



**COMPETITION and
CARNIVAL
GUIDELINES 2010-2011**

BRONTE NIPPERS



The Birthplace of Surf Life Saving

“All you need to know about Nipper Carnivals but you were too afraid to ask!”

CARNIVALS AND COMPETITION GUIDELINES 2010-2011

Some Nippers enjoy surf life saving as a sport and participating in competition at Surf Carnivals. This handbook provides information for Nippers and their parents wishing to compete in Surf Carnivals. Bronte SLSC has a strong tradition of competing at carnivals displaying sportsmanship and in particular has encouraged and developed competition in team events. Surf Carnivals are loads of fun, but require a commitment from both Nippers and parents. Nippers at a carnival must have either a parent or nominated guardian present at all times.

Proficiency

As a starting point all Nippers wishing to compete at carnivals (either on sand or water) **must** complete their Junior Competition Proficiency prior to their first carnival of the season. This is a SLSA requirement.

Board paddlers who use fibreglass boards also must ensure that their equipment has the correct scrutineering sticker on it. Every year there are a number of places where boards can be passed. Foam boards do not need to pass scrutineering, only fibre glass boards and racing boards.

Competitors at Branch and State Championships must also have successfully completed their Surf Education obligations prior to December 31. Again, this is a requirement of SLSA and it is critical that it is satisfied. The surf life saving year season runs from 1 October to 30 September.

Events

Surf Carnivals involve both individual and team events in many disciplines. Competition begins with the Under 8 Age Group and at nippers levels finished at Under 14s. You can continue in the sport of surf lifesaving beyond the under 14s.

Individual events in the WATER are Surf Race (swim), Board Race, Surfboard Riding and Iron person. Under 8s do the Wade rather than Board and Surf Race. On the BEACH, individual events are Sprints and Flags.

Team events in the WATER are Surf (swim) Team; Cameron Relay, Board Relay; Board Rescue; All-Age Board Relay and Wade Relay (U8). On the BEACH team events consist of Sprint Relay, All-Age Relay; March Past; R&R and Cameron Relay.

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Carnival Participation

If you want you can spend your entire summer travelling up the coast of NSW competing at surf carnivals. The up to date calendar of carnivals is available on the Sydney branch website www.surflifesavingsydney.com.au. Traditionally at Bronte we have focussed on sending teams to the Waverley Shield, South Maroubra, Branch and State. An increasing number of Bronte nippers are participating in the Sydney Water series located in the Illawarra. The Branch Championships on 13 February 2011 are being held at Wanda, and the State Championships are being hosted by

Cudgen SLSC at Kingscliff (11-13 March 2011). At the end of this handbook is the Bronte Competition Calendar for your information.

Participation in Team Events

We encourage all Nippers to represent Bronte SLSC. The Club places a high priority on Team Events and will enter as many teams as possible in events. Being part of a team represents important values, such as working together for the good of the team, mateship, and sharing in the highs of success, or the lows of not doing so well.

Competitors are encouraged to nominate to their Age Manager preferred team events for which they wish to be considered. These are not binding. The Age Manager, Youth Director and Competition Manager will select teams consistent with the best interest of the individual and overall philosophy to send the strongest Bronte team to compete at Branch and State championships. Consideration will be given to performances at Club Championships, other carnivals, the workload on the day and timing of events.

Please note that once selected and committed to a team event then withdrawal from any team event without a valid reason during a carnival may result in the nipper being withdrawn from all individual events.



CODE OF CONDUCT

As with all Nipper activities all Nippers and their Parents are bound by the Rules & Regulations of SLSA; SLS NSW; Bronte SLSC and by the Code of Conduct found in this Handbook. Any breach of the Code of Conduct by Nippers or Parents MAY result in the Child and parent being removed from the beach.

See last page for details

What are the Rules of Surf Life Saving?

Anyone who has been to a surf carnival will be able to tell you there are many rules to the sport of surf life saving. These rules are set out in the SLSA Surf Sports manual 33rd (Revised edition). This is published on the SLSA website at www.slsa.asn.au.

It is extremely important that Bronte nippers understand the rules as it is heart breaking to train all season and be disqualified for a minor infringement. But it does happen!

At Branch and State carnivals in particular rules are strictly enforced. Obviously on a Sunday at Bronte a more relaxed approach is taken to events. Please make sure you and your nippers understand the rules of surf life saving for their respective events. Your Age Manager will be able to assist you.

Entry to Competition Areas

Competition areas are limited to a certain number of nominated officials per club. If other club officials or parents are found in the competition area this may result in the club being disqualified from an event.

Bronte Selection Policy

The objective of the Selection Policy is to select the strongest team or teams to represent Bronte SLSC in each Age Group, whilst always encouraging all Nippers to 'have a go' and compete for fun. At State championships Bronte will try to select the most competitive team from any age group. A team may comprise one or more competitors from a younger age group in accordance with the SLSA Surf Sports manual 33rd (Revised edition).

Team selection for each age group is the responsibility of the Age Manager, the Competitions Manager and Youth Director and will be selected based on the criteria set out below. In addition to the selection criteria set out below there are number of

factors to be considered including availability to compete, willingness and commitment to train.

The following Carnivals will be used as guide to selection throughout the season:

- Bronte Club Championships
- Waverley Shield
- South Maroubra Carnival
- Sydney Water Series
- Sydney Branch Championships

The teams for the **All Age Board Relay; All Age Sprint Relay; March Past; and R&R teams** shall be selected by the respective discipline managers, and ratified by the Youth Director and Competitions Manager.

Entries at Branch and State Titles

Unless event entries are limited, any Nipper who wishes to compete can take part in the Branch and State Titles and have completed their proficiencies prior to the carnival in which they intend to compete or by December 31, whichever is the earlier and Surf Education requirements prior to December 31.

Team Substitutes and Reserves

Due to circumstances beyond the control of originally selected team members, they may not be able to compete in heats or the semi finals of a team event. If this occurs then the Age Group Manager will substitute a competitor, at their discretion.

Competing Outside Age Group

In general terms, competing outside Age Groups is not permitted in **events for individuals**. However under 14s who have completed their SRC may compete in the Under 15s (however patrol hours must be completed for Under 15s).

In team events it is allowable to compete in the age above in some team events. The rules state:

"For participation in team events the following conditions apply:

(i) In the U/8 to U/13 age categories inclusive, members may compete in their own (individual) age group in team events plus the next immediately older age group in team events.

NOTE: U/8 members shall not be permitted to compete in water events other than the Wade Relay (because the competition evaluations does not form part of the U/8 Age Award / Proficiency).

(ii) Proficient U/13 competitors with the relevant age award may compete in their own age (individual) age group plus the U/14 age category in team events.

(iii) Proficient U/13 Surf Rescue Certificate Holders may compete in their own age (individual)

age group plus the U/14 and U/15 age team categories."

Entry Fees

Currently the Club pays Carnival Entry Fees for Nippers to a number of Carnivals as advised by the Youth Director from time to time. It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure that they advise their Age Manager before the Carnival closing entry date of their intention to compete. Entry closing dates will be advised from time to time. Age managers must co-ordinate all Carnival entries.

Where a Nipper enters a Carnival, and subsequently fails to attend, or withdraws from an event for which they have been nominated (unless withdrawn by the Age Manager and/or coach), the Nippers Parents will be required to reimburse the Club for the Entry Fee of events not competed. Nippers will not be able to nominate for subsequent Carnivals until outstanding fees are paid.

Late entries are possible in some cases, but are very expensive. These entries must be paid in advance by the Nipper parents and will not be paid by the Club.

Water Safety and Carnival Officials

There is a requirement that the club supply Carnival Officials and Water Safety Officials for Carnivals. If in the event there are insufficient officials, Bronte SLSC may be

withdrawn from the Carnival and/or fined. As a general rule the Club is required to provide water safety officials (1 for every 10 competitors) and officials (1 for every 10 competitors).

Parents or siblings of Nippers competing at Carnivals (U8 – U14) are expected to assist with Water Safety (must hold SRC or Bronze Medallion) or Officiating. Courses to become an Official are conducted throughout the season. A family member of a competing nipper should be available to help as either water safety or officiating.

If an age group cannot provide an official that age group may not be permitted to compete at carnivals.

Team Manager and Age Managers

The Club person nominated with overall responsibility for the entire Bronte team at a carnival is the Youth Director. The Youth Director will directly liaise with the Carnival Referee and senior carnival officials.

Within each age group the Age Manager is responsible for the group. Duties include "roll call"; warm up; organising the competitors for an event; checking off competitors in an event; ensuring competitors have registered; organising teams; and being available during and after an event should assistance be required.



Setting up

At the majority of carnivals it is the competitor's responsibility to transport the board they intend to use to the carnival. The boards can be collected from Bronte prior to the event by arrangement with the Youth Director. The board you take to the carnival is your responsibility until it is returned to the board room at Bronte. Each age group is responsible for taking & setting up their own tent at the carnivals. Assistance will also be required in setting up the competition areas. This will be coordinated through your Age Manager, so please ask if you are able to assist.

On the Day of the Carnival

Competitors **must** arrive no later than 30 minutes prior **to the start of marshalling** for the first event on the program. The Carnival program will be available prior to each event. Please note that Age Managers have the right to substitute team members if an athlete is not within the Competition Area when their event is marshalled. Nippers should be well rested (i.e., an early night prior to the carnival). Club swimwear and cap must be worn.

On arrival, the competitor should check with their Age Manager to ascertain whether they need to register. During the Carnival Nippers should stay around the Bronte tents in their area and keep in contact with the Age Manager. When an event is called, the Age Manager will advise the relevant Nippers and arrange for them to proceed to the Marshalling Area. **Please note that Age Managers have the right to substitute team members if an athlete is not within the Competition Area when their event is marshalled.**

During the day, Nippers should have plenty of fluids, high energy food, keep in the shade and reapply sun-block regularly. At the conclusion of a race, Nippers should remain at the finish (wearing their club cap), until released by Officials.



At the conclusion of a carnival, parents are requested to assist packing up tents and equipment; return boards to Bronte or to Bronte trailer; and ensure the area is left clean.

A tradition of Bronte SLSC is that competitors wear the Bronte cap when being awarded medals; Bronte nippers are strongly encouraged to continue this tradition.

Nippers should not leave the carnival without "checking-out" with the Age Manager.

Protests

Should a competitor feel he/she has been unfairly impeded by another competitor or that an irregularity has occurred, there may be grounds for a protest. Please note however that "luck of the prevailing conditions" is an integral part of surf sports and is not a ground for protest. Should a protest be considered the Nipper must immediately notify the Youth Director. A protest must be lodged within 5 minutes of the end of a race.

Competition Boards

Competition Boards **are not to be used** for mid week training, except with the express permission of the Youth Director. Competition boards are labelled and locked at the Club.

Boards should be carried and **are not to be dragged** on the beach. They should not be sat on and it is not wise to leave them lying in direct sunlight for a long time as this causes them to bubble. If a member is too small to carry a board, you should carry it with another Nipper. Boards are not to be thrown down on the sand, and boards are not to be sat on when on the beach. Kneeling (on nipper boards) and standing up on all boards is strictly prohibited as they are designed for this sort of treatment. When you have finished using a board, please **wash off all the sand** and return it to the board room. Any damage **must be reported immediately**.

Finally

Remember, Nippers are children and their enjoyment is our first priority.

Good results are nice but sportsmanship takes precedence over winning. Unsportsmanlike behaviour will not be tolerated.

Parent behaviour should set an example to our children. Aggressive and abusive behaviour to Nippers and Age Managers will not be tolerated.



CODE OF CONDUCT

Parents have an important role in the delivery and support of sporting activities for their own and other children. With it comes a clear responsibility to act in a constructive and encouraging manner at all times.

Parents, Caregivers, & Spectators Code of Behaviour

- Remember that children participate in sport for their enjoyment and development
- Encourage children to participate, do not force them
- Focus on the child's efforts and performance rather than winning or losing. Set realistic goals.
- Encourage children to always play according to the rules and to settle disagreements without resorting to hostility or violence.
- Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- Remember children learn best by example.
- Appreciate good performances and skilful plays by all participants. Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
- Respect official's decisions and teach children to do likewise.
- Show appreciation for coaches, age managers, officials, and administrators. Without them, your child could not participate.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of others.
- If you disagree with an official, coach, age manager, raise the issue through the appropriate channels rather than question the officials judgment and honesty in public. Remember that most officials, coaches, and age managers give their time and effort for your child's involvement.

Nipper Code of Behaviour

- Compete within the rules, and within the spirit of Surf Lifesaving and Bronte SLSC
- Never argue with an official. If you disagree have your Age Manager, coach or team manager approach the official during a break or after the competition
- Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials and sledging of other competitors, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent are not acceptable or permitted behaviours
- Work equally hard for yourself and/or your team.
- Be a good sport. Applaud all good performances whether they are given by Bronte LSC or other clubs.
- Treat all participants as you would like to be treated. Do not bully, interfere or take unfair advantage of another competitor
- Co-operate with your coach, age managers, teammates, officials and opponents. Without them there would be no competition.
- Participate for your own enjoyment and benefit, not just to please parents and coaches.
- Respect the equipment you use, wash it and return it after use. Report any damage.
- Respect the club house. Treat it as you would treat your home. Leave it tidy.