

The Surf Life Saving Junior Activities or Nippers has become one of the most successful children's development and sporting programs in Australia. It encourages children to learn skills, which may some day save someone's life and promotes active involvement of parents to create a learning environment from which both children and parents can benefit. The following information is designed as a guide to the Burleigh Nipper Program.

NIPPER DAY!

Nipper Days, currently Sundays, are the foundation from which we build basic surf skills, competition skills and awards knowledge. The aims of the Club Day activities are:

- **Instruction in surf safety and surf awareness**
- **Lifesaving and first aid skill development**
- **Competitive sport activities**
- **Platform to senior beach patrolling duties**
- **Enjoyable social activity for children and parents**

Each age group has an Age Group Leader with one or two assistants. The leader is responsible for the education, training and organisation of the group. The coaches of water and beach activities have overall control of training and the Awards Officer is responsible for the Seasons Achievement Awards.



During the hours of activities, Nippers are in the care of their Group Leaders or Instructors who are easily recognisable by their distinctive T-shirts. **NIPPERS MUST BE SIGNED ON AND OFF BY THEIR AGE GROUP LEADER AT ONE DESIGNATED LOCATION!**

Parents must let the Group Leader or Instructor know if their child is to leave early for any reason. It is the responsibility of parents to make sure caps are tied on correctly and sunscreen is applied before the start of Nippers.

The children participating in the Under 6 & 7 age groups must have a parent or guardian accompanying them **AT ALL TIMES** during Nipper activities.

WHO CAN JOIN IN?

Membership is limited to children aged between 5 and 14 years of age. At least one adult must join with each family. It is also a pre-requisite that children have an ability to swim. Parents are also encouraged to contribute to the running of The Nipper Program. There are family subscription discounts available to assist in the financial burden of larger families.

WHAT TO DO AND BRING ON SUNDAY!

All children must have a Club cap and plenty of sunscreen. The cap is especially important as it makes supervision much easier both in and out of the water.

Children will not be allowed on the beach without sunscreen. Please apply this at least 15 mins before Nippers commences.

It is also recommended that children bring a water bottle and wear a Club wet shirt. All club apparel can be purchased at the Club on Sunday mornings.

All children must assemble on the grassed area in front of the Clubhouse 15 minutes before the scheduled commencement time and be wearing swimmers, cap, sunscreen (and wet shirt). Jewellery is not to be worn during activities. Age Group Leaders will call a roll and mark off an attendance sheet.

Important safety measures are undertaken to ensure the child's safety at all times. These include;

- **All children must stay with their Age Group Leader at all times, unless coaches take over for a specific activity.**
- **If children must leave their group, to go to the toilet etc, the Age Group Leader must be told prior to them leaving.**
- **Whilst in the care of an Age Group Leader, no child is to enter the water unattended unless authorised by the leader.**

At the conclusion of the days activities children are again checked off the attendance roll before they leave their group. Children are not to leave the Clubhouse or its surrounds until collected by the adult responsible for them.

COMPETITION AND CARNIVALS!

The surf sports program offers a wide range of competition events for all ages culminating in the Queensland Junior Championship each year.

To maintain our safety and life saving standards, the Club has set a standard of proficiency that a Junior Activities member must achieve before being eligible to compete in carnivals or championships. The proficiency test involves a continuous activity of running, swimming (freestyle) and running and is tested at the beach. Children must complete this test prior to entering into any competitions.



A carnival often takes all day to contest. Hands are needed, both at carnivals Burleigh hosts and at carnivals you attend (i.e. to help put up and take down tents, transport gear etc). Burleigh competes in a number of team events at carnivals during the season. Selection into teams is made by the Surf Sports Director, Coaches, Age Group Leaders and Team Managers of each age group and are based on performance, reliability and attitude etc.

WHAT AWARDS ARE THERE?

As the nipper program of Burleigh is predominately conducted in an aquatic environment, there is a minimum standard of survival ability to be achieved before children are eligible to commence their activities. The requirements set for each age group are tested in a flat sea or an enclosed water environment (eg pool, lake etc). The activities must be tested in a continuous sequence. A pool & surf proficiency test must be undertaken by all nippers before they can participate in any activities.



Children, on or turning 13 years of age, obtain the Surf Rescue Certificate. This certificate is their first big step into the Senior Club and covers rescue techniques, radios, first aid and resuscitation. This award is compulsory if members wish to compete beyond this age. As children get older a whole spectrum of awards become available to them.

AFTER NIPPERS

A primary objective of the Nipper Program is to develop the skills of our young members is that they may become competent Lifesavers after the age of 14. From here members are asked to perform beach and surf patrols utilising skills learnt during their junior years.

The reward for those who continue on to the senior ranks is considerable. In return for a members patrolling service, the Club offers a range of facilities and services such as comprehensive coaching programs, a large array of awards, competition opportunities, club gym and, from the age of 18, a licensed club facility called the Burleigh Beach Club.

Juniors initially enter into the Under 15 category and will undergo the Bronze Medallion qualification on reaching the age of 15.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

All parents are expected to help in some aspect of the Nipper program performing tasks such as Age Group Leaders and Assistants, Team Managers, Water Safety, Carnival Officials, or Committee members.

A roster of parents is compiled to help with preparation, serving and cooking the BBQ held each Sunday after Nippers. Your co-operation and participation in this and other fund raising activities is appreciated as all funds raised go directly to Nippers for the purchase and maintenance of equipment, pay coaches and running expenses of the Nipper Program.



WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK

Burleigh Surf Club is committed to protecting children from harm and promoting their wellbeing. An important child protection initiative of the Surf Life Saving movement is the participation in the working with children check as set up by the Commission for Children and Young People. This ensures all volunteers who work with children undergo a suitability & criminal history check and imposes penalties on persons who fail to comply with the requirements of the Act. A blue plastic suitability card is issued to the applicant which remains valid for two years.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

A leaflet should accompany this brochure listing all subscription fees, sign-on days, proficiency requirements and important dates during the season.

If you require any more information on the Nippers program or any other service of the Club, our staff can assist and can be contacted by any means listed below.

Burleigh Heads Mowbray Park Surf Life Saving Club

Address: Cnr. Goodwin Tce. & Gold Coast H'way, Burleigh Heads 4220
PO Box 157 Burleigh Heads 4220
Admin: 5535 2419
Bistro: 5520 2972
Fax: 5520 1661
Email: bhmpslsc@bigpond.net.au
Web: www.burleighslsc.com.au

LIFE IS A BEACH



Burleigh Nippers



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