured program that includes skill development activities in both the water, and on the sand developing their basic resuscitation, first aid, and rescue skills.

These older age groups may also represent our club at local carnivals several times during the season and while not compulsory it allows them to meet other nippers, to test their skills in different beach environments and the joy of representing our club



2026/27 FEES

JOINING SOUTH MAROUBRA

Returning Members: registration can be done online – login to your SLS Hub account to re-enrol

New Registrations: can be done online at https://sls.com.au/join/

If you have any issues with registering through the online system, you can visit the office at the South Maroubra Surf Club and register in person. Office hours are Monday-Friday 9am-3pm.

Membership type	Cost	Details
Nipper – 1st Child	$135	Registration fee
Nipper – 2nd Child	$115	Registration fee
Nipper 3rd+ Child	$95 each after	Registration fee
General Non-Active Parent*	$50	Recommended per family
Active Senior (18years+)	$90	Bronze Medallion/SRC holders doing patrols or water safety

Compulsory extras: pink hi-vis vest, coloured age cap.
Others: Competition cap, club swimmers (compulsory if your nipper is part of the competition team)

*General membership for parents is recommended as provides insurance cover and enables parents to be involved in assisting age groups on the beach and access to club facilities on Sundays.







AGE GROUPS

- Children can join Nippers from age (Under 6) until they are 13 (Under 14).
- A child can start Nippers as soon as they turn 5. If they turn 5 after 30 September, they're welcome to join for the rest of the season, but they'll stay in the U6 age group again the following year.
- Membership fees remain the same regardless of start time.
- Age group is determined based on age as of 30 September each year.







SOUTH MAROUBRA SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB INC
2026/27 NIPPER AGE CHART

	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
	U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	Cadet
January	GREEN	RED	SKY	NAVY	PINK	YELLOW	BURGUNDY	MAUVE	LIME	Cadet
February	GREEN	RED	SKY	NAVY	PINK	YELLOW	BURGUNDY	MAUVE	LIME	Cadet
March	GREEN	RED	SKY	NAVY	PINK	YELLOW	BURGUNDY	MAUVE	LIME	Cadet
April	GREEN	RED	SKY	NAVY	PINK	YELLOW	BURGUNDY	MAUVE	LIME	Cadet
May	GREEN	RED	SKY	NAVY	PINK	YELLOW	BURGUNDY	MAUVE	LIME	Cadet
June	GREEN	RED	SKY	NAVY	PINK	YELLOW	BURGUNDY	MAUVE	LIME	Cadet
July	GREEN	RED	SKY	NAVY	PINK	YELLOW	BURGUNDY	MAUVE	LIME	Cadet
August	GREEN	RED	SKY	NAVY	PINK	YELLOW	BURGUNDY	MAUVE	LIME	Cadet
September	GREEN	RED	SKY	NAVY	PINK	YELLOW	BURGUNDY	MAUVE	LIME	Cadet
		U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14
October	N/A	GREEN	RED	SKY	NAVY	PINK	YELLOW	BURGUNDY	MAUVE	LIME
November	N/A	GREEN	RED	SKY	NAVY	PINK	YELLOW	BURGUNDY	MAUVE	LIME
December	N/A	GREEN	RED	SKY	NAVY	PINK	YELLOW	BURGUNDY	MAUVE	LIME

Cap colours stay the same each year, a new one is not necessary every season – it's like a "baggy green"

PRELIMINARY SKILLS EVALUATION

SURFLIFE SAVING AUSTRALIA COMPULSORY REQUIREMENT

Skill Area	Under 6 (DOB 1/10/2019–30/09/2020)	Under 7 (DOB 1/10/2018–30/09/2019)	Under 8 (DOB 1/10/2017–30/09/2018)
Flotation	Back or front float for a minimum of **5 seconds**, recover to stand.	Back or front float for a minimum of **10 seconds**, recover to stand.	Back or front float for a minimum of **15 seconds**, recover to stand.
Submersion	Submerge to touch the bottom with hands.	Submerge to touch the bottom with hands.	Submerge to touch the bottom with hands.
Propulsion	From standing position in waist-deep water, perform a **front glide (1–2 metres)** and recover to stand.	From standing position in waist-deep water, perform a **front glide (2–3 metres)** and recover to stand.	Swim on front any stroke (**20 metres**) followed by swim underwater (**2–3 metres**).

Skill Area	Under 9 (DOB 1/10/2016–30/09/2017)	Under 10 (DOB 1/10/2015–30/09/2016)	Under 11 (DOB 1/10/2014–30/09/2015)
Flotation	Front to back float or back to front float – 5 seconds each side. Tread water or any stroke sculling for a minimum of **1 minute**.	Front to back float or back to front float – 5 seconds each side. Tread water or any stroke sculling for a minimum of **1 minute**.	Front to back float or back to front float – 5 seconds each side. Tread water or any stroke sculling for a minimum of **2 minutes**.
Submersion	Submerge to touch the bottom with hands.	Submerge to touch the bottom with hands.	Submerge to perform forward or backward somersault recover to surface, then submerge to touch the bottom with hands.
Propulsion	Swim on front using any stroke for **25 metres**, followed by survival stroke (breaststroke/sidestroke/back sculling) for a minimum of **10 metres**.	Swim on front using any stroke for **25 metres**, followed by survival stroke (breaststroke/sidestroke/back sculling) for a minimum of **25 metres**.	Swim on front using any stroke for **25 metres**, followed by survival stroke (breaststroke/sidestroke/back sculling) for a minimum of **50 metres**.

PROFICIENCES WILL TAKE PLACE

Saturday 26th September 2026
1pm to 5pm
Des Renford Leisure Centre, Maroubra



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PRELIMINARY SKILLS EVALUATION

SURFLIFE SAVING AUSTRALIA COMPULSORY REQUIREMENT

Skill Area	Under 12 (DOB 1/10/2013–30/09/2014)	Under 13 (DOB 1/10/2012–30/09/2013)	Under 14 (SRC) (DOB 1/10/2011–30/09/2012)
Flotation	Front to back float or back to front float – 5 seconds each side. Tread water and/or any stroke sculling for a minimum of **3 minutes**.	Front to back float or back to front float – 5 seconds each side. Tread water and/or any stroke sculling for a minimum of **3 minutes**.	Front to back float or back to front float – 5 seconds each side. Tread water and/or any stroke sculling for a minimum of **3 minutes**.
Submersion	Submerge to perform forward or backward somersault underwater, recover to surface, then submerge to touch the bottom with hands.	Submerge to perform forward or backward somersault underwater, recover to surface, then submerge to touch the bottom with hands.	Submerge to perform forward or backward somersault underwater, **do not recover to surface**, then submerge to touch the bottom with hands.
Propulsion	Swim on front using any stroke for **75 metres**, followed by survival stroke (breaststroke/sidestroke) for a minimum of **50 metres**.	Swim on front using any stroke for **100 metres**, followed by survival stroke (breaststroke/sidestroke) for a minimum of **50 metres**.	Swim on front using any stroke for **100 metres**, followed by survival stroke (breaststroke/sidestroke) for a minimum of **100 metres**.

PROFICIENCES WILL TAKE PLACE

Saturday 26th September 2026
1pm to 5pm
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COMPETITION TEAM



PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for competition, all registered Nippers who have passed their age-group skills evaluation must complete the **Competition Skills Evaluation (open-water swim)**.

This assessment is a **minimum proficiency requirement** for every competitor, regardless of discipline — sand or water — and must be achieved before participating in any inter-club event.

Proficieny swims will take place in the first few weeks of Sunday nippers, or at a scheduled water training session (dates to be confirmed)

An information session for new and returning competition team members will take place in the Heritage Room on the first week of nippers. Details will be sent out closer to the date.





Age Group	Competition Evaluation
U6	Nil
U7	Nil
U8	Nil (no water competition, except for wade which takes place in waist-deep water)
U9	Minimum **150 m open-water swim** (any recognised stroke)
U10	Minimum **150 m open-water swim** (any recognised stroke)
U11	Minimum **200 m open-water swim** (any recognised stroke)
U12	Minimum **200 m open-water swim** (any recognised stroke)
U13	Minimum **200 m open-water swim** (any recognised stroke)
U14	Minimum **200 m open-water swim** (any recognised stroke)

A TYPICAL NIPPERS DAY

SUNDAY MORNINGS

There are 2 sessions run on Sunday morning.

8:00am to 9:15am	9.30am to 10:45am
U6, U11, U12, U13, U14 U9 Girls	U7, U8, U10 U9 Boys

Sign-On:
U6-U7 nippers will sign in **ON THE BEACH,** at the rock pool end.
U8-U14 nippers will sign in on the **GRASS AREA** in front of the club house, beachside.

Safety and Gear:
- Age nipper cap and pink high-vis rash vest are mandatory for all water activities.
- Some age groups will be issued a red wristband for sign-on/sign out. They must be worn every week.
- Water bottle, towel and apply suncream before arrival
- Nipper caps are only removed once signed out at the end of the session

Keeping our nippers safe
- Nippers must stay within their designated area unless given permission by their age manager or age manager assistants and accompanied by a parent or guardian
- All sessions require a parent or guardian present on the beach – **nippers is not a drop and go activity**
- All nippers must sign in and out with their Age Manager each session. This procedure is to ensure the safety of your child at all times.
- If you have nippers in multiple age groups, please let your age manager know on sign-in.

Our focus is surf awareness and safety skills, with an expectation of base level of swim training. It is important that if your child should have had some swimming lessons or be in a swimming program.

Age Managers/Assistants and Water Safety volunteers help keep our nippers safe in the water and on the beach. To assist – relevant training is required. Please contact nippers@southmaroubrasurfclub.com.au for more information on attaining certification so you to can help out on the beach!

Important Reminders:

NIPPERS IS ALMOST ALWAYS ON – any cancellations will be communicated via Facebook, WhatsApp and email.

- **NO CAP or RASH VEST = NO PARTICIPATION**
- Nippers must be signed in and out each session – no exceptions!

For any child safety concerns , the Club's Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO) can be contacted at **mpio@southmaroubrasurfclub.com.au**



AGE MANAGERS

At the beginning of the new season, the Nipper Committee team confirms Age Managers and Age Manage Assistants/beach crew for every age group.

Qualities expected of all volunteers

- Bring a positive and enthusiastic attitude that helps create a supportive environment for nippers
- Demonstrate strong role-model behaviour and lead by example
- Show respect to all club members and public
- Act with integrity, professionalism and teamwork
- Communicate clearly
- Be reliable and uphold the SLSA and Club Code of Conduct.

Mandatory requirements:

- Current Working with Children's Check (WWCC)
- Financially active South Maroubra SLSC General Membership
- Completion of the Age Managers Course, Child Saftey Awareness Module, and 2026 Age Manager Maintenance Video via the SLS Members Portal
- Availability to attend team meetings as scheduled by the Age Manager Coordinator or Nipper Committee.

At least one Age Manager or Age Assistant/Beach Crew per group should have their Bronze Medallion or SRC or be planning to obtain their award during the current season. This will immensely assist them to deliver the required surf education to their nipper groups.

Key Responsibilities

- Prepare and coordinate weekly age group activities
- Maintain a safe environment for our nippers and families

Make the program fun and engaging while helping nippers grow into confident future lifesavers







YOUR ROLE AS A PARENT/CARER

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

YOU DO MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!

One thing we can tell you for certain, the more you get involved, the more you and your child will enjoy Nippers. The main emphasis of Nippers is to have fun in an all-inclusive environment.

The Club operates entirely from volunteer help. There are many jobs you can help with, and you do not need to have had surf life saving experience or be a lifesaver. The club values any and all contributions from parents – it makes our club.

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK

Each week an age group takes a turn on beach setup, pack up and BBQ duty. Your Age Manager will let you know when it's your group's week – support from families makes the difference!

OTHER WAYS OF GETTING INVOLVED…

- Age Managers, Age Assistants, Beach Crew
- Water Safety, IRB crew/driver
- Be an accredited Official/Coach
- Education and Training
- Assisting with Apparel sales
- Fundraising, etc.
- Sponsorship





BE A PART OF THE FUN – GET INVOLVED

COMMUNICATION PROTOCOLS

HOW WE WILL COMMUNICATE WITH YOU



HOW WE STAY IN TOUCH

- **Email and website –** season news, calendars and forms.
- **Facebook –** facebook.com/southmaroubraslscnippers
- **WhatsApp Community –** South Maroubra Nippers, with an official group for every age group.
- **Team App –** search and join South Maroubra Youth. This is our main channel for competition information.

WHATSAPP PROTOCOL

- The age group chats inside the South Maroubra Nippers Community are the only official club groups. If it is not in the Community, it did not come from the club.
- Age Managers use them to pass on changes to the Sunday program and to call for help on your group's rostered setup, pack up and BBQ weekends.
- Remember the reach – these are large groups and every post lands with hundreds of families. Keep messages brief, relevant and on topic.
- Keep it respectful and family friendly. No selling, no politics, no complaints or debate – raise those with your Age Manager or the club office.
- Reply to the sender rather than the whole group where you can, use emoji reactions instead of "thanks" messages, and avoid late-night posts.

WATER SAFETY

SAFETY IN THE WATER

- Before every Nipper session our Water Safety Coordinator checks conditions with the Council Lifeguards and Patrol Captain.
- Surf activities only run when conditions are safe and can be stopped at any time by the Lifeguard, Patrol Captain or Water Safety Coordinator.
- All water safety follows Surf Life Saving Australia guidelines, with an IRB on the water for every nipper activity.
- Drone surveillance by South Maroubra SLSC and SLSNSW gives us an extra set of eyes over the water.
- Shark deterrent bands (by Sharkbanz) are fitted to the buoys that mark our nipper swim area and adds a layer of risk reduction.
- Water Safety Officers wear orange rash tops and caps, so they are easy to spot.
- The more bronze medallion parents in the water, the better – they help us meet the required water safety ratio.

NO WATER ACTIVITY STARTS WITHOUT THE CORRECT RATIO OF WATER SAFETY

GET YOUR SRC OR BRONZE MEDALLION

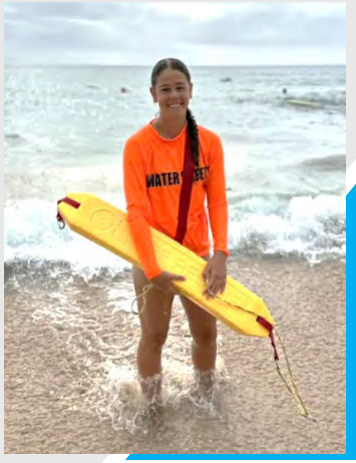
More qualified parents means more time in the water for our nippers.

Training runs all season – it is never too late.

Email **education@southmaroubrasurfclub.com.au** to get started.







JUNIOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

A TASTE OF COMPETITION

A Junior Club Championship event is run each season (per the 2026/27 Nippers Calendar.) This is run similar to how a surf sports carnival would be run and is a great opportunity for nippers to get a taste what a competition is like.

Age Managers and Beach Crew marshal each group (U8s–U14s) to their event areas on the day.

- Every event is run and recorded by club officials, just like a carnival.
- Events run as heats, quarter finals, semi finals and finals, depending on numbers.
- Medals go to the top three finishers in every event.
- Junior Club Champions for each age group receive their awards on presentation day.
- If conditions are unsafe, the day may be rescheduled.

YOUTH CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS EVENTS	
SAND	**SURF**
Flags	Wade – U8s only
Sprint	Surf Race – U9s to U13s
Long distance runs – 1km/2km - U11+	Board Race – U9s to U13s
	Ironperson - U11s to U14s

To participate at Club Championships – nippers MUST HAVE ATTENDED a minimum of 15 out of 20 nipper days and completed the competition proficiency swim distance





COMPETITION & TRAINING

HAVE A GO, MAKE NEW FRIENDS, GO FURTHER

CARNIVALS

- Junior Surf Lifesaving carnivals run at beaches across Sydney all season. U9 to U14 nippers who meet the competition proficiency and training criteria are eligible.
- The club endorses a large number of events each season – full details are on the competition calendar.
- The club pays Sydney Branch endorsed entries for nippers in the club touring team. Late entries are covered by the competitor, and no-shows reimburse the club.
- Carnival news is circulated via TeamApp, email and social media – keep your contact details up to date.

TRAINING

- Nippers who pass their competition skills evaluation are expected to train – surf, board, sprint and flags. Training scheduled are are posted on TeamApp.
- A parent or carer must stay for the whole session.
- High visibility singlets are compulsory for water training – no singlet, no training.
- Parents provide water safety at surf training: one water safety person for every five nippers, or the session cannot run.
- Surf training is board based – a nipper board and solid swim fitness are needed. Coaches will contact you to place your child in the right group.





WANT TO COMPETE?

- Read the Competition Information Booklet for full details on events, entries and training.
- Come to the competition team meeting at the start of the season, hosted by our Nippers Touring Team Manager.
- Questions? Email jr_carnivals@southmaroubrasurfclub.com.au

UNIFORM

- Club competition cap and club swimwear at every carnival.
- Our sponsored pink rash vest must be worn unless the carnival issues its own.
- South Maroubra apparel is highly recommended; a team uniform is supplied to nippers competing at the NSW State Championships

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS



PRESENTATION DAY

- Awards are presented at then end of the season over two weekends – U6s to U8s, then U9s to U14s (including competition team).

WHAT'S AWARDED

- Surf Education and participation awards (all U6-U8's who complete their surf education will receive an award)
- Achievement and improvement awards per age group/gender, junior club championships, and attendance awards – U9-U14
- Competition team awards

HOW TO QUALIFY

- Attend 75% of Nipper sessions – competing for South Maroubra counts towards attendance.
- Be registered, proficient, in the correct age group and have earned the SLSA award for that group.
- Attendance is marked in the app each week by the registrar – **please check your child is signed off correctly each week with your age manager.**

100% ATTENDANCE AWARD

Awarded to every nipper who attends all nominated Sunday mornings on the season calendar – counting from week one.



SOCIAL ACTIVITIES



Nippers is as much about the families as the kids. Every event below is open to all nipper families and friends – come along and join the fun

- **SUNDAY SOCIAL**
  The BK Bar is open year-round from 12pm – hang around after nippers and enjoy the sunshine.
- **CHRISTMAS SCRAMBLE & SANTA**
  A club nipper BBQ on the last Sunday before Christmas and keep an eye out for Santa – always a highlight.
- **COMPETITION TEAM FUNDRAISING NIGHT**
  Our annual fundraiser and a great night out for members, parents and friends (adults only). Details to come.
- **END OF SEASON BBQ & DISCO**
  We finish the season with a BBQ and send off our U14s as they move into cadets.

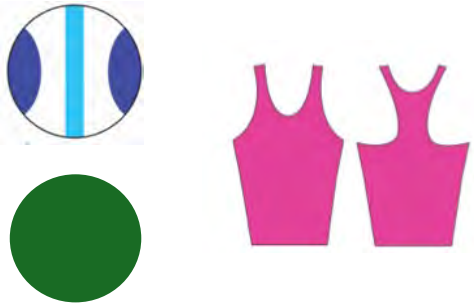


STAY IN THE LOOP

facebook.com/southmaroubraslscnippers/
facebook.com/southmaroubraslsc
southmaroubrasurfclub.com.au

NIPPER APPAREL

Club/Nipper Cap and high vis vest



Boy's swimwear



Girl's swimwear



WHAT TO WEAR

- Apparel is available from the club office all season.
- Club costumes are not compulsory for Sunday nippers.
- To compete at any carnival, nippers must wear South Maroubra costumes – and the same club uniform for team events.

CAPS & VESTS

- Pink high visibility vests are compulsory for all nipper water activities, in every age group.
- **Age group cap (compulsory):** $20, or $25 reversible
- **Competition cap:** $20



NIPPER COMPETITION TOURING TEAM 2025/2026



SOUTH MAROUBRA NIPPERS
PROUD PARTNERS

NAXCO

VIRTUS
INFRASTRUCTURE

HOLFORDS
POOL SERVICES PTY LTD
SINCE 1964
Bellevue Hill 9389 0055

MAROUBRA
SEALS

The Juniors
GROUP OF CLUBS

Randwick City Council
a sense of community