



Mooloolaba Surf Life Saving Club (MSLSC) Nipper Team Selection Guidelines

Mooloolaba SLSC – Nippers Team Selection Policy

Date Issued: 08 September 2025

Approved/Endorsed By: JAC Management Committee / Awaiting Management Committee Endorsement Oct 1 2025

Review Date: September 2026 (prior to commencement of 2026–27 Nipper season)

Purpose and Background

To ensure the strongest carnival participants and teams are selected to represent the Mooloolaba SLSC in each age group.

1. Policy Statement

During the Nipper year there are carnivals (not including Branch and State Youth Championships: U11 to U15 age groups) that are open to all Nippers looking to compete either for the first time or to fine tune their capabilities. We encourage our Nippers to attend these carnivals as an opportunity to grow their friendship base, their confidence and participate in a competition arena. These carnivals will be advertised in advance on the Nipper Team App.

It is recommended that any Nipper interested in competing at Branch or State Youth Championships compete in a minimum of two carnivals prior to these championships. It is important to develop knowledge and understanding of how carnivals are run and the rules for each discipline prior to these major carnivals.

2. Applicability

2.1 This policy applies to members of the Club who compete in Nipper carnivals (ages U8–U14) and their parents/guardians.

2.2 The responsibility of implementing this policy/procedure rests with the Junior Activities Committee (JAC) and the Surf Sports Committee under the overview of the Board.

3. Definitions

3.1 JAC – Junior Activities Committee

3.2 MSLSC – Mooloolaba Surf Life Saving Club

3.3 Board – the Board of Management as the body managing the Club and consisting of Management Committee Members

3.4 By-Laws – the Mooloolaba Surf Life Saving Club Inc By-Laws

3.5 Club – the Mooloolaba Surf Life Saving Club Incorporated

3.6 Constitution – the Mooloolaba Surf Life Saving Club Inc Constitution

3.7 Nominated Selection Carnival – a carnival or carnivals nominated by the JAC prior to the commencement of the season that will be used for team selection at Branch,



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Queensland and Aussies Youth Championship Carnivals

3.8 Officers – all elected or appointed officers of the Club

3.9 DOSS – Mooloolaba Surf Life Saving Club Director of Surf Sports

3.10 Jr. DOSS – Junior (Nipper) Director of Surf Sports

4. Carnival Competition Eligibility

4.1 For all Nippers from U8 through to U14, a Competition Proficiency Evaluation must be completed each season prior to competing in any carnival.

4.2 Team Manager and Coaches may refuse entry in an event to a competitor for individual or team events at a carnival if there are concerns about their ability to safely participate in that event.

4.3 To ensure the safety and smooth running of each carnival, our Club is required to meet the official and water safety ratios outlined in the Circular Document for each event.

Expectation of families: Families of competitors are expected to contribute by providing qualified Officials, Water Safety, Team Managers, or Age Managers. Where ratio compliance cannot be met, priority to compete will be given to competitors whose family members are fulfilling these essential roles. If no alternative arrangements are available, some competitors may be unable to participate. Early communication with your Age Manager or Team Manager is strongly encouraged if your family cannot fulfil these roles.

4.4 In some cases, SLISA rules for certain carnivals allow competitors to compete up in an age group above their regular age group for team events. For example, U10 competitors may be eligible for U11 carnival team events.

Eligibility to Compete in SLS Junior Activities (U8–U14)

To be eligible to compete in Surf Life Saving (SLS) Junior Activity competitions (U8–U14), members must:

1. **Be a registered and current financial member** of a club affiliated with Surf Life Saving Australia (SLISA).
2. **Complete the appropriate SLISA Age Award and Junior Competition Evaluation** relevant to their age category *by the normal closing date* for entries in any Championship competition.
3. **Be eligible under the applicable age category** for the event.

Notes:

- **Junior Activities Members (U14 and below)** are *not required* to perform patrol hours to compete in Junior Activities competitions (U14 and below age categories).
- If a Junior Activities member wishes to compete in **Under 15 competition**, they must fulfill all patrol hour and/or service obligations as required.
- **Junior Activity members who hold the Surf Rescue Certificate (SRC)** are exempt from patrol hour requirements.



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- **Under 8 members** are *not permitted* to compete in water events other than the **Wade Relay**.
 - The Junior Competition Evaluation does **not** form part of the **Junior Preliminary Skills Assessment** for Under 8s.

5. Selection Committee

5.1 Mooloolaba SLSC selectors for 2025–26 are Coaches and Junior Director of Surf Sports (Jr. DOSS).

5.2 Water: Beau Farrell (chair), Maddy Gale, Dani Jackson, Perry Elliott, Rohan Livingstone

5.3 Beach: Pauline Gleeson (Head Beach Coach)

5.4 Selectors may engage Nipper Age Managers and Team Manager for feedback to assist with selection where required. The Selection Committee's decision will be final.

5.5 Club Coach(es) may change teams on the day of competition due to conditions and/or circumstances. Team Managers will update applications and communicate changes with Age Managers.

5.6 Nippers selected to represent the Club in team events will be published prior to the carnival. Specific teams and legs will be confirmed on the day of competition at marshalling.

6. Selection Guidelines

The underlying principle in the selection process is to select teams that will be successful and maximise points for the Club at major carnivals:

- Sunshine Coast Branch Titles
- Queensland State Titles
- Australian Youth Championships

Considerations include:

- Competitors nominated for the carnival
- Results for the season
- Conditions on the day
- The Club's ability to field the most competitive teams

Competitors entering individual events are also expected to make themselves available for Club teams in those disciplines.

No changes to selected/entered teams are to be made without the Club Coach(es) authorisation.

7. Considerations

7.1 Competitors must complete Pool Proficiency, Beach Proficiency, and Competition Beach Evaluation prior to nomination.

7.2 Competitors are expected to compete to the best of their abilities in both individual and team events.



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7.3 To be eligible to compete, a parent/guardian must be available to assist before, during, or after the carnival (e.g. set up, pack down, water safety, officiating, age management, coaching, IRB).

7.4 Competitors who withdraw from a team event without coach approval may not compete in the individual event of that discipline.

7.5 Competitors are to be encouraged to support other Mooloolaba competitors and teams.

7.6 Competitors must not leave a carnival without Team Manager consent and sign-out via their Age Manager.

8. Team Selections for General Carnivals

There are many opportunities prior to the major carnivals for Nippers to participate and learn about competition in a fun atmosphere. Nippers are recommended to compete in at least two general carnivals prior to a major carnival.

8.1 Coaches (in consultation with Age Managers and accredited coaches) will select teams based on ability and performances at training and previous carnivals.

8.2 Teams may be selected on the day of competition depending on results, trialling, or conditions. Other factors include availability, willingness, commitment, consistency, workload, and wellbeing.

8.3 For the first few carnivals, team selection may be based on the previous season's results and/or pre-season training.

8.4 Club Carnivals (formerly Points Days): Results at Club Carnivals and other competitive events may be used to inform team selections. Club Carnivals are designed as fun, inclusive experiences to help Nippers gain exposure to a carnival environment and provide selectors with insight into ability, teamwork, and readiness. Age Champion titles are no longer part of this framework.

8.5 For Board Rescue, teams are selected on ability to work together. Pairings are encouraged to train and compete together early in the season.

9. Beach Relays

Beach relays include all age group relays and mixed relays. Statements relating to "ageing-up" apply to Branch, Queensland, and Aussies Youth Championships (U10/11, U11/12, U12/13, U13/14, U14/15 teams).

Athletes are encouraged to race in individual and team events at as many beach carnivals as possible, with priority on:

- QLD Beach Series Rounds 2 & 3
- Junior Branch Championships U13–U15
- State Championships

Relay team selection considers carnival workload and program balance. Close calls will be weighted toward athletes with the most suitable schedule to maximise team performance.

Attendance, performance, and baton exchange at training and carnivals are requirements of selection. State and Aussies relay teams may include a 5th runner (shadow).



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10. Notification to Relevant Parties

- Team selections will be communicated prior to Branch/State/Aussies Youth Championships.
 - Notification will be via Jr. DOSS and/or Team Manager, then confirmed by email and Team App.
 - Carnival results will be recorded and submitted to the JAC Secretary within five working days.
 - If an athlete is not nominated for State Titles before the deadline, they will not be considered for team selection.
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11. Withdrawal from Competition (Team Event)

Competitors withdrawing must:

- Provide timely notification within substitution rules.
 - Seek approval from Coach(es) and Jr. DOSS.
 - Ensure their withdrawal does not jeopardise teammates' right to compete.
 - Failure to notify (no-show) may result in recovery of competition fees and referral to the JAC Executive.
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12. Appeals & Complaints

- The Selection Committee's decision is final regarding team selections.
 - Complaints relating to process (not outcomes) may be referred to the Club's Grievance Officer, whose ruling will be final.
 - It is inappropriate for parents to approach Age Managers, Coaches, selectors, committee members, or competitors with complaints about selection or negative comments about performance.
 - Such behaviour will not be tolerated and will be dealt with under the SLSA Member Protection Policy and Code of Conduct.
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Closing

We look forward to a safe, fun, and successful season of surf sport competition.