

# Youth Engagement Plan

## 6 steps to engage youth at your club:

1. **Assign a Youth Engagement Coordinator** – A member of the club to focus and engage with this group
2. **Form a youth committee/panel** – Meet often and ensure they report back to the entire youth group at the club.
3. **Choose 1-2 engagement activities** – The Youth Panel and Youth Engagement Coordinator should work together choose activities that support youth engagement and recognition (see some ideas below)
4. **Develop a short action plan** – A plan that outlines the steps to deliver these activities
5. **Track and monitor youth engagement and retention** – This will monitor the success of the program. You may wish to use SurfGuard reports or develop a free online [survey](#) to hear feedback directly from youth members. Contact your [local development officer](#) who can support you with reporting or creating the survey.
6. **Keep going** – It may take some time to see success but keep at it and recognise the efforts of those that support youth members at your club.

### Youth Recognition Ideas:

- **Uniform** – it may seem small but getting new gear was always an exciting component of being in a team. It creates a sense of being part of a team.
- **Youth of the month profile** – recognises a youth member that has stepped up each month in some way – share this profile with the club and include rewards and incentives.

**End of Season Camps** - Something to look forward to every season. Each age group has a different focus to develop a set of skills each year.

### Engagement Activities:

- **Host Youth Challenge days** – Once a month host a different challenge (fun run, CrossFit session, triathlon, Sunday Swim etc). This can finish with a fun social aspect such as a hot chips, BBQ or Morning Tea (food is always a winner).
- **Engagement days** – Include some form of self-development in a different realm. Wellness Wednesdays (yoga, meditation, nutrition), Training Tuesdays (different workout ideas such as boxing, bootcamp) – different themes per month etc.
- **Create a youth space at the club** (if available) – Create a space in the clubhouse where they can ‘hang’ and set up some ‘youth time’ for just hanging out, socialising, and catching up.
- **Club and Inter-club social / sports events** – **Social** options could include BBQ, pizza nights, trivia nights, beach picnics etc. **Sport** options should be both lifesaving specific sports, as well as non-lifesaving sports events – they need to find the balance of challenge and fun to be appealing.
- **Youth Fitness sessions** – Teenagers are highly impressionable and fitness/body image becomes very prominent in these years. Consider opening the gym to only youth a few times a week – could be a time to train for upcoming challenge days!

Further information  
resources and support:

[SLNSW Pathways and Opportunities](#)

