

COVID-19 Information Pack

Junior Activities

4 November 2021 (Version 5.6)



Junior Activities

COVID-19 – Roadmap to Recovery

In late September 2021 the NSW Government announced the roadmap for easing restrictions based on vaccination rates.

We continue to monitor the latest information aligned to official sources including the Australian Government Department of Health, NSW Health and NSW Sport, and the impact of this information on Surf Life Saving activities.

For up-to-date information about what SLS activities you can and can't do at what point in the roadmap, review the **SLSNSW COVID-19 Activity Matrix** on the SLSNSW website or contact your branch.

Given the high frequency of changes that are occurring throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the guidance within this document may be out of date if downloaded or printed. This document will be updated as restrictions change.

The following information packs are also available:

- Sport
- Training and Education
- Lifesaving

COVID-19 Checklist (Junior Activities)

- Work with your club and branch to consider your planned start date for Nippers this season aligned with the roadmap for easing restrictions (documented on the SLSNSW website).
- Liaise with your local council to ensure they are aware and supportive of your Nippers delivery structure and approach and have a plan for non-event public in and around your Nippers activities.
- Review and update your COVID-19 Safety Plan where applicable, referring to the **Considerations for COVID Safe Activities & Events** factsheet. Keep your plan available for inspection if required. Plans should be comprehensive, as failure to comply may result in [penalties](#) or similar action.
- Consider communications to members about registrations, vaccinations, preliminary skills and return to the club requirements.
- Ensure the club has a nominated COVID-19 Safety Coordinator for Nipper activities. Visiting clubs must also have a nominated COVID-19 Coordinator for their club's participants.
- Work with your club to ensure a COVID-19 safe environment for areas of the clubhouse that may be used (e.g. bathroom signage, sanitiser stations and cleaning schedules).
- Communicate with Age Managers and Water Safety (see **email template** below).
- Communicate with parents (see **email template** below).

Useful Links

[SLSNSW COVID 19 Updates](#)

[NSW Office of Sport COVID-19 Update](#)

[COVID-19 Safety Plan Community Sporting Competitions and Full Training Activities](#)

FAQs

How is the 2sqm per person calculated for outside activities in and out of the water?

It is suggested that the nipper areas are clearly marked, and group sizes are managed on the same and in the water to physical distancing as much as practicable.

Can we run Nippers with more than 1000 attendees?

Yes, however you are required to develop a COVID Safety Plan for events with over 1,000 people (including participants, SLS officials and spectators) in attendance.

Will I need to be double vaccinated to deliver Nippers?

Yes, if you are over the age of 16.

From 15 December or when the state reaches 95% vaccination rate however, under the Public Health Order, all activities will be open to all members regardless of their vaccination status.

SLSNSW continues to seek expert guidance from various sources with respect to any future requirement for mandatory vaccination requirements for members in various roles within Surf Life Saving and is currently undertaking an internal risk assessment and member consultation.

Does our club need to check vaccination status of parents/officials aged 16+ before allowing participation?

Yes. Additional information relating to this requirement can be found [here](#). Information on how proof of vaccination can be shown can be found [here](#). Clubs and branches are advised to share this information with their educators and participants.

What if our club or branch feels strongly about implementing a policy for mandatory vaccination requirements for sports officials and/or competitors?

Clubs and branches are not precluded from setting their own policies. Prior to implementing any new policies, risk assessments and member/stakeholder consultation must be undertaken to ensure that the policies are lawful and reasonable. The information on this topic is continuously evolving and clubs and branches are advised to refer to guidance from Safe Work Australia on this issue.

Can parents who haven't been double vaccinated drop their kids off at Nippers and leave?

Yes, but only if the parent is comfortable leaving their child unsupervised / under the supervision of another parent, and only if club policy allows for parents not to be present.

Email Template to Parents

Dear Nipper Parents,

We hope that you and your family are staying safe and well at these challenging times.

We are excited to inform you that from 8 November, restrictions for fully vaccinated people are being further eased which enables Nippers to recommence subject to 1 person per 2sqm, uncapped. This means that we are now able to increase our Nipper numbers for the season!

Staying safe

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

- Registering online (if you haven't already)
- 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
- Bringing proof of your current vaccination status ([find out more](#) about how to do this)
- 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

Interested in helping out this season?

Now is the perfect time to consider helping out as an Age Manager! As per last season, only qualified members are able to support the delivery of Nippers. Trained Age Managers and Water Safety team members will help us ensure that nippers are kept safe both in the water and on the beach.

As always we would love for more people to join the team! If you would like to find out a bit more about becoming an Age Manager or joining our Water Safety team, please let me know and I can share our upcoming course dates.

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

Kind Regards,
Junior Activity Chair

Template Text Message to Parents:

COVID restrictions have been eased further and [NAME] SLSC is now able to increase its Nipper numbers! Check the club website for information on how to register. Stay safe and see you on the beach.

Email Template to Age Managers / Water Safety Personnel

Dear Age Managers & Water Safety Personnel,

We hope that you and your family are staying safe and well at these challenging times.

We wanted to thank you for your patience and support over the past few months while we have waited for the COVID-19 situation to unfold.

What we know

- From 8 November, restrictions for fully vaccinated people are being further eased which enables Nippers to recommence subject to 1 person per 2sqm, uncapped. **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 1,000 in attendance.**
- The easing of restrictions for those who are not fully vaccinated have been delayed to 15 December, or when the state reaches 95% vaccination rate. SLSNSW continues to seek expert guidance from various sources with respect to any future requirement for mandatory vaccination requirements for members in various roles within Surf Life Saving, and is currently undertaking an internal risk assessment and member consultation.

The Nipper season at [NAME] SLSC

Given the above, we are excited to announce that we will be re-opening registrations for additional Nippers.

As per last season, only qualified members are able to support the delivery of Nippers. Trained Age Managers and Water Safety team members will help us ensure that nippers are kept safe both in the water and on the beach.

Staying safe

Some of the things we will be asking you to continue to do this season to support us to meet Government requirements and stay COVID-19 safe include:

- Staying at home if you 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
- Wearing your Age Manager uniform or being clearly identifiable as a trained club member
- Being vigilant in cleaning and disinfecting clothing and equipment after each Nipper session
- Reducing physical contact between yourself and participants and between participants where possible
- Considering how you can spread Nipper activities out across available space to reduce crowding
- Ensuring all Nippers sign in and out of sessions
- Encouraging parents to maintain physical distancing from the sidelines
- Ensuring Nippers maintain good hygiene practises (e.g. hand sanitise before and after the session)

Age Managers

If you have not yet completed the following online courses please log into the SLS Members Area to refresh your knowledge and keep your Age Manager qualification up to date.

Proficiency is required every five years and requires:

1. Completion of the Age Managers online course.
2. Completion of the SLSA Safeguarding Children and Young People Awareness online course.
3. A current WWCC (if required).

If you are not sure whether you need a WWCC, please contact me for advice.

Water Safety Personnel

If you have not yet done so, please log into the SLS Members Area to complete the online theory components of your Surf Rescue Certificate or Bronze Medallion skills maintenance. If you are not sure exactly which online course you should be completing, please contact me for advice.

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

Kind Regards,
Junior Activity Chair