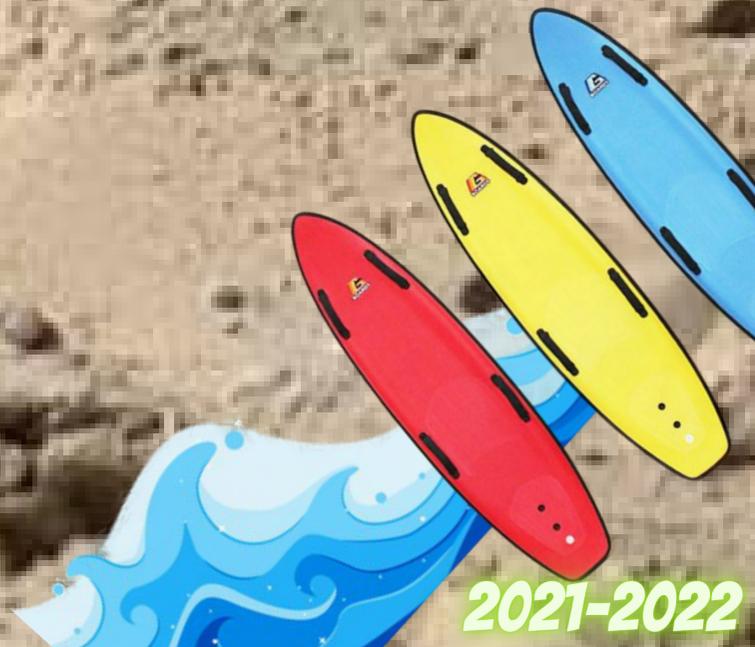




**TGHNSLSC
Nipper's
Handbook**



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***WE ENCOURAGE ALL MEMBERS TO FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK IT IS A GREAT
SOURCE OF INFORMATION, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND A PLACE TO SHARE
PHOTOS OF OUR NIPPERS.***

WELCOME TO TGHN NIPPERS

Welcome to all new Nipper members and families on behalf of the Junior Activities Committee, Age Managers and Tea Gardens Hawks Nest Surf Life Saving Club.

Tea Gardens Hawks Nest surf lifesaving club is a small club, but we boast healthy numbers in the Nippers program which reflects the importance we place on what we know is the future of the club. Every year we rely on the assistance of all families and parents. It is encouraged that at least 1 family member will complete a Surf Life Saving Award and fulfil 5 voluntary duties within the Nippers season. I applaud all those parents that have expanded their own boundaries by stepping up to complete various SLSA awards such as Age Managers, Bronze/Silver and or Gold Medallion, Officials, IRB, coaching etc over the years. The 2021-2022 season will see a new group of members fulfil this initiative and hopefully increase our permanent Patrolling numbers.

All the committee members, Age Managers and water safety volunteer their own time. Like any voluntary organisation, TGHN Nippers relies heavily on the active involvement of parents and guardians. Many hands make light work, and therefore we have introduced a program of upskilling our parents and involving you in our Patrol's. There is also a roster for age groups to cover the duties of set up, pack up, canteen and BBQ duties.

We encourage you to read this handbook, which provides useful information about Nippers and our Club. Your Age Manager or any Committee Member will be happy to help you should you require further information. We have a vibrant, dedicated and dynamic Junior Club. Our vision is to provide a safe, friendly and welcoming environment where both Nippers and parents can interact and enjoy the benefits of a healthy outdoor activity. As a club we also make a commitment to the Safeguarding of the children within our club.

Our Nipper Program provides competition, training, recreation and interaction with peers. If we can encourage and keep our children on the beach, this club will have a very sound base for future years. For our junior members, I hope nippers is the start of a long Surf Lifesaving Club experience. I hope we can instill a sense of pride and tradition within our Nippers and have all children confident that they are part of something they can be proud of.

**See You At The Beach
Amanda Osmond (Director of Youth Sport)**



Our Aims

The aim of our Nippers program at TGHN is to provide a safe and conducive environment for our young Nippers to develop surf awareness, skills and confidence that will not only provide them with potential lifesaving skills but also skills that they can use in the wider community.

We aim to provide an inclusive and welcoming environment for Nippers and parents especially our new Nipper families as we are aware that new ventures can be tricky, and we always welcome your feedback on this.

The aims of the Nippers Program are to:

- Develop surf awareness;
- Increase confidence and skills in beach related activities;
- Instill and re-enforce sun smart philosophies;
- Encourage enjoyable and healthy participation;
- Progress members towards surf awards for relevant age groups;
- Promote a positive non-threatening environment;
- And to meet and create lifelong friends



Pre- Requisite

Nippers is **NOT** a learn to swim program. All Nippers need to have completed a Junior Preliminary Skill Evaluation Form before participating at Nippers. Members who wish to compete in a carnival (even the beach events) **MUST** complete the competition skills evaluation.

You will need to download and bring a copy of the Junior Preliminary Skill Evaluation Form with you to our Evaluation Day. (You will need a separate copy for each participating Nipper)

Preliminary Proficiency Assessments

Age Group	Preliminary Assessment (Pool or open water)	Competition Skills Evaluation (Surf/open water)	Junior Development Program Award
Under 8	25 metre swim (any stroke) 1 minute survival float	Not required (no water competition, except for wade which takes place in waist deep water)	Surf Aware One
Under 9	25 metre swim (any stroke) 1 minute survival float	150m open water swim within 12 minutes	Surf Aware Two
Under 10	25 metre swim (freestyle/front crawl) 1 1/2 minutes survival float	150m open water swim within 11 minutes	Surf Safe One
Under 11	50 metre swim (freestyle/front crawl) 2 minutes survival float	288m open water swim within 12 minutes	Surf Safe Two
Under 12	100 metre swim (freestyle/front crawl) 2 minutes survival float	288m open water swim within 10 minutes	Surf Smart One
Under 13	150 metre swim (freestyle/front crawl) 3 minutes survival float	288m open water swim within 9 minutes	Surf Smart Two
Under 14	200 metre swim (freestyle/front crawl within 5 minutes) 3 minutes survival float	288m open water swim within 9 minutes	Surf Rescue Certificate
Assessors	Accredited Coach, Accredited Official, Training Officer (SRC/Bronze), Assessor (SRC/Bronze), Age Manager or Chief Instructor, Swimming instructor.		

Name: _____

Position: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

This will be completed at Tea Gardens Pool

Water Safety Assistant

How do you become a water safety official for your child's Nipper group? To be a water safety officer you need to hold a Bronze Medallion (BM) or Surf Rescue Certificate (SRC). This is a great way to become involved with your children and we appreciate any assistance. Many parents complete their BM and in doing so enjoy the learning experience and getting a greater understanding for the surf environment. By doing so they guarantee the water activities for their child are not confined to sand activities. We regularly run courses so please ask Amanda or your child's Age manager if you are interested. All water safety officers must wear an orange cap during water activities and must sign the Water Cover Logbook on each occasion.



Nipper's

There are over 60,000 (2021 season) Nippers in Australia. Nippers start learning about surf awareness and safety through the Surf Life Saving Surf Education Program. They participate in board paddling, swimming, running, wading and other fun activities and games.

We DO NOT teach children how to swim, however we will teach them surf skills.

While competition is an important element, the surf awareness and education aspect are our primary aim. Children are taught from the youngest ages how to read the surf and use the surf to their advantage. This is done in an environment of fun and healthy lifestyle which is unique to surf lifesaving.

Nippers season start from around October and runs through until around March although this has been altered this season due to Covid. Please see the calendar attached.



FAQ's

1. WHAT TO BRING

Each week the Nippers will be required to bring the following:

- Swimmers
- Water bottle
- Towel
- SPF 50+ Sun Protection
- Hat
- Goggles (if they choose to swim)
- Warm clothing including rash vests if parents feel conditions suit such attire

****NOTE: NIPPERS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO TAKE PART IN ANY ACTIVITIES UNLESS THEY ARE WEARING THE COMPULSORY PINK HI-VIS VEST OR RASH SINGLET AND THE NIPPER COLOURED CAP. CAP AND RASH SINGLET ARE PROVIDED.***

2. START TIME

9.30am Sunday mornings

3. COMMUNICATION

Facebook is the platform of communication and we ask that you turn notifications on and regularly check for updates

4. SAFETY

Safety is our priority for ALL activities. This includes on the beach, in the water and considers the protection of all children.

5. BEACH CONDITIONS

It should be assumed that Nippers will take place each scheduled week no matter the weather. At the start of the day the Patrol Captain and Director of Nippers will discuss the environmental and surf conditions and carry out a Risk Assessment for all planned water activities. If the beach is closed or conditions are unsuitable for the day's activities alternate activities will be organised. The Patrol Captain or Director of Nippers may cease any activity if conditions become unsafe. The decision of the Patrol Captain or Director of Nippers shall be final.

Dangerous conditions will include:

- ***Extremely low or extremely high weather temperatures***
- ***High or strong winds***
- ***Rough/dangerous seas or***
- ***Any other condition that may cause concern for the safe participation of all members***

6. WATER SAFETY

We endorse the guidelines laid down by Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA). It is important that we have as many QUALIFIED water safety personnel as possible to supervise our water activities.

Water safety personnel can be found in Hi-vis ORANGE or RED/YELLOW lifesaving rash vests.

We require as many parents to hold their SRC- Surf Rescue Certificate or Bronze medallion (BM) as possible to assist in these activities. An inflatable rescue boat (IRB) will be operational during all water events however, it must be assumed that if water safety staff are not available, Nippers WILL NOT be able to take part in water activities.

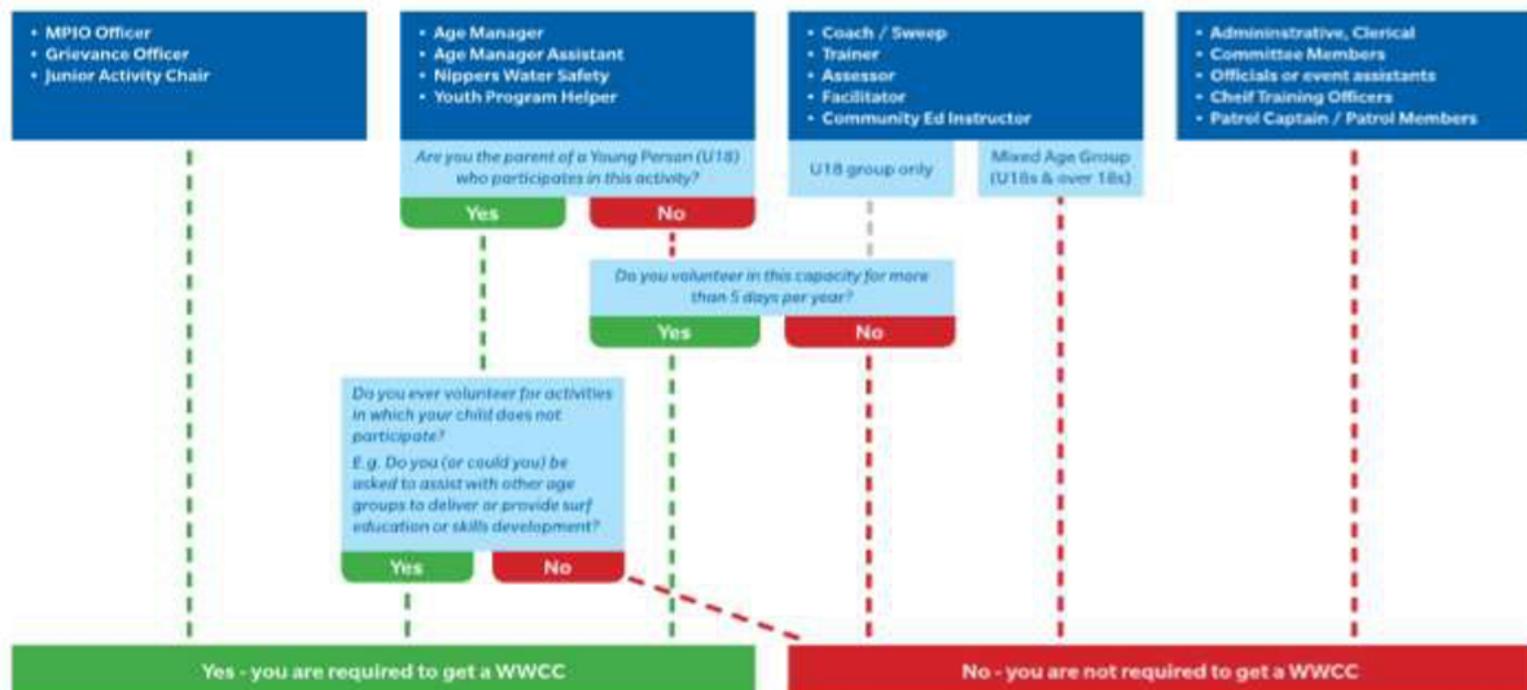
The minimum ratio for water safety to Nippers is one qualified adult to five children (1:5).

**PLEASE NOTE THAT PARENTS ARE NOT
TO ACCOMPANY SWIMMERS UNLESS
THEY HAVE ACHIEVED THEIR SRC or
BRONZE MEDALION**

7. NIPPER PROTECTION

Any adult wishing to assist with the running of Nippers is asked to review the following guideline as to whether their role is required to hold a valid Working with Children Check (WWCC). To learn more about the WWCC and should you need to apply, go to www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/working-with-children

Do you require a WWCC?



Note - if you perform multiple roles in Surf Life Saving, please ensure you check the flowchart and obtain a WWCC where needed.

8. AGE MANAGERS

Age Group Managers are volunteers that are allocated to each age group with responsibility for organising and conducting the various Nipper activities.

Age Managers will wear bright green sun shirts and can be found on the beach each Sunday. Many of our patrolling Club Members started as Age Members accompanying their children to Nippers each week. Each week the Age Manager requires an assistant to record numbers each time Nippers enter the water and results on Championship Days. All we need is enthusiasm and an open mind for you to start the Age manager process. The JAC and existing Age Managers will assist all new Age Managers while they are learning the ropes.

8. a) AGE MANAGER REQUIRMENTS

All age managers must:

- **Be a current registered member of TGHN SLSC**
- **Have completed a WWCC (if required as per the guidelines)**
- **Complete the Online Age Manager Course**
 - **Complete the Safeguarding Children online course**

The main responsibilities of the Age Group Managers are as follows:

- **Encourage the children in their age group to participate, enjoy, co-operate and compete in all activities of the Club**
- **Keep weekly records of each child's attendance and proficiency achievements**
- **Assist in the development of surf awareness and surf safety for the children in their age group/s**
- **Instruct the children in their age group of the necessary requirements for the National Awards**
- **Ensure the children of the age group are aware of and encourage sun protection.**

Parents are encouraged to make themselves known to their child's Age Group Manager and to offer assistance when required.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S ABILITY OR IF YOUR CHILD HAS ANY MEDICAL CONDITION THAT MAY RESTRICT HIM OR HER IN ANY WAY, PLEASE SPEAK WITH YOUR AGE MANAGER.

9. PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

It is important that you NEVER leave your child unattended at Nippers. A parent is to remain at the beach for the duration of the Nipper ' s program . If a child is left unattended, we may exclude that child from future participation in the program.

Age Managers are not babysitters. Parents are required to be on hand during Nippers and to retain responsibility for their children at all times. Nipper's are to be signed in at the start and completion of every session. If you must leave before events are finished, please inform your child's Age Manager to ensure their name is marked from the roll BEFORE taking your child from the beach.

A parent/ guardian must remain on the beach and assist the Age Group Managers when requested and as required (except where a parent(s) is involved as an Age manager with another group, is on General Life Saving Patrol or is participating in another Active Member role).

As parents, you have a clear responsibility to act in a constructive and encouraging manner at all times.

ANYTHING OTHER THAN CONSTRUCTIVE SUPPORT MAY RESULT IN THE MEMBERSHIP BEING CANCELLED FOR ALL OFFENDING MEMBERS.

As parents, you are encouraged to obtain one of the following Surf life Saving Awards and fulfil at least 3 volunteer duties over the course of the Nippers Program, if you are not already fulfilling a position such as Patrolling Member, Age Manager or Co-ordinator. The training dates will be advised at the start of the season and the duties roster will be done up once awards are complete. The timing for the duties will be made up of Saturday (10am-2pm) and Sunday (1pm to 5pm).

**RADIO- COMMUNICATIONS
FIRST AID
SRC
BRONZE**

We welcome involvement within other aspects of the club. This may include gaining various qualifications to assist in providing water safety, coaching specific disciplines, officiating, assisting with general administration and participating in social and fundraising activities.

We need help every week with the following activities (and many more):

- Setting up the beach 20 minutes before hand***
- Assisting with "sign on" and "sign off" sheets***
- Washing surf boards at the end of the day***
- Assisting with packing up beach equipment***
- Assisting with fundraising activities***
- Assisting with the BBQ on first Sunday of month***
- Assisting with water safety (by first gaining a Surf Rescue Certificate or Bronze Medallion)***
- Becoming an Official to assist at carnivals (short training courses are provided by Surf Life Saving NSW)***

10. AGE GROUP ALLOCATION

In most cases we will allocate Nippers into their age groups. In some cases, these may be combined age groups depending on numbers and Age Managers.

11. NIPPER COMPLETION

At the end of your designated time, Nippers are required to have their name marked off the role by their Age Manager. They will then remove their cap, signifying that they have finished Nippers and be handed to their adult/ guardian on the day.

NO NIPPER WILL BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE NIPPERS UNSUPERVISED

12. EQUIPMENT

To maintain our equipment, we request that all Nippers, Age Managers, and Parents take pride in our resources and equipment. Boards must be carried and not dragged and washed at the end of each use. This is a simple activity however it guarantees the longevity of its use in the coming seasons.

If an issue (damage/ problem) is noted with ANY equipment, please let the Age Managers or the JAC know so the equipment can be inspected and repaired as soon as possible.

Equipment must be shared. There will be enough equipment for all Nippers however not at the same time. Scheduling of activities will allow for Nippers to use different educational tools at different times. Please understand that consideration for other Nippers and the use of the equipment is just as important as the use of the equipment itself.

13. GRIEVANCES

TGHN SLSC Nippers is a very inclusive environment, however if there are any problems relating to any activities the following line of communication is to be taken.

1. Parents only are to approach the Age Manager in a polite and respectful manner to discuss the situation.
2. If the Age Manager cannot solve the issue on the spot, they will refer the problem to the JAC
3. Parents are able to contact the JAC in person or via email on nippers.tghnslsc@gmail.com
4. If there is a continued discrepancy, members may take this up with the clubs MPIO. (www.tghnslsc.com)

For any further information please
see the Tea Gardens Hawks Nest
SLSC Webpage



2021-22 season calendar

MONTH	DATE	EVENT
October		Registration opens
November	Sunday 28th	Proficiencies swims at Tea Gardens pool 9-13 years 9am 5-8 years 10am
December	Sunday 5 th December	Proficiencies swims at Tea Gardens pool 9-13 years 9am

		5-8 years 10am
	Sunday 12 th December	ROUND 1
	Sunday 19 th December	ROUND 2 and CHRISTMAS PARTY
CHRISTMAS	HOLIDAY	BREAK
January	Sunday 30th	ROUND 3- Championship round
February	Sunday 6th	ROUND 4
	Sunday 13th	ROUND 5- SUPER HERO DAY
	Sunday 20th	ROUND 6- Championship round
	Sunday 27th	ROUND 7
March	Saturday 5th	Clubroom sleepover and activities for 10+ years
	Sunday 6th	Round 8
	Sunday 13th	Round 9-Championship round
	Sunday 20th	Round 10
	Sunday 27th	Round 11-final round
April	Sunday 3rd	Presentation Day and activities