



# SLSSA Nipper Water Safety

A GUIDE FOR ALL CLUBS

VERSION 2 JULY 2022

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## INTRODUCTION

The following procedure is for the provision of water safety for Surf Life Saving SA (SLSSA) club based Nipper activities. These procedures have been developed using risk management principles and many years of experience with the provision of water safety for aquatic activities.

## SUMMARY

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This table provides a summary of the minimum water safety requirements for SLSSA Nipper activities.

SLS ACTIVITY	REQUIRED WATER SAFETY RATIO
Club based Nipper activities	1:5 SRC /Bronze Medallion holders: Participants
Under 10 age group activities and younger	1:3 Nipper Water Safety Assistant: Participants
Note: where a nipper in a higher age group has the skills and ability of an under ten this award may apply	Note: NWSA to be no more than 50% of water safety

## DEFINITIONS

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- Activity Participant: A Nipper (U6-U13) SLSSA member.
- Age Group Manager (AGM): Responsible for coordinating Nipper activities and water safety within their age group. Reports directly to the Water Safety Supervisor.
- Low-risk conditions: Determined following pre-activity risk assessment indicating they are operating in an acceptably low risk environment. A nominal wave height of 1m is considered the maximum wave height for conditions to be determined as low-risk, however other factors should also be considered.
- Nipper activities: Club based nipper activities including weekend nipper training activities and any additional training sessions held outside of these times.
- Nipper activities safety brief: This brief outlines the risks of the day and procedures, including signals for use in emergencies. Conducted prior to Nipper Water Safety Assistant commencing daily duties (see Appendix 2: Nipper Activities Safety Brief).
- Nipper Water Safety Certificate (NWSC): A certificate allowing adult members to act as a Nipper Water Safety Assistant (NWSA) providing water safety for Under 10 and younger nipper activities. (See Appendix 3 for details on NWSC).
- Water safety: The use of human resources and rescue equipment in an aquatic environment to provide a level of supervision to activity participants.
- Water Safety Supervisor (WSS): Responsible for pre-activity risk assessments and monitoring of activities and water safety.

## NIPPER WATER SAFETY POLICY & PROCEDURES

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The following water safety policy and procedures are to be adopted for SLSSA Nipper activities.

### Minimum Supervision Ratios

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Below are the minimum water safety ratios and qualifications required for Nipper activities.

For Nipper water activities, the supervision ratio of 1:5 (Water safety personnel: Participants) applies.

For Nipper water activities, for age groups under 10 and younger the supervision ratio of 1:5 (SRC/Bronze: Participants) and 1:3 (NWSA: Participants) applies with NWSA not being more than 50% of total Water safety personnel.

## Water Safety Procedure

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### STEP 1:

- Appoint a Water Safety Supervisor (WSS) for the day

### STEP 2:

- WSS must conduct a risk assessment prior to the commencement of activities, mitigate any risk required and brief AGM's and water safety personnel (see Appendix 1)
- WSS to establish relevant water safety ratio for the day ensuring NWSA personnel are not more than 50% of total

### STEP 3:

- AGM's to confirm water safety/parent helpers for the day and ensure they are in identifiable uniforms

### STEP 4:

- WSS to conduct ongoing risk assessments and continually monitor the activities and water safety personnel



## Risk Assessment And Risk Management Tools

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The WSS is responsible for conducting a risk assessment prior to all aquatic Nipper activities to outline any risks identified, management of risks and to establish water safety requirements for the day (see Appendix 1).

If the activity is to be conducted during patrol hours, the WSS must consult with the lifesaving Patrol Captain on the most appropriate area of the beach to be used for the activity. If outside of patrol hours the WSS is to decide the most appropriate area of the beach to be used for the activity.

Suitable risk assessment and risk management tools include:

- Appendix 1 – Aquatic Activity Risk Assessment and Management Form
- Appendix 2 – Nipper Activities Safety Brief
- SLS water safety risk mobile app (also available in paper form)

## Uniform For Water Safety Personnel

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For SLSSA Nipper activities all water safety personnel must be wearing a clearly identifiable uniform consisting of either a cap and/or rash shirt.

For SRC and Bronze qualified personnel this is a high visibility Water Safety Uniform:

- A high-visibility (fluorescent) orange cap secured under the chin; or
- A high-visibility (fluorescent) orange rash shirt branded with 'WATER SAFETY' on the front and back of the shirt.

For NWSA this includes:

- A high-visibility (fluorescent) green cap secured under the chin; or
- A high-visibility (fluorescent) green rash shirt (or the like) branded with 'WATER SAFETY ASSISTANT' on the front and back of the shirt.

## Rescue Equipment

Rescue equipment used for the purposes of water safety must be SLSA approved and can include:

- Lifesaving rescue equipment as listed in the SLSA approved lifesaving gear and equipment manual.
- SLSA approved competition boards.

It is highly recommended that an IRB or RWC be used for water safety (where safe and applicable).

NOTE: Where Water Safety Personnel are using rescue equipment that requires a specific competency and award (e.g. powercraft) the operator must be qualified and proficient in the appropriate awards. During the activity, rescue equipment must be on the water and in close proximity to the activity participants.

Equipment	Operator	Count towards water safety ratio
Rescue board	1 paddler	1
Rescue Tube	1 swimmer	1
IRB	1 Driver and 1 Crew	2
RWC	1 Driver	1
	1 Driver and 1 Crew	2

## Roles And Responsibilities Water Safety Supervisors (WSS)

Should be qualified and proficient in the SLSA BM /Certificate II in Public Safety (Aquatic Rescue) AND are strongly recommended to hold the Silver Medallion Beach Management OR Silver Medallion Patrol Captain award. Duties of the WSS must include:

- Conduct pre activity risk assessments and brief water safety personnel and AGM's
- Be responsible for water safety ensuring it meets the prescribed and assessed requirements e.g. the minimum supervision ratios
- Remain on the beach, except when required in an emergency
- Be aware at all times of the safety and welfare of those involved in the activity and act immediately if they have safety concerns
- Supervise water safety personnel throughout Nipper activities

NOTE: The 'on-duty' lifesaving Patrol Captain must not act in the position of WSS. The Patrol Captain's primary duty is public beach safety.

## Nipper Water Safety Assistants (NSWA)

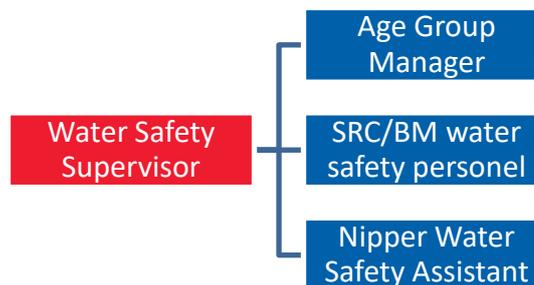
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Report to the Water Safety Supervisor (WSS) and must:

- Be a financial club member
- Minimum age 15 years
- Be qualified and proficient in the Nipper Water Safety Certificate award
- Carry out their duties under the leadership of the WSS
- Be responsible for water safety in the appointed area
- At all times be aware of the safety and welfare of those involved in the activity and immediately report any concerns to the WSS
- Advise the WSS of any pre-existing ailments that may impact on their participation or if their competency does not meet the activity requirements or conditions.
- Sign water cover log book to show attendance

## Chain of Command

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## APPENDIX 1: AQUATIC ACTIVITY RISK ASSESSMENT & MANAGEMENT

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The Aquatic Activity Risk Assessment and Management form can be accessed by the following link;

[1651 \(sls.com.au\)](https://1651.sls.com.au)



## APPENDIX 2: NIPPER ACTIVITIES SAFETY BRIEF

Club: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Water Safety Personnel: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Nipper Water Safety Assistants: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Nippers: \_\_\_\_\_

*Water Safety Supervisor is to ensure the Aquatic Activity Risk Assessment Form has been completed prior to conducting the safety brief.*

The following must be briefed (tick once complete):

Surf conditions		Wind direction	
Swell direction		Hazards	
Rips		Location of first aid, kit and appropriate equipment	
Weather conditions		Location of rescue equipment	
Signals (Assistance required, return to shore, proceed further out to sea)			

Other comments:

Water safety supervisor name: \_\_\_\_\_

Water safety supervisor signature: \_\_\_\_\_



## APPENDIX 3: NIPPER WATER SAFETY CERTIFICATE AWARD

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### Purpose

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The Nipper Water Safety Certificate is a water safety and rescue award for the provision of water safety for SLS Nipper Activities. It is designed to enable a large range of parents/guardians to be engaged by Clubs to formally assist in improving the delivery of Nipper water based activities and create potential pathways to lifesaving operations such as beach patrols or carnival water safety.

Course length estimated at 2- 3 hours (dependant on group size and prior knowledge/abilities).

### Pre-requisites

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- Be a financial club member
- Minimum age 15 years

### Assessment Tasks

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#### **Assessment Task 1** –Observers Award Theory assessment

- Complete Observers course content including online assessment tasks

**Assessment Task 2** - 50m swim out to sea using a continuous stroke from waist deep water, tread water/ float for 1 minute then return to shore using a continuous stroke. Complete in 6 minutes.

**Assessment Task 3** - Demonstrate Aquatic Rescue with a Rescue Tube

**Assessment Task 4** - Demonstrate Aquatic Rescue with a contact tow

**Assessment Task 5** - Signals

- *Beach to water signals*
- *Water to beach signals*

## Proficiency Requirements

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To maintain currency members who hold a NWSC will need to undergo an annual proficiency test incorporating the swim/float/swim as per award, a tube rescue and demonstration of signals (those listed above). This proficiency test will need to be recorded on SurfGuard as per other proficiency testing such as SRC and Bronze.

## Who Can Train and Assess?

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This award requires a minimum of a Bronze Medallion trainer to deliver and assess. This can be the same person. An endorsed delegate Bronze Medallion can be used to complete the annual skills maintenance.

## Administration

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The trainer is to ensure the Chief Instructor raises a Form14 on SurfGuard, a minimum of 14 days prior to the day.

For assessment, the assessment work card must be utilised and returned to SLSSA within 14 days of assessment.

For skills maintenance, a proficiency form 14 to be raised and submitted to SLSSA. A signed copy of the Form 14 will need to be sent to SLSSA.

SLSSA to process Form 14 within 14 business days

## APPENDIX 4: NIPPER WATER SAFETY CERTIFICATE CHECKLIST & ASSESSMENT WORK CARD



<b>Surf Club</b>	
<b>Trainer</b>	
<b>Course Date</b>	

Checklist	✓ once complete
Form 14 Submitted to SLSSA 14days prior to assessment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Welcome & Trainer introduction	<input type="checkbox"/>
WHS requirements & House Keeping	<input type="checkbox"/>
Overview of training & Nipper Water Safety Certificate award assessment tasks	<input type="checkbox"/>
Check if candidates have any concerns (i.e medical)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensure Candidate signs assessment work card	<input type="checkbox"/>
Send completed assessment work card and signed Form 14 to SLSSA	<input type="checkbox"/>



# Nipper Water Safety Certificate

## Assessment Workcard

Club:  
Training Officer:

Venue/Location:  
Assessment Date:

- COMPLETE ATTENDANCE SHEET IN FULL- (NO BLANKS)
- TICK OR CROSS TO BE COMPLETED UNDER EACH PERFORMANCE CRITERIA SECTION (NON SHADED AREA).
- C OR NYC TO BE COMPLETED FOR THE ELEMENTS IN THE SHADED AREA

Candidates Name	Candidates Signature	Task 1: Observers award theory assessment	Task 2: Swim, float, swim in 6 minutes <i>Document time below</i>	Task 3: Demonstrate a tube rescue	Task 4: Demonstrate 1 or more contact tows	Task 5: Signals <i>Beach to water signals &amp; Water to beach signals</i>	SLSA Award: Nipper Water Safety Certificate
			m s				C/NYC
			m s				C/NYC
			m s				C/NYC
			m s				C/NYC
			m s				C/NYC
			m s				C/NYC
			m s				C/NYC
			m s				C/NYC
			m s				C/NYC
			m s				C/NYC

### Assessor details

Assessor Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Assessor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Assessor Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Assessor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Assessor comments (optional): \_\_\_\_\_



**FOLLOW UP ACTION (only complete if any candidate/s are “Not Yet Competent”)**

Candidate Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Follow up action recommended (to be completed by assessor and discussed with the candidate)

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I have agreed to the Assessors recommended follow-up action

Candidate \_\_\_\_\_ Date / /

The Candidate has agreed to the recommended follow-up action

Assessor \_\_\_\_\_ Date / /

Candidate Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Follow up action recommended (to be completed by assessor and discussed with the candidate)

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I have agreed to the Assessors recommended follow-up action

Candidate \_\_\_\_\_ Date / /

The Candidate has agreed to the recommended follow-up action

Assessor \_\_\_\_\_ Date / /

