

Nippers Handbook - 2025/26 Season

Welcome to all our Nippers, both new members and those continuing from last season, to the Bronte Nippers program for children aged 5 to 14.

Nippers is about surf lifesaving, with a focus on having fun, teaching surf education and skills and emphasising community awareness. The aim is to provide a safe, friendly and welcoming environment where both Nippers and parents can interact and enjoy a morning at Bronte Beach, and where hopefully in years to come, we build a future generation of Lifesavers for Bronte.

At Nippers, we do not teach children how to swim, however we will teach them surf skills. In fact, one of the best features of Nippers is seeing young children gain confidence in the water. Children who are afraid of the water can develop through encouragement, education and training to be confident in the surf.

All Nippers (U6+) are expected to undertake regular swimming training through a local Club or pool. Our Nipper program provides board training (U9+) and sand training (U8+) and competition for those Nippers who wish to join.

We encourage all parents to participate with us whether it is on the beach helping to organise activities as an Age Assistant, in the water assisting with Water Safety or helping with the BBQ. Like all volunteer organisations we are only as good as the help we get: the more help, the better it is for everyone.

We look forward to another positive and rewarding season for all.



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Membership

Please see this page for full details: <https://brontesurfclub.com.au/nipper-membership>

Who can join Nippers?

Any child may join Bronte Nippers once they have turned five years old and fall within a designated SLSC Nippers age group. Nipper age groups are determined as at 30 September each year.

Nippers age groups are strict: the SLSC system does not permit movement up or down an age group. At Bronte, we will only permit movement in truly exceptional circumstances (this does **not** extend to accommodating friendship groups, swim ability or timetabling).

Age Group	Cap Colour	Date of Birth
Too Young	Too Young	1 Oct 2020 - 30 Sept 2021
Under 6	Hot Pink	1 Oct 2019 - 30 Sept 2020
Under 7	Orange	1 Oct 2018 - 30 Sept 2019
Under 8	Fluro Green	1 Oct 2017 - 30 Sept 2018
Under 9	Red	1 Oct 2016 - 30 Sept 2017
Under 10	Royal Blue	1 Oct 2015 - 30 Sept 2016
Under 11	Yellow	1 Oct 2014 - 30 Sept 2015
Under 12	Sky Blue	1 Oct 2013 - 30 Sept 2014
Under 13	Mid Green	1 Oct 2012 - 30 Sept 2013
Under 14	Purple	1 Oct 2011 - 30 Sept 2012

Online registration

All registrations and renewals are online and are done via a centralised SLSA system.

If you are brand new to Nippers, you can join via this link: <https://sls.com.au/join/>. New members must send a copy of a proof of age document (birth certificate or passport) to nippers@brontesurfclub.com.au or bring it to the Club to be sighted by the office.

If you are renewing your membership or transferring your membership from another surf club, you'll need to do so via your 'SLS Members Area Account' (established when you first joined Bronte or any SLSA Club) here: <https://members.sls.com.au/>

Fees for 2025/26 season:

When you join or renew your membership, you will be prompted to pay the season's fees. No membership will be accepted without payment.

We require one parent / guardian to be a member of the Club, together with their Nipper/s. You're welcome to purchase additional parent memberships if you wish. Any parent who volunteers as an Age Manager, Age Assistant, Water Safety or Official needs to be a member.

Nippers Membership	
First child	\$170
Second child	\$140
Third child	\$100
Additional child (fourth or more)	\$0
Water Safety parent ¹	\$120
General (Nipper parent) ²	\$75

Note:

- 1) Must hold Bronze Medallion and be proficient for the current season
- 2) Only one parent/guardian is required to be a member of the club (General Member or Water Safety), however additional memberships may be purchased.

The Club has provision to support the membership of Nippers whose families are experiencing financial hardship. Please don't hesitate to email Director of Nippers, Anthony Burrows (directorofnippers@brontesurfclub.com.au) if you wish to be considered.

2024 saw significant changes and reductions to the Active Kids program. As a result of these changes, the SLSC system is not able to support the redemption of vouchers via the registration process. Eligible families will not be able to use Active Kids vouchers at Bronte SLSC - we strongly suggest families use them at swimming lessons instead.

Proficiency Swims

All Nippers from age groups U8-U14 must pass a proficiency swim and skills evaluation each season in order to participate at Nippers. This is a SLSC requirement and needs to be signed off by an age manager rather than your child's swim coach.

From U9 and up, proficiency swims are in two parts: a timed pool swim and skills evaluation, followed by an untimed ocean swim. The ocean swim is also a pre-requisite to entering competitions.

If you are concerned that your child may not pass the proficiencies, we suggest a practice run at swimming lessons or at the pool. We understand that kids get nervous and may not always do their best – they are welcome to have another go at it if they don't make it on the first attempt.

This season, we will be running a pool swim and skills evaluation session prior to the season on Sunday 14 September at St Catherine's School Pool. Full details will be sent to registered Nippers. All registered Nippers from U8-U14 should attend and do their pool swim in the heated pool. Any make-up swims will be in Bronte Pool.

The ocean proficiency swims (150-200m) will take place on the first day of Nippers or when conditions allow. Ocean swims are untimed and involve a group swim from the beach and around set buoys with plenty of water safety to assist. We will also run some catch-up pool swims if necessary in Bronte pool. **Wetsuits are strongly recommended.**

If your child is unable to meet the proficiency swim and cannot participate at Nippers, you are eligible for a refund, less an admin fee (until the second weekend of Nippers only).



Bronte Nippers Proficiency Requirements

Age group	Swim requirement (continuous freestyle)	Skills requirements
U6*	No swim requirement	In 1 metre water depth: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> float on back or front for 5 seconds, recover to stand; submerge to touch the bottom with hands; from standing, front glide for 1-2 metres and recover to stand.
U7*	No swim requirement	In 1 metre water depth: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> float on back or front for 10 seconds, recover to stand; submerge to touch bottom with hands; from standing, front glide for 2-3 metres and recover to stand.
U8	50m swim (2 laps) including swim underwater 2-3 metres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> float on back or front for 15 seconds, recover to stand; submerge to touch the bottom with hands.
U9	150m pool swim in 6 min 150m ocean swim, untimed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 second float: 5 seconds on back and 5 seconds on front; 1 minute: treading water/sculling; submerge to touch bottom with hands.
U10	200m pool swim in 6 min 150m ocean swim, untimed	
U11	200m pool swim in 5:30 min 200m ocean swim, untimed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 second float: 5 seconds on back and 5 seconds on front; 2 minutes: treading water/sculling; forward or backward roll / somersault underwater; submerge to touch bottom with hands.
U12	200m pool swim in 5 min 200m ocean swim, untimed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 second float: 5 seconds on back and 5 seconds on front; 3 minutes: treading water / sculling; forward or backward roll / somersault underwater; submerge to touch bottom with hands.
U13	200m pool swim in 4:30 min 200m ocean swim, untimed	
U14	200m pool swim in 4:30 min 200m ocean swim, untimed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 second float: 5 seconds on back and 5 seconds on front; 3 minutes: treading water/sculling; forward or backward roll / somersault underwater; and without first resurfacing; touch bottom with hands.

*U6 and U7 skills evaluation will be done in Bronte Pool on the first day of Nippers.



Sundays at Nippers

Communication – WhatsApp Bronte Nippers Community

We use WhatsApp for Bronte Nippers communications. Links to the relevant WhatsApp groups will be sent to registered nippers at the beginning of the season. If you are a returning Nipper, the WhatsApp groups will remain the same as the previous year. All Bronte Nippers WhatsApp chats are linked under a Bronte Nippers WhatsApp Community banner.

The Board Training groups use Stack TeamApp for all training communications.

Start Times:

8am	U6 and U9
9am	U7, U10 and U11
10am	U8, U12, and U13

ALL Nippers need to be signed into and out of Nippers. Please arrive early so that Nippers can be marked off by their Age Managers and the session can start on time.

It is a safety requirement that all Nippers remain with their age group for the full duration of Sunday Nippers. At the end of the session, every Nipper needs to be signed out before leaving with a parent or guardian. If a child needs to leave early, the parent/guardian must arrange to sign them out.

What to bring:

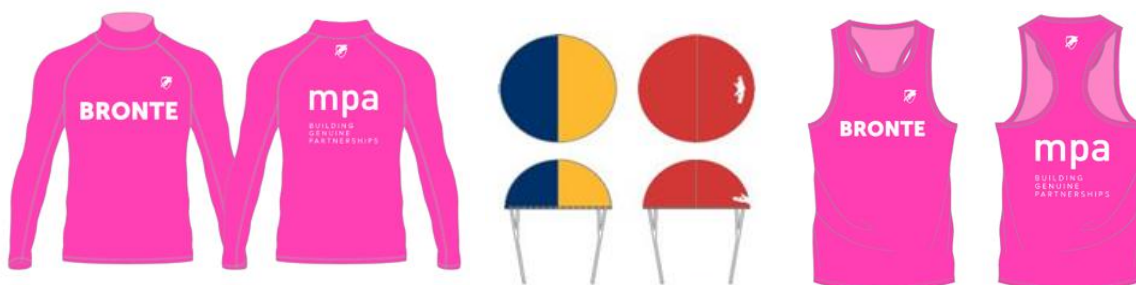
There are 2 **compulsory** items that every Nipper must wear:

- their Bronte Age Cap; and
- their Hi Vis rash vest *compulsory for U8-U14 and highly recommended for U6 and U7.

These are safety requirements so that all Nippers are easily observable on the beach and in the water.

No Cap and High Vis Rash Vest = No Water. No Exceptions.

Please also bring goggles, a towel, a water bottle and sunscreen. Wetsuits are strongly recommended.



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Typical activities:

Nippers start learning about surf awareness and safety through the Surf Life Saving Surf Education Program (Surf Ed). They are also able to participate in board paddling, surfing, swimming, running, flags, wading and other fun activities and games.

U6 and U7 Nippers will learn about Surf Play. The usual events will be a run, flag races, a wade and foam boards in the Bogey Hole, as well as a swim in Bronte Ocean Pool. The focus is on play, participation and fun with beach activities and games. They will also learn basic safety practices, what makes up a beach environment, the importance of having an adult with them at the beach, what a lifesaver is and what they do, wading, beach sprinting and flags.

Under 8 Nippers: the usual events will be a run, flag races, a wade and foam boards in the Bogey Hole, as well as a swim in Bronte Ocean Pool. Children start to understand the water, safety considerations and get accustomed to small waves. The emphasis for all these Nippers is to have good fun, meet new friends, and become confident to move into the water at their own pace, with the help of the Bogey Hole and Bronte Pool.

Under 9 to 13 Nippers: Sunday morning will consist of surf education, flag races, beach sprints, swims and board paddles, subject to beach conditions. If water conditions are unfavourable, Nippers will conduct surf education and alternative activities on the sand or grass. Sunday Nippers is about learning, fun, and friendly competition. U9 is the first-year nippers will enter the ocean for swimming and board paddling and there is a strong emphasis on a gradual approach to help build confidence alongside a large number of water safety personnel.

Under 14 Nippers will train for their SRC (Surf Rescue Certificate) and undertake a 2-part theory and practical exam prior to Christmas. They will then participate as 'Cadet Water Safety' in fluoro green rashies on Sunday mornings and join 'cadet patrols' which operate as part of Sunday morning patrols. This is their step towards becoming qualified life savers. Our SRC group graduate from Nippers and receive a big send off from the whole club.



SLSA Surf Education Awards

Bronte SLSC takes surf education seriously and it is one of the key reasons for being in Nippers. Surf education is based on a clearly defined structure and outcomes, as set by SLSA, to aid the children's life saving development. During the season, all Nippers are able to gain their respective Surf Education award for their age group through regular attendance at Nippers (Nippers who attend 75% of Nippers sessions prior to 31 December are eligible). Age managers will be teaching children to gain these awards.

Listed below is a summary of the awards for each age group:

Under 6	Surf Play 1
Under 7	Surf Play 2
Under 8	Surf Aware One
Under 9	Surf Aware Two
Under 10	Surf Safe One
Under 11	Surf Safe Two
Under 12	Surf Smart One
Under 13	Surf Smart
Under 14	Surf Rescue Certificate (SRC)

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Safety: always our first priority

Safety is our first priority in all activities conducted by the Bronte SLSC. Safety extends to safety on the beach, in the water and the protection of all children.

Safety in the Water

The Head of Water Safety will liaise with the Bronte Council Lifeguards and the Patrol Captain each Sunday. The lifeguards will decide if the surf conditions are suitable to conduct activities. The Head of Water Safety or the Patrol Captain may cease activities if conditions become unsafe.

The guidelines for Water Safety are laid down by SLSCA and must be adhered to by all. The IRB or "Rubber Duckie" must be present during all water events and it is imperative that we have the required number of qualified Water Safety people in the water. No water activity can commence if we don't have the required number of Water Safety: the ratio is 1 Water Safety to 5 Nippers.

Remember if you are Water Safety, you must wear the orange rash vest and orange cap and sign in as Water Safety outside the office. Your attendance will be recorded as Water Safety hours and will go towards your annual patrol hour obligations.

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No Water Safety parents = no water activities

Safety out of the water

If you are assisting with Nippers and are over the age of 18 you must be a current member of the Club. This is an SLSC requirement so that the Club is covered for insurance purposes. It is a requirement that at least one parent becomes a member of the Bronte Surf Club (financial member).

All Age Managers, Age Assistants and Water Safety must hold a current Working With Children Check and send the number to nippers@brontesurfclub.com.au. This is free as a volunteer and can be obtained here: <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-working-children-check>

The club takes child protection seriously; any form of child abuse will not be tolerated and any serious cases will be reported to authorities.

Nipper parents' code of conduct

- Do not force an unwilling child to participate.
- Children are involved for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Encourage children to play by the rules.
- Encourage the effort as being as important as the result.
- Work towards improving skills and sportsmanship.
- Do not yell or abuse a child for making a mistake.
- Recognise and encourage good play or efforts.
- Respect the efforts of all volunteers: Age Managers, Age Assistants, Trainers, Water Safety, Coaches and Officials. They are not there to be abused or harassed. They are doing their best for your children.
- When at carnivals, treat the Officials and carnival organisers with respect. If you are unhappy with a decision, launch a formal protest.

Nippers' code of conduct

- Participate to enjoy the sport.
- Follow the rules.
- Control your temper and be a good sport.
- Treat other participants as you like to be treated.
- Encourage all in your team.
- Listen to your Age Managers, Age Assistants, Trainers, Water Safety, Coaches and Officials.
- Respect the decision of officials at carnivals.



Volunteer power!

How can I help?

Nippers is volunteer run! There are so many ways to be involved as a parent at Nippers! You do not need to have had surf lifesaving experience. You only need to ask....

One thing we can tell you for certain: the more you get involved, the more your child and you will enjoy Nippers. It is one of the few kids' sports where the whole family can have a great morning together at the beach.

At Bronte, we strongly encourage **all families** to have one parent with either their Age Manager Award (to qualify as an Age Assistant) or Bronze Medallion. Note that in doing the Age Manager course, we do not expect you to become age leaders! It is simply SLSC's prerequisite to assisting at Nippers.

Volunteer checklist

If you wish to actively help with Nippers activities on the beach, you'll need to:

- be a current member of Bronte SLSC; and
- become an 'Age Assistant' (short online course); or
- hold a current Bronze Medallion; and
- provide us with your Working With Children Check (WWCC).

We really welcome all offers of help, and most importantly it is a great way of meeting new people.

Some other ways you can help:

- Help set up the beach or pack away
- Help on the BBQ (walk up and offer anytime, there will also be an age-group roster)
- Learn to be an official
- Help at Club Champs and Carnivals
- Help organise Nippers social events
- Become an Age Assistant or Age Manager
- Fund raising
- Any other help and ideas welcome

Full details of how you can help are on our website: <https://brontesurfclub.com.au/nipper-parent-involvement>

Club Championships and Awards

Club Championships

Two Club Championship days will be held during the season. All Nippers are encouraged to compete in these friendly races. These events go towards the Club Champion Award but also help to prepare our Nippers for a competitive environment and give great life skills experience. Points will be allocated as per the table below and consist of the following events, run under competition rules:

Club Champs Events per Age Group

U8 events	U9 – U10 events	U11-U14 events
Flags	Flags	Flags
Sprint	Sprint	Sprint
Wade	Swim	Swim
	Board	Board
		Ironperson

Club Champs points per placing

Placing	Points per event
First place	10
Second place	8
Third place	6
Fourth place	4
Fifth place	2
Sixth place	1

The points from the two Club Championship rounds will be added together and the Nipper with the highest points will be Club Champion for their age group. We also award trophies for 2nd and 3rd place.

All completed events will be included in calculating Club Champs. If any particular sand or water event is not completed in either round, then points from the same event in the earlier/later round that was completed will be doubled.

Great consideration and debate has gone into choosing our dates for Club Championships and we have tried to take into account other sports that may conflict but the dates we have chosen are final and will not be moved due to other sporting commitments of a few Nippers.

Nipper awards

At the end of each season we recognise the efforts of our junior members at two separate awards presentations.

All ages will celebrate awards on the last day of Nippers for the season and U6 and U7 will receive their participation medals. The U8 to 14's will have a presentation for their age group award winners after the end of the season (please check calendar for dates).

Season Awards

The awards given out to Nippers in each age group U8-U14 are as follows:

1st Club Champion (highest point scorer)

2nd Club Champion (2nd highest point scorer)

3rd Club Champion (3rd highest point scorer)

Junior Life Saver award is awarded to the Nipper who displays the best qualities of a life saver – the life saver of tomorrow.

Club Spirit award is awarded to the Nipper who has displayed the essential characteristics of being a Bronte Nipper - keenness to learn surf lifesaving skills, consistent effort to improve, consistent enthusiasm, sportsmanship, and being helpful and considerate of others.

Between the Flags is awarded to the SRC graduate who has shown the greatest interest and enthusiasm throughout the training and as a new patroller.

Col McDermid Encouragement Award will be awarded to the U8 Nipper who shows determination and willingness to try their best at Nippers.

Special awards

Overall Water Champion and Overall Sand Champion Awards will be awarded to both a boy and girl Nipper and can be selected from U9-U14 age groups. The Awards are based on results from State, Branch and other carnivals and are selected by the Committee.

Dave Finnimore Award will be awarded to any Nipper who has used the skills learned at Nippers to perform a rescue outside of Nippers. The award will be decided by the Nipper Committee and members are encouraged to bring any such rescues to its attention throughout the season.

Skeete Family Nipper Community and Inclusion Award will be awarded to any Nipper, Cadet, team or group who has gone out of their way to encourage, include and support other Nippers.



Training and Carnivals

For all details, please see <https://brontesurfclub.com.au/nippers-competition>

The Club is proud to offer our Nippers the opportunity to train and advance their skills and techniques both in the water (U9+) and on the sand (U8+). We offer different sessions to cater to all skills levels.

It must also be noted that these sessions are not babysitting sessions and the carer responsible for the child must be in attendance at all times.

Board training sessions require water safety and all parents/carers who have a current Bronze Medallion are expected to bring their orange rashies and be prepared to get wet. If there is insufficient water safety, the session may be cancelled or the number of kids in the water at any one time will be limited.

The training timetable will be posted both on the website and on Stack TeamApp.

A season training fee is payable upfront (see details below). Nipper board training participants must have their own board.

Sand Training

Sand training is run at Bronte Beach and is aimed at Nippers who wish to improve their skills and race technique in beach sprints, beach relays and flags, as well as to improve their fitness.

Sessions are generally one afternoon per week, with additional sessions in the lead up to major carnivals.

Communication is via the Bronte Sand Training chat from the Bronte Nippers WhatsApp Community.

Board Training

Beginner Squad sessions are run by Jo Mermaid (Mermaid Swim School). These sessions are for Nippers who are new to boards and ocean swimming. It is mainly for U9-10's who are using foam boards.

Development Squad is aimed Nippers who want to improve their fitness and surf skills. These Nippers should already be competent in the water and keen competitors for the Club at Waverley Shield, Branch and State Carnivals.

Competition Squad is for Nippers who are keen to compete at various carnivals for the Club, including Waverley Shield, Branch and State. The sessions involve interval training on the board and running on the sand. Sessions will have a strong focus on fitness. Attendance at this squad is by selection.

Search for Bronte Nippers Training in Stack TeamApp and request access to the board group/s relevant to your family.

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Training fees

The formal training program requires registration and up-front payment of fees at the beginning of the season. Please contact nippers@brontesurfclub.com.au to register and make payment. Fees for 2025/26 season are TBC.

Nipper boards

All Nippers must have their own board to attend board training sessions. The Club does not lend out any foam or fibreglass boards for training.

The Club will bring a trailer of boards to the Waverley Shield for all Bronte nippers to use.

The Club may lend out a very limited number of boards for Branch and State to Nippers required for teams, noting the expectation that competitors at Branch and State are in regular training and have their own board. Details will be published, together with information in relation to those carnivals.

If the board is damaged, it should be brought to the attention of one of the office and we will arrange for it to be fixed, with the cost payable by the borrower. If damaged boards are not fixed promptly, it causes much greater long-term damage as water is absorbed by the foam, so please assist us by reporting all damage ASAP.



Foam boards buy-back and second-hand boards Foam

The Club runs a board buy-back program for foam boards at the beginning of the season.

New foam boards cost approximately \$600. The Club will buy back any boards purchased by members, registered in the board training program and which are in decent condition for \$300 within 2 years of the original purchase (retain receipt of purchase). The Club will lend a board to Nippers awaiting delivery of their purchase.

There are also a number of websites that sell second hand boards. Some examples include: <https://geartrade.com.au/> and <https://www.facebook.com/groups/281014738761089/>



Carnivals

Nipper Carnivals are run by many NSW Surf Clubs throughout the season. They provide a great opportunity to compete, gain experience, and have a fun morning meeting Nippers and families from other Clubs.

The Carnival timetable can be found on this page: <https://brontesurfclub.com.au/nippers-calendar>

Ironperson event: in the 2024/25 season, Sydney Branch introduced a requirement that any Nipper who wished to compete in the Ironperson event at the Sydney Branch Carnival must have competed in Ironperson at 3 carnivals over the year.

We expect this requirement to continue. If your Nipper is keen to compete in Ironperson, please plan accordingly.

Carnival Entry is required in advance and the Club will pay entry fees for nippers who inform nippers@brontesurfclub.com.au prior to the entry cut-off (*note TBC for 2025/26 season). Nipper carnivals do not permit 'on the day' entry. The Club will not pay for any late entry fees, fees paid by the Club for Nippers who enter and do not attend, and fees for carnivals that fall on a regular Nipper Sunday, a Club Championship scheduled date (or rescheduled date) or Waverley Shield.

Nippers who enter the NSW State Championships and who are not enrolled in the Bronte Nippers training program will be asked to pay a levy towards their State team uniform.

All Bronte Nippers are encouraged and permitted to attend Club-run Carnivals. The main, local Carnival is the Waverley Shield. Other popular Carnivals include the Wanda One Carnival at Wanda, Manly Nipper Nats, the North Cronulla Junior Iron, and the Sydney Water Series.

Sydney Branch Carnival and NSW State Championships are championship carnivals for top competitors who participate in regular training. The Club encourages the following Nippers to attend:

1. Nippers enrolled in the Club's board training program.

2. U14 who participate in the Club's cadet board training program.
3. Nippers enrolled in the Club's sand training program.
4. Nippers who are enrolled in swim squads at least twice per week (minimum).

Nippers who do not satisfy the above 4 requirements can only attend the NSW State Championships to make up team numbers for particular age groups as jointly approved by their Age Manager and the head of Water Sports and/or Sand Sports (whichever is relevant).



Parent involvement required at Carnivals

Carnivals are volunteer-run and the Club is obliged to send a quota of water safety and officials corresponding to entry numbers. Nippers are not permitted to compete unless the Club has fulfilled its volunteer quotas.

Any family who sends a Nipper to compete at any Carnival must expect to volunteer at that Carnival. If you are not water safety, you will need to do the Officials Course (see details here: <https://brontesurfclub.com.au/nipper-parent-involvement>). Other volunteer roles at Branch and State Championships include transport of the IRB as well as tent set up and pack down.

If your child intends to compete at Branch or at State, please start preparing early: enrol them in the required training and achieve your own relevant qualifications (official or water safety). Neither can be done last minute.

If, for a particular Carnival, the Club's quotas are not fulfilled and the Club is not able to enter all interested Nippers, the Nippers of officials and water safety will be prioritised.

Team selection for Carnivals

The objective of the selection policy is to select the strongest team(s) to represent Bronte SLSC in each Age Group.

To be eligible for selection the following criteria will be taken into account by Age Managers, Coaches and the Committee:

1. Attendance/performance at Club Championships
2. Attendance/ performance at Waverley Shield and Sydney Branch Carnivals.
3. Attendance at Nippers (required for Surf Education purposes), minimum of 75% of normal Nipper days before State Carnival. In circumstances when a child has been unable to attend the required number due to circumstances outside their control such as illness or family reasons this minimum can be overlooked.
4. Performance at other carnivals held throughout the season
5. However, more consideration will be given to performance in carnivals towards the end of the season.

The responsibility for picking the teams is with the Age Manager in consultation with the Competition Committee.

In the event that there is a conflict that person will abstain and a third independent person will be brought in. The Competition Committee will include the water and sand coaches. The Competition Committee's decision is **final** and no further correspondence will be taken into account.

The Competition Committee will be responsible for selecting the All Age Board Relay and the All Age Beach Relay.



Additional Nippers Information

The Bronte Surf Club website contains a wealth of general information regarding Nippers: <https://brontesurfclub.com.au/bronte-nippers>

Complaints Policy

The club has several qualified MPIO's (member protection information officers) who are the first contact point in making a complaint. Any issues that cannot be sorted between parties can be escalated to the office or the Director of Nippers.

Photo Policy

Bronte Nippers would like to use photographs / videos of you or your child in its communication activities and in material for the purposes of promoting the Club. The Club takes the inappropriate use of material seriously and will remove any photographs from social media if deemed inappropriate. We do promote the use of fun images of nippers at the beach.

Note that as part of the terms and conditions of registering with SLSC, each member consents to the use of their image "to promote the Objects of the relevant SLS Organisations(s), by any form or media". See: <https://sls.com.au/sls-membership-declaration/>

If members of the general public are observed taking zoom images of nippers this should be immediately reported to the Waverley Lifeguards.

Graduating from Nippers at U14: SRC and cadets

Bronte Nippers works with the Bronte Cadet Program to ensure that this age group successfully transitions into the Senior Club.

The U14 Nipper season starts with training for the Surf Rescue Certificate (SRC) which provides participants with the skills and knowledge required for basic patrolling. After completion of their SRC, the U14s provide invaluable 'Cadet Water Safety' for Nippers as on Sunday mornings as well joining 'Cadet Patrols'.

The SRC is run separately to Sunday Nippers over a 4-6 week period at the beginning of the season. Theory sessions take place on weekday evenings, and practical water skills sessions will take place in the early mornings. Course components include:

- Signals
- First Aid
- Resuscitation
- Swimming
- Water Rescues – with tube & rescue board

When the trainers are satisfied the group has achieved the required proficiency across all components, there will be an assessment of Signals, First Aid and Resuscitation followed by an assessment of Rescues.

Participants need to have trained through the Nippers program in order to enrol in the course - we do not accept new Nippers at U14.

Increasingly, we are going to look to the U14 age group to take on more leadership roles within the Club as they move towards cadets and the senior Club. There will be opportunities to mentor children in younger age groups and help out around the Surf Club.



Nipper Club Captains

The Nippers Club Captains for 2025/26 are:

Captains: Abigael Weber-Hernandez and Nicholas Fasol

Vice Captains: Frankie Hack and Luke Haddock

The Nippers Committee

The Nippers Committee for 2025/26 is:

- Anthony Burrows –Director of Nippers
- Jess Stewart – Manager and Officials
- TBC – Water Safety Co-ordinator
- Alastair Visch – Water Sports Co-ordinator
- Amy Sharma and Zac Sharma – Sand Sports Co-ordinators
- Neil Hayward – Club Champs and Carnivals
- TBC – Competition Manager, water
- TBC -Competition Manager, sand

Sponsorship

The Club is always on the lookout for sponsors for new equipment. Sponsoring Nipper

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Boards is a great way of helping our kids learn skills in the water and compete in Carnivals, and giving exposure to sponsors on the beach. If you are interested in sponsoring Bronte Nippers with either a cash or equipment donation, please contact communications@brontesurfclub.com.au. All enquiries or suggestions are most welcome.

Club activities for parent members:

This is your Club! We welcome everyone to get involved, to make new friends and to connect with the community. Club activities for parents include:

- Training to become a life saver (Bronze Medallion)
- Wednesday morning swim 6am at Bondi (year-round)
- Sunday afternoon long board paddle and mid-week morning session for Bronze Medallion holders
- Social events

