

The following Policy statement was adopted at the Executive Committee meeting held on 11th October 2012 and adopted as Branch Policy from 20th October 2012

1. INTRODUCTION

This policy provides a guide for affiliated clubs and office bearers of SLSQ Point Danger Branch regarding the Nipper Age Groups for any season

2. AIM

This policy aims to

- Clarify SLSQ Point Danger Branches position relating to nipper age groups
- Clarify the process determining nipper age groups each season
- Outline the necessary competency's required for each age groups
- Outline the consequences for non adherence to this policy

3. PROCESS OF DETERMINING NIPPER AGE GROUPS

- Reference – SLSQ Junior Activities Booklet
 - The absolute minimum age for a child to join the association and partake in Junior Activities is 5 years (U6) up to a maximum of 13 years (U14) on a seasonal basis. The age for a season is determined as at midnight on the 30 September at the commencement of that season.
 - For example - a child turns 11 years before the 30 September of that season; that child will be registered in the U12 age group for that season. If a child turns 11 years after the 30 September of that season; that child will be registered in the U11 age group for that season.
 - NOTE:
 - *1. A child cannot register as a member of the association until they have turned 5 years old. If a child turns 5 after the 30 September they cannot register or partake in any lifesaving activities until the following season.*
 - *2. If a Club's Junior Activities program commences prior to the 30 September then the child is still grouped into the age group of their age as at the 30 September.*
- It should be noted the for the purpose of nipper age awards and completion that these age groups are also applicable. As such the child must successfully participate in and complete the learning outcomes for the age group they are allocated.

4. NECESSARY COMPETENCY'S FOR AGE GROUPS

As per SLSA and SLSQ guidelines the following competency's must be completed

	POOL EVALUATION	BEACH EVALUATION	COMPETITION EVALUATION
U6	Kick on wall with face in water 30 second float	Nil (shallow water activities only)	Not Applicable
U7	Torpedo (push off wall) with face in water 30 second float	Nil (shallow water activities only)	Not Applicable
U8	25 metre swim (freestyle) 1 min survival float	25m-25m-25m Run-Wade-Run	Run - Wade - Run (25m x 25m x 25m)
U9	25 metre swim (freestyle) 1 min survival float	50m-50m-50m Run-Swim-Run	Min 150m open water swim
U10	25m swim (freestyle) 1.5 min survival float	50m-50m-50m Run-Swim-Run	Minimum 150m open water swim
U11	50 metre swim (freestyle) 2 minute survival float	50m-100m-50m Run-Swim-Run	Minimum 288m open water swim
U12	100 metre swim (freestyle) 2 minute survival float	50m-100m-50m Run-Swim-Run	Minimum 288m open water swim
U13	150 metre swim (freestyle) 3 minute survival float	100m-100m-100m Run-Swim-Run	Minimum 288m open water swim
U14	200 metre swim (freestyle, in less than 5 minutes) 3 minute survival float	100m-100m-100m Run-Swim-Run	Minimum 288m open water swim

5. NIPPER TRAINING : AGE AWARDS

- All nippers are required to prove competence in the components of the age award that they allocated in.
- They should not change age groups at any time during this process. It should be noted that the learning outcomes for each age group differ.
- If a nipper cannot complete the necessary components of their allocated age award then the club should think about a certificate of participation or encouragement to be given to the member.

6. NIPPER TRAINING : SURF SPORTS

- If a child wishes to train (surf sports training) in distances greater than their age award allows, this is allowed (with the correct water safety arrangements and equipment)
- It should be noted that the nipper needs to show competence in their own age group distances prior to attempting a higher level of training. (Note they must also show competence in the higher age group competition evaluation distance they are participating in)
- If a nipper participates in surf sports training in distances higher than their allocated age group – this does not endorse them to compete individually in an older age group. They can

only compete up one age group in team events e.g. An Under 11 can compete in individual and team events in Under 11 and also team events in Under 12)

- At no time are Under 6 or Under 7 members permitted to participate in surf sports training or competition at any time.

7. COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS PER AGE GROUP (AS PER SLSA SURF SPORTS MANUAL)

Please note that this is as per the SLSA Surf Sports Manual including amendments and bulletins

Determining Age Groups

(a) For the purpose of determining an age group, all competitors must have a common birth date calculated as at midnight on 30th September each year, i.e. age at midnight on 30th September determines the competitor's age category (for individual events) in that competition season.

Participation in Individual Events

(a) For participation in individual events the competitor's age as at midnight on 30 September (each year) each shall be

Age	Compete as
7 years	U/8 (Under 8 competitors cannot participate in any of her water events other than the wade relay)
8 years	U/9
9 years	U/10
10 years	U/11
11 years	U/12
12 years	U/13
13 years	U/14 and/or U/15
14 years	U/15

Participation in Team Events

In the U8 to U14 age categories inclusive members may compete in their own (individual) age group in team events plus the next immediately older age group, only in team events

Note : Under 8 members shall not be permitted to compete in water events other than wades

8. CONSEQUENCES

- Non adherence to this policy may lead to confusion for nippers and parents in relation to their necessary requirements.

9. CONCLUSION

This policy is a Branch Policy and as such all Branch Clubs must adhere to this as part of their responsibility towards the Branch

This policy is to be brought to the attention of all personnel for strict compliance.