

Junior Assessment, Awards & Competition Requirements



AUSTRALIAN LIFESAVING
ACADEMY
NEW SOUTH WALES



SURF LIFE SAVING
NEW SOUTH WALES

U/8 to U/14 Membership

Age groups remain a minimum age of 7 years (U/8) up to a maximum age of 13 years (U/14) on a seasonal basis.

The age group for the season is determined as at midnight on the 30th September at the commencement of that season (33rd Edition, Surf Sports Manual).

Listed below are the age groups members will be in for the 2009/2010 season if they are born between the following dates.

1st October 1995 to 30th September 1996	U/14
1st October 1996 to 30th September 1997	U/13
1st October 1997 to 30th September 1998	U/12
1st October 1998 to 30th September 1999	U/11
1st October 1999 to 30th September 2000	U/10
1st October 2000 to 30th September 2001	U/9
1st October 2001 to 30th September 2002	U/8

Please note: Proof of age/birth certificate must be shown for all new children joining a Surf Club or for any child that has not produced a birth certificate.

U/6 and U/7 Membership

U/6 and U/7 members may participate in activities on an **educational basis only**. Clubs are not compelled to run activities for these age groups. It is entirely up to the individual Club; however, children in these age groups may not compete in any point score/ championship events.

A child may join a Club as soon as he/she turns 5 years of age. **No Club is to accept membership of a child until they have reached the age of five years to comply with insurance requirements.** A child who reaches five years of age after 30th September 2009 may join Nippers at that time; however, this child will be required to stay in the U/6 Nippers age group the following season. It is the clubs responsibility to explain to the parents of each child that if a child reaches the age of five years after 30th September 2009, they may join Nippers for the remainder of the 2009/2010 season, however will remain in the U/6 Nipper group in the 2010/2011 season.

Listed below are the age groups members will be in for the 2009/2010 season if they are born between the following dates:

1st October 2002 to 30th September 2003	U/7
1st October 2003 to 30th September 2004	U/6

Junior Evaluations (Proficiencies)

It is recommended that the Junior Activities Preliminary Skills Evaluation and the Junior Activities Competition Skills Evaluation be overseen by an accredited Assessor. The actual evaluation and open water swim may be run by a club Official, but SLSNSW recommends there be an accredited Assessor in attendance wherever possible. This is to ensure safety protocols and correct procedures are followed and to sign off the activity.

Each part may be assessed by a Club Official, but a proficient SLSA Bronze/SRC Assessor should supervise the evaluation.

- **Junior Activities Preliminary Skills Evaluation**

Every junior member is required to participate in this evaluation, conducted by the club, prior to any junior water activity training or competition being undertaken each season (1st July to 30th June).

- **Junior Activities Competition Skills Evaluation – Open Water Swim**

To be eligible for competition, junior members must complete an open water swim which replicates the junior swim distances specified in the 33rd edition of the Surf Sports Manual. This replaces the run-swim-run and timed pool swim. The competition evaluation (open water swim) must be achieved before members are eligible to compete in inter-club competition. This is a minimum standard water proficiency requirement.

NOTE: U/14 members who have successfully completed the SRC award or SRC proficiency after 1st July 2009 and prior to commencing Junior Activities for the 2009/2010 season are not required to complete the Junior Activities Preliminary Skills Evaluation or the Junior Activities Competition Skills Evaluation.

All Junior Evaluations / Proficiencies are to be completed on the Surf Life Saving NSW Proficiency Test Work Card. The card for the 2009/10 is ORANGE and is enclosed as part of this pack.

All Junior Awards are to be recorded on SurfGuard. For more information on this process visit – <http://www.slsa.com.au/site/content/resource/00001715-docsource.pdf>

Junior Awards

The Junior Development Program (Surf Education) is an integral part of our Junior Activities Program and **must be completed by all participants in Junior Activities every season.**

This program is based on clearly defined outcome statements and reflects an exciting change in children's lifesaving development. The requirements of the award are in no way linked with the Junior Participation Skill Evaluation and/or the Junior Competition Skill Evaluation.

All members are required to gain their respective Surf Education award for their age group every season prior to 31 December.

All Junior Awards are to be recorded on SurfGuard. For more information on this process visit – <http://www.slsa.com.au/site/content/resource/00001715-docsource.pdf>

Junior Preliminary Skills Assessment

	Preliminary Skills Evaluation	Competition Skills Evaluation	Surf Education
Under 6	Nil (shallow water activities only)	Nil (no competition)	Surf Play One
Under 7	Nil (shallow water activities only)	Nil (no competition)	Surf Play Two
Under 8	25 metre swim (any stroke) 1 minute survival float	Nil (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	Minimum 150m open water swim (competition course as per competition manual)	Surf Aware Two
Under 10	25 metre swim (freestyle) 1.5 minute survival float	Minimum 150m open water swim (competition course as per competition manual)	Surf Safe One
Under 11	50 metre swim (freestyle) 2 minute survival float	Minimum 288m open water swim (competition course as per competition manual)	Surf Safe Two
Under 12	100 metre swim (freestyle) 2 minute survival float	Minimum 288m open water swim (competition course as per competition manual)	Surf Smart One
Under 13	150 metre swim (freestyle) 3 minute survival float	Minimum 288m open water swim (competition course as per competition manual)	Surf Smart Two
Under 14	200 metre swim (freestyle, in less than 5 minutes) 3 minute survival float	Minimum 288m open water swim (competition course as per competition manual)	SRC *
Assessors	Age Manager Level 1 Coach Level 1 Official Training Officer (SRC/Bronze) Assessor (SRC/Bronze) (* Assessment of SRC can only be completed by an approved Assessor)		
Notes	Every junior member is required to participate in this evaluation, conducted by the club, prior to any junior water activity training or competition being undertaken.	The competition evaluation must be achieved before being eligible to compete. This is a minimum standard water proficiency requirement.	The relevant age Surf Education award must be completed each year prior to 31 December

Junior Competition

To be eligible to compete, a junior member must have completed the Junior Activities Preliminary Skills Evaluation and the Junior Activities Competition Skills Evaluation.

To be eligible to compete at a championship event they also need to have achieved the appropriate surf education award for their age by 31 December.

Any member who has not completed these requirements by the 31 December who seeks to compete must apply in writing to the State Director of Lifesaving clearly identifying reasons for not completing requirements by 31 December.

Water Safety Requirements

Activities involving junior members who are not yet qualified surf lifesavers (have not been trained and assessed as competent to a minimum level) require appropriate safety measures to be in place.

Lifesaving Standard Operating Procedure 15.22 outlines the water safety requirements to be provided before any junior activities can be conducted in the water. This relates to both scheduled weekend junior activities (e.g. Club Sunday Nippers Program) and aquatic junior activity training sessions.

The minimum ratio of water safety officers for junior surf water activities are –

- One (1) water safety officer per five (5) participants in the water at one time (competition/educational activities)
- Approximately 50% of these water safety officers shall be on a rescue craft (IRB, Board)
- All in-water safety officers not on rescue craft shall have a rescue tube (fins are also recommended if swimming)
- The use of IRB's for water safety is strongly encouraged if resources allow.
- An IRB is to be in the water when there are 20 or more participants.

Note: These ratios do not include those members on regular public patrols, as they already have designated duties and obligations.

Please refer to this document in the Lifesaving SOPs, or the memo on the SLSNSW website for all water safety information and requirements.