



MAROUBRA SLSC

Surf Life Saving Club
established 1906

AN INTRODUCTION TO SURF CARNIVALS

WHAT IS A SURF CARNIVAL? AND WHAT DOES SURF SPORTS INVOLVE?



What are surf Carnivals?

On Saturday 29 March 1908 the recently formed surf lifesaving clubs of Sydney and Newcastle came together at Tamarama Beach to compete in a variety of events in a “Surf Gymkhana”, drawing an estimated crowd of between fifteen and twenty thousand spectators. Before too long these surf gymkhanas became known as “Surf Carnivals”, which, whilst retaining many aspects of the traditional events, have since evolved over 110 years to become the surf carnivals of today, hosting a multitude of events for junior and senior surf lifesavers of all ages from Under 8’s to Masters.

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What does Surf Sports involve?

Unfortunately a lot of waiting. Surf Carnivals start early in the morning and can run for most or all of the day. Unlike many other sports, where programs can be planned in minute detail with a high degree of reliability, Surf Carnivals are totally dependant on the conditions of the day, which may, and often do, change markedly throughout the course of the day. And of course, they are also dependant on the how many people (i.e. watersafety and officials) show up to help on the day.

Children who want to compete *must* first complete their annual Competition Proficiency (i.e. timed pool and open water swim) even if they only wish to compete in sand events. Without being competition proficient, they *cannot* be entered into carnivals.

Parents who want to help must similarly attain and maintain their relevant awards (e.g. SRC or Bronze Medallion for watersafety, Surf Sports Officials Award to officiate, Age Managers Award, and/or Coaching Award to help the kids. To do any of these, parents *must* be financial members of the surf club and have completed their working with children check.

The club will pay carnival entry fees for those children who have been training, and will only let children proceed to the branch and state championships if they have been competing in carnivals earlier in the season, as well as keeping up their training. If your child is a “no-show” to a carnival that they have been entered into, and you cannot provide sufficient advance notice and/or a satisfactory excuse for their absence, you will be required to repay the entry fee to the club, and repeat offenders will be denied entry to future carnivals.

Training session times are posted and updated along with carnival dates, flyers programs (if available), on our Maroubra SLSC Team App and carnival entries are made by emailing: nippersracesecretary@maroubraslsc.com.au

Parents who would like to help out with surf sports, or become qualified to do so, please email: nippers@maroubraslsc.com.au
