

# COVID-19 Information Pack

## Junior Activities

7 October 2021 (Version 5.4)



## Junior Activities

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### COVID-19 – Roadmap to Recovery

In late September 2021 the NSW Government announced the roadmap for easing restrictions once NSW has hit the 80% double vaccination target and beyond.

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high frequency of changes that are occurring throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the guidance within this document may be out of date if downloaded or printed.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) noting that clubs may choose to delay their start until 1 December to enable greater participation.
- 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 to align with the roadmap, 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

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### **How are the maximum group sizes calculated?**

Where groups are limited to maximums of 30 or 50 (for outdoor gatherings) or 200 (for COVID Safe events), this number is inclusive of all event participants (e.g. SLS officials, parents, participants). Clubs and branches should liaise with their local councils however to ensure a shared understanding of this requirement for their local beach.

### **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 sand and in the water to physical distancing as much as practicable.

### **While maximum group sizes are 200 (at 80% double vaccinated) can we run Nippers with multiple groups of 200?**

Yes, groups can run either in designated time slots where there is no co-mingling between the groups (participants, officials, water safety, parents) or concurrent groups that are clearly defined with buffer zones between them, again with no co-mingling. Any essential roles (e.g. JAC, Water Safety Coordinator) may work across multiple groups, but must be clearly identified in the COVID Safety Plan.

### **Will I need to be double vaccinated to deliver Nippers?**

Yes. From 1 December 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 will also be consulting the membership on this issue in the coming weeks.

### **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, member/stakeholder consultation must be undertaken to ensure that the policies are reasonable, practical and have broad support from the membership.

### **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

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Dear Nipper Parents,

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. Earlier this week, the NSW Government announced the roadmap for easing restrictions once NSW has hit the 80% double vaccination target and beyond.

### **The Nipper season at [NAME] SLSC**

We are excited to announce that the Nipper season will start on **[INSERT DATE]**! This year, Nippers will...[Address start times, scheduling and any club specific changes to logistics and operations].

### **Vaccination status**

[Include information from 'Email Template for Age Managers / Water Safety Personnel' on vaccination status as appropriate. The information required will depend on your planned start date].

### **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:**

Nippers is set for [Month] 2021! Check the club website and emails for information and key dates. Stay safe and see you on the beach.

# Email Template to Age Managers / Water Safety Personnel

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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. Earlier this week, the NSW Government announced the roadmap for easing restrictions once NSW has hit the 80% double vaccination target and beyond.

## What we know

- When NSW hits the 80% double vaccinated target (expected late October), restrictions for community sport will be eased to 1 person per 4sqm inside and 1 person per 2sqm outside, with a maximum of 200 people being able to attend a COVID Safe event. **All participants, parents and SLS officials (16+) must be double vaccinated and a COVID Safety Plan must in place.**
- From 1 December, restrictions will be eased further to 1 person per 2sqm inside and outside, with no cap on participation. A COVID Safe plan will be required for outdoor events with more than 1,000 people. At this point in time, under the Public Health Order, all activities will be open to all members. 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 will also be consulting the membership on this issue in the coming weeks. **We encourage you to participate in this all member survey when you receive it.**

## The Nipper season at [NAME] SLSC

Given the above, we are excited to announce that the Nipper will start on **[INSERT DATE]**! This year, Nippers will...[Address start times, scheduling, any club specific changes to logistics and operations and vaccination requirements relevant to your start date].

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

For your information, we have attached our COVID-19 Safety Plans for Nippers and for general use of the club house. Please take the time to familiarise yourself with it. 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)

## While we wait...

### 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