

Frequently Asked Questions For Clubs

What membership category do program participants join?

Members who are aged 5-13 can join as a Junior Member (NippersU6-U14). Members aged 14 and above can join the club as a General or Community Member.

Will members be covered by insurance?

Yes – registered financial members will be covered by insurance. It is recommended that parents and carers also join the club to be covered.

What if participants cannot complete the preliminary skills evaluation?

They can still participate. Any child that does not meet the required evaluation level will require a higher level of supervision when involved in water-based activities at the discretion of the club. Refer to SLSA Water Safety Procedure 1.01.

What are the Water Safety Ratios?

Supervision ratios of participant vs volunteer is crucial. Ratios should be determined by the needs of the individual participants.

As a general guide a supervision ratio of 1:1 (1 volunteer for every 1 Nipper) for beach-based activities is recommended. A supervision ratio of 1:1 (1 Bronze Medallion qualified volunteer for every 1 Nipper) for shallow water based activities and a ratio of 2:1 (2 Bronze Medallion qualified volunteers for every 1 Nipper) for deeper water activities (such as boards) is recommended.

It is not advised that water based activities be held in water deeper than waist high, however a judgement call can be made by the Program Manager if there are Nippers with strong swimming abilities in the group who would benefit from more challenging activities in deeper water.

How do I structure my program? What activities do I run?

The program is based around enjoyment, social interaction, water, and beach familiarisation and physical activity. The Inclusive Beaches Handbook has a sample inclusive event program including activities and helpful hints and tips.

Can our program only be for nippers (13 and below)?

Clubs can offer an inclusion program that suits their clubs, beach and volunteer resources. You may choose to offer a program for a specific number of participants, specific ages or skill sets. The safety and enjoyment of participants should be the priority.

How can we engage older members (14+) in our program / activities?

Generally there is no age limit on inclusive programs. We would encourage clubs to group the older participants together rather than mix them in with the younger children. Clubs can choose how they would like to format their program – and this is generally based on the needs/wants of the participants. The program may include further surf education, skills development, modified training sessions, patrol visits or first aid skills.

What training do members need to help deliver the program?

Members do not need any specific training to deliver the program, however SLSA offer an Online Awareness Course that members are encouraged to complete.

Do I have to fill out a special event form?

No – a special event form is not required to be completed to conduct an inclusive nipper program for members. If you are hosting a one-off special event or come and try day which engages members of the public you will need to complete an application form.