

Dear Maroubra Nippers and Families,

We are now actively planning to have our Nippers being back on the beach on Sunday 7th November 2021 now that the NSW Government has approved our Nipper program returning now with a COVID safety plan and liaison with Randwick City Council.

In preparation we have received numerous questions from parents and guardians, which we are hopeful this email may answer those questions.

PROFICIENCY SWIMS (SATURDAY 30th & SUNDAY 31st OCTOBER)

Before a child can participate in any Nipper's event, they must complete the Preliminary Skills Evaluation required for their respective ages. Refer [HERE](#) for the minimum requirement.

We understand that with swimming lessons being impacted some nippers may have some concerns if they are unable to meet these requirements. If a nipper is unable to complete their respective swim, they will still be able to participate in our Sunday Nipper activities with water safety ratio of 1:1 until they can complete the swim.

With swimming pools being difficult to arrange, we will be conducting these swims in flatwater conditions at Frenchman's Bay, LaPerouse on Saturday 30th October, and Sunday 31st October.

(Refer to Map 1 attached for entry and exits)

Due to the high number of swims and different levels required, we would ask that nippers only attend the time allocated for their age group on either day:

- 8.00am - 8.30am – Under 6 & 7
- 8.30am – 9.00am – Under 8, 9 & 10
- 9.00am – 9.30am – Under 11, 12 & 13
- Under 14 Preliminary swims will be conducted during your first week back at Nippers.



Map 1

We would ask that the children be prepared so that they can get in, complete their swim and then leave within their allocated time. If you are late, then you may need to wait as we will need to reset the course, so it would be great if you are on time.

Children will be allowed to wear wetsuits as the water temp may be cool and we would ask that they wear their rash vest from last season. For new members we will have some spares if this season's stock doesn't arrive prior.

Similarly, all Nipper Registrations and payments need to be completed prior to attendance. We won't be able to allow your child to complete the swim if they aren't a financial member.

If you hold your SRC or Bronze Medallion we would appreciate your assistance as water safety for both days.

REGISTRATIONS OPEN

It's great to see so many nippers returning this season, along with a high number of new members.

At this stage, our registrations are still open with the fee being \$100 per Nipper. Once we reach our cap, we may need to close registrations early.

If you have any registration queries, please email nippers2021@maroubraclub.com.au.

NIPPER UNIFORMS

For all Nipper activities it is mandatory that Nippers wear a Pink Hi-Vis Vest and Nipper Cap. Without these Nippers will not be allowed to participate.

We are hopeful that our new stock will be available prior to the season start on Sunday 7th November.

For new members and those existing members who have purchased additional uniforms, we will have a tent set up outside the surf club for collection.

For those existing members we would ask that you use last years' rash vests. If you would like to purchase additional uniforms, then a separate fee is applicable and can be purchased online [HERE](#)

- Nipper Cap - \$25
- Nipper Rash Vests \$35

WHAT TO EXPECT ON SUNDAY MORNING

We have a COVID Safety plan that is now registered with Randwick City Council which ensures we comply with the NSW Health orders.

Nippers 500 Zone: Sunday activities will be conducted in a secure Nippers area which will be surrounded with barriers with intra-zones for each age group. (Refer to Map 2 attached)

Times: we will run 2 distinct sessions with a clear 15 mins in between to sanitise all equipment and allow pick up and exit of areas:

- 8.00am – 9.00am - U6, U7, U8 & U9
- 9.15am – 10.30am - U10, U11, U12 & U13
- 9.00am - U14 SRC



Map 2

Drop off / pick up: there will be clear drop off and pick up zones and traffic flow. The guidance is to 'get in, get active and get out', with no-gathering around the zones, the junior activity areas or around the surf club.

Please note exact junior activity areas are subject to change based on conditions on the day and input from Randwick Council lifeguards. The drop off and pick up zones will stay as indicated.

Nippers: There is no compulsion under the health orders that Under 16s (Nippers) are required to be vaccinated to return to the current roadmap freedoms (note SRC holders are required to be vaccinated when returning to patrols or group education training).

Activities: although education and lifesaving skills will play a significant part in our nippers program, we are planning to spend a significant amount of time in the water to develop the nippers surf skills and confidence.

What To Bring: the nippers will be required to bring their own water bottles, sun cream, towels and jackets to stay warm. It might be easier if they place these in their own bags. As the water is still fresh, we would also recommend wetsuits being worn. We would also request all nippers to get prepared at home, including the application of sun cream so that they can come straight down and join their age group.

PARENT & GUARDIAN ASSISTANCE:

As per previous season, no parents, guardians or siblings will be allowed inside the Nippers Zone unless they are financial members as either Water Safety or Age Manager/Assistants.

We would ask that a parent or guardian signs in their Child on the relevant QR Code and drop their child to the designated area within the Nipper Zone. It is also strongly recommended no siblings attend during the drop off or pick up.

If you do not have your Age Manager/Age Assistant Award and/or Proficient Water Safety, you will not be allowed to remain in the junior activity areas.

AGE MANAGER AWARD

For those parents still to receive their Age Manager award, please ensure you are registered as a General Member of the club. Fee \$40.

Once you have completed your registration, or if you have questions, please email Tracie at agemanager@maroubralesc.com.au and she will assist you with your training.

BRONZE MEDALLION/SRC AWARD

For those parents wanting to assist with water safety by gaining either their Bronze Medallion or SRC, then please email your interest to our Megan education@maroubralesc.com.au.

NSW HEALTH & SURF LIFE SAVING GUIDELINES

Now that we've surpassed 80% vaccination rate and move towards an easing and change of restrictions, it is expected that we will transition to normal activity through November with limited restrictions by 1 December 2021.

The NSW Government Roadmap indicates that community sport can now return under the heading of "fully vaccinated adults (16+)". Nippers fall outside this group so naturally further clarification will be needed from the NSW Government.

VACCINATION

SLS Sydney has adopted a vaccination policy for Member involvement between now and 1 December 2021. This aligns with NSW Government Health Orders for the opening of community facilities and a requirement for patrons to be fully vaccinated. It also takes an additional step and requires Members undertaking group, or activity that involves some risk of exposure or transmission, the need to be fully vaccinated. This policy is temporary in nature, includes exceptions and may change with health orders. The policy will expire on or before 1 December 2021.

JUNIOR ACTIVITY & SURF SPORTS

As of 19 October, restrictions for community sport have been eased to 1 person per 4sqm inside and 1 person per 2sqm outside, with a maximum of 1,000 people permitted at COVID safe outdoor gatherings for community sporting activities.

All participants, parents/guardians and SLS officials (16+) must be double vaccinated and will need to confirm their vaccination status prior to participating. A COVID Safety Plan must be in place for events with more than 50 in attendance.

There is no compulsion under the health orders that Under 16s (ie Nippers) are required to be vaccinated to return to the current roadmap freedoms.

From 1 December, restrictions will be eased further to 1 person per 2sqm inside and outside, with no cap on participation. A COVID Safe plan will be required for outdoor events with more than 1,000 people. At this point in time, under the Public Health Order, all activities will be open to all members.

EDUCATION & SKILLS MAINTENANCE

Face to face training and skills maintenance can return between 11 October and 1 December 2021 for fully vaccinated participants, trainers, assessors, and facilitators in groups of up to 20 people indoor or 50 people outdoor or as directed by NSW Public Health Orders and with a COVID safety plan in place.

Other Members will still be able to complete the online Skills Maintenance learning in the meantime – all Members should have been auto enrolled.

NSW HEALTH & SLS POLICY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Do I need to be vaccinated to enter the Club?

Yes. The NSW Government has indicated that only vaccinated Members will be able to enter community sporting facilities at this stage unless under the emergency services exemption for critical duties.

How will Clubs monitor Member access?

Surf Clubs are responsible for taking reasonable steps to prevent unvaccinated people from entering their premises.

Maroubra Nippers will require all helpers (Age Managers, Age Assistants, Water Safety and General Helpers) to send proof of their vaccination/medical exemption (admin@maroubraslsc.com.au) or show proof of vaccination/medical exemption prior to entering the Nipper Zone each week.

Will masks be required to be worn in venues?

Masks will remain mandatory for all indoor public venues. Only hospitality staff will be required to wear a mask when outdoors. Children aged under 12 will not need to wear a mask indoors. Mask wearing outdoor will be subject to current Health Orders.

Does Surf Life Saving have a vaccination policy?

Yes. SLSS has a Vaccination Policy for transition between now and the government's easing of mandatory vaccination restrictions. This Policy will expire on or before 1 December 2021. The Policy is attached in Appendix B.

Do I need to be vaccinated to participant in SLS?

Public Health Orders require those entering clubhouse facilities, gyms and bars to be fully vaccinated.

During this transition period and based on government advice for us to exercise extreme caution, all Patrolling Members, Trainers, Assessors, Facilitators, Support Operations Members, Age Managers/Assistants, Water Safety and those participating in groups and teams such as education squads, who are eligible to be safely vaccinated must be doubly vaccinated, unless they are exempt on medical or other grounds.

Why do we have a vaccination policy?

The policy's primary purpose is to ensure the safety and wellbeing of Members and the community as NSW moves from restricted movement to greater public autonomy. This increase in movement has been recognised as a greater risk factor to those who are unvaccinated while vaccination rates have not reached optimal levels.

Can SRC Candidates be vaccinated?

Yes. Every Australian aged 12 years and over is eligible for a COVID-19 Vaccination. SRC Candidates now have access to vaccination programs and will be able to join activity once they are fully vaccinated.

How will vaccination status be shown?

Members will be requested to provide proof of vaccination or medical exemption.

Can we start training a SRC/Bronze Squad or other face to face award training?

Yes, for fully vaccinated Members between 11 October and 1 December 2021. A COVID Safety Plan will need to be in place and current NSW Public Health Orders followed (mask wearing and gathering size limits etc). All personnel involved in the training will need to be fully vaccinated during this period.

Can junior activities return?

Yes. There is no compulsion under the health orders that Under 16s are required to be vaccinated to return to the current roadmap freedoms (note SRC holders are required to be vaccinated when returning to patrols or group education training).

When will carnivals return?

Sport activity will be limited to 30 people from 11 October 2021 for fully vaccinated Members. Modified Surf Sports Carnivals are being planned at this stage for December and the New Year 2021.

Can we undertake squad training?

Fully vaccinated Members will be able to train in groups of 30 from 11 October 2021.

Unvaccinated Members will be able to train with a maximum of two people and will be restricted from group events until 1 December 2021

STAYING SAFE

Once again, we are asking all parents to support us to meet Government requirements and stay COVID Safe by:

- Registering online
- Staying at home if you or your child have any COVID-19 symptoms or are unwell

- Ensuring that you check in using the QR code when attending Nippers to assist with contact tracing
- Maintaining physical distancing while spectating, both in and around the clubhouse and on the beach
- Bringing your own sunscreen, water bottles and towels to avoid sharing
- Where possible, showering and getting dressed at home

We are committed to keeping all members of the club safe, and we thank you for your support and understanding in these challenging times.

Regards,

John Georgas

Director of Junior Development



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