

Junior Activities Search and Rescue (JSAR) Procedure

This document covers the steps involved in managing the initial stages of a JSAR. This procedure applies to Nippers sessions and training activities and any other junior activities.

As a search develops on the beach or at a club, a range of other resources including Police and/or Duty Officers will arrive on scene to assist.

Ensure your SAR kit is on the beach for every Nippers session

When to use the JSAR procedure

The JSAR procedure can be used for land or water but is primarily focussed on water as that's the highest risk area. Regardless of whether a missing nipper was last seen on land, the water will need to be cleared.

A missing nipper may be witnessed submerging, determined as a result of a discrepancy in 'Count In, Count Out' or could be signalled via 'Code X' from water safety personnel.

Command Structure

The initial person in command of the search and rescue operation (SAR), referred to as Forward Commander, is the Patrol Captain where one is present or Water Safety Supervisor where no Patrol Captain is present.

Command may be transferred at any time to someone more experienced but the transfer must be communicated clearly to all involved, including Surfcom.

Initial Actions – to be completed within first 2 minutes:



Search Actions:

- ☐ Identify a briefing location and task someone to bring the SAR kit to that location
- ☐ Allocate a scribe to record names of responders entering the water, details of briefing, actions taken, times
- ☐ Conduct dynamic risk assessment and brief water safety and additional powercraft teams on search pattern/s, last known position, description of missing person
- ☐ Confirm head count update from Age Managers to confirm all others accounted for
- ☐ Allocate an Age Manager/s to manage formal sign out of all Nippers into the care of parent/carer
- ☐ Allocate first aid lead to prepare medical equipment and keep a radio with them on Channel 3
- ☐ Provide Situation Report (SITREP) to Surfcom with updated situation, decisions, additional resources required
- ☐ Brief additional personnel as they arrive on scene (ie. RWC, UAV, ECOT). This includes SLS personnel and also police, ambulance and personnel from other agencies.

Additional detail can be found in Public Safety Standard Operating Procedure (PS SOP) [8.2 Lost or missing persons](#).

At this stage the SAR operation now follows the procedures outlined in PS SOP [Chapter 10 SAR Operations](#).

Additional Notes:

- Provide updates to Surfcom as regularly as possible
- Make sure every person entering the water is wearing high vis shirt (available in SAR kit)
- Your scribe should record the time and content of instructions given to SAR team members
- A single flag should be placed on the beach and an anchored buoy showing the last known position
- Names of all Nippers, Age Managers and other personnel present will need to be sent to Surfcom for Member Wellbeing Support
- All media to be directed to the Duty Officer or Patrol Captain
- A debrief will be run by the Patrol Captain or Duty Officer once the search and rescue is completed

SLS assets potentially available:

Surf Life Saving has a range of assets available in water, on water and over water. Below is a quick list of assets potentially available in your area. All can be requested via Surfcom.

SLS asset	How to activate
In water searchers (waders, swimmers, boards/tubes)	Nippers water safety on scene
Inflatable Rescue Boat (IRB)	Either on scene already or radio Surfcom to request ECOT
Rescue Water Craft (RWC)	Either on scene already or radio Surfcom to request ECOT
Uncrewed Aerial Vehicle (UAV)	Either on scene already or radio Surfcom to request ECOT
Club Emergency Call Out Team (ECOT)	Radio Surfcom
Duty Officer	Radio Surfcom
Helicopter	Radio Surfcom
Other emergency services	Radio Surfcom