

# NIPPER NEWS

## 2025-2026

### WELCOME TO THE 2025-26 SEASON!

We're planning for a fun-filled summer at the beach. Here's everything you need to know.

#### Registrations & Subs

Were you a member with us last year? All you have to do is pay your subs and you're sorted (no need to fill in any forms).

New members, please fill this in → [Application form](#)

All surf ages for this season are as at 30 Sep 2025. Nippers is for children aged 7 to 13 on this date. Little Nippers is open to 5 and 6 year olds this season.

Subs are \$100 per Nipper and \$75 for each subsequent Nipper in the same family. Little Nippers are \$50. You may wish to pay the Family subscription of \$175, which covers 2 adults and all children aged 22 & under from the same family. Subs can be made direct into our account 03-0502-0593096-000 - please note Subs and the child's surname in the reference. Subs will need to be paid before any competition entries can be confirmed. Family memberships do not cover the Equipment fee for the U11 + age groups (see below).

#### Nipper Beach Training

Sunday at Paekākāriki Beach. Please arrive at 1.30pm to sign in and be ready to start at 1.45pm. For safety reasons all participants must sign in via the clubhouse on arrival and are not to go straight to the beach.

- Little Nippers up to U10s - meet at the shared community room between the main entrance and the craft bay
- U11 - U14 - meet in the craft bay

Please arrive on time. A briefing on the conditions and beach and surf education starts at 1:45pm before we head down to the beach at 2pm - parents please listen too, as you will also get the latest news and updates.

#### Supervision

An adult must stay with each child while they are at the beach, as part of our safety requirements. A child without a caregiver present may be unable to participate. Please introduce yourself to your child's coach. Ensure your child is prepared for the beach with a wetsuit, nipper hat (beach beanie), high-vis rashie, sunscreen and goggles, along with warm clothes to change into after.

#### Uniform

Every child must wear their yellow and black hat (beach beanie) and hi-vis safety vest at each Sunday session (and competitions). This is compulsory, and a SLSNZ requirement. Prices are:

- \$26 each for beanies
- \$30 each for vests

### KEY DATES

Holiday 200m Badge Testing U11- U14  
Tues 30 Sept 6.30-7 Arena Porirua  
& 7-8pm Coastland Aquatic

Tues 7th Oct 5.30pm  
Board Training starts, Pāuhatawanui  
Inlet (U11 - U14 200m badge only)

Thurs 9th Oct 7pm  
Pool training starts, CAC

Sun 12 Oct 1.30pm  
**Club Open Day**, Paekākāriki

Sun 19th Oct 1.30pm  
**Nippers & Little Nippers start**  
Paekākāriki

Sun 23 Nov  
Junior Surf Carnival, Worser Bay

Sun 14 Dec  
Junior Surf Carnival, Levin-Waitarere

Fri 9 Jan - Sat 10 Jan  
Central Region Champs, Paekākāriki

Sun 18 Jan  
Junior Surf Carnival, Riversdale

Wed 4 Feb  
Oceans Hit out, Titahi Bay

Sun 8 Feb  
Capital Coast Junior Champs, Maranui

Thur 19 - Sun 22 Feb  
Oceans, National Junior Surf Carnival  
(U11-U14), Mt Maunganui

Sun 1 Mar  
Junior Club Champs, Paekākāriki

New members will receive a free vest this year through sponsorship. We also have t-shirts, hoodies, jackets, towels, singlets, and caps available for sale – you can purchase merchandise [here](#).

### Beach Training Structure

What happens at Beach Training is very much age and weather related. We try to have our younger age groups (U10 and below) doing beach activities first, then water activities, so they are as dry and warm for as long as possible. The older age groups (U11 and above – with 200 metre badges) will spend more time in the water and their training will be more competition focused. Age group coaches will have their age groups printed on the back of their pink rashies.

Little Nippers, run by Amy & Jordan, brings a lot of fun, with a focus on beach activities and water confidence. Little Nippers will need to be actively supervised and adults are expected to take part – please plan to get wet!

Once a session has finished, all ages of children must return to their guardian prior to re-entering the water. If they wish to continue playing in the surf they need to take off their beanies, swim between the flags, and must be actively supervised by an adult, as they would if they were visiting the beach outside of a nippers session.

### 200 Metre Safety Badge (U11 + age groups)

A SLSNZ safety requirement is that children have a 200 metre safety badge prior to being able to take nipper boards into the water. This safety badge requires children to swim 200m and then tread water (with face/chin clearly above the water) for a minute, all in under 8 minutes.

The 200 metre badge is relevant for nippers moving into the U11 year, with some training and competitions restricted without this. These badges must be re-tested annually and you are able to do so at the end of any of our pool sessions.

### Nipper Pool Training

Pool training takes place on Thursday evenings, 7 p.m. at Coastlands Aquatic Centre, Paraparaumu. These are not learn to swim lessons but are particularly good for our Nippers who are currently not in swim squads or under a swim coach. There is no extra cost for this, the cost of pool entry is all covered in our club subs.

We also try to introduce surf equipment into the pool sessions so that Nippers can get confidence on equipment in a safe controlled area. Please make sure you sign in when you arrive at the pool and that your nipper doesn't get in before the session starts.

### Nipper Board Training

We will start board training at Paremata Bridge on Tuesdays. We will aim to move this back to Paekākāriki as soon as possible, once the wind and surf settles down. Tuesday night board training sessions start at 5:30 pm and are strictly for U11 nippers and over with a current 200m safety badge. Nippers wanting to attend Oceans should aim to start board training as soon as possible.



## Child Protection

Surf Life Saving New Zealand has the responsibility and commitment to safe guarding the welfare and wellbeing of all children and young people in our care and taking part in surf lifesaving activities. If you have a question or concern about a young person, please, feel comfortable and reach out to ask "Are you OK?"

Any allegation or concern that a child or young person may have been harmed or abused must be taken seriously and dealt with sensitively and promptly. Take care to ensure that the privacy of the victim and any accused person/s is maintained.

- This process is strictly confidential.
- Advise the National or Club Child Protection Officer(s) of the incident
- Follow instructions from SLSNZ's National Child Protection Officer where necessary.

Contact details for Child Protection at Paekākāriki are:

### Club Child Protection Officer:

Chris Eastham (Membership & Wellbeing Coordinator and Nipper Parent)  
021 028 85427

### SLSNZ National Child Protection Officer:

Scott Weatherall  
027 440 4700  
scott.weatherall@surflifesaving.org.nz

## Boards & Equipment

We aim to provide enough equipment for all our members but we do have limited numbers of boards. Kids and parents, please wait for a coach to open the trailer or container before taking the boards out. Nippers new to boards must start with a foam board. If you're not sure which board your nipper should be using, please check with a coach first.

All gear used by the kids on the beach does need to be washed off prior to being returned to the trailer or racks. We try to encourage our kids to do this but nippers will need their adult help in carrying the bigger fibreglass boards. The fibreglass boards must always be handled with care in and out of the water. These boards are easily damaged and any little ding means the boards are out of action until repaired. Not only are repairs expensive but it also reduces the number of boards available for our members.

Please note that the fibreglass boards come in 2 sizes. Only nippers in the U11 and U12 groups can use a 8'10" board and only nippers U13 and U14 can use the larger boards. Boards can only be used by nippers with 200m badges (this does not apply to body boards).

### Equipment fee for U11-U14 Boards

An equipment fee of \$30 applies to each U11+ nipper using club boards (it does not apply to nippers who only use their own boards). The fee will cover any accidental damage over the season and payment is required along with subs at the beginning of the season. Boards do get damaged from time to time. If you are aware of any damage, let us know asap so we can get it repaired.

### Nipper Surf Carnivals (U8+)

Carnivals are the competition aspect of our sport and a great chance for our kids to pit their skills against other kids in our region. These are fun days with kids enjoying the competition plus getting to spend more time with their surf club mates. We encourage all our nippers to attend carnivals. You do have to be pre-registered to attend a carnival, the club will enter you for the event. Calls for entries will be sent out via email, and the WhatsApp group for U11-U14 nippers. Please note – Beach training for Nippers does not take place when Nipper Surf Carnivals are on. Little Nippers will still hold sessions on carnival weekends if the conditions are good.

### Helping on the beach

There will be a volunteer white board roster on the beach, where nipper parents can sign up to set up and run flag pits, help out in the water, operate the BBQ and more. These are small things but will make a big difference! Keep an eye out for this and be prepared to take the opportunity to sign up.

### Cancellations

We aim to post any cancellations of training or events via email and the club Facebook pages, but sometimes it isn't possible to cover both. Please check both prior to leaving home if the weather looks poor. If you're not sure, send a text to the number at the end of the newsletter. Cancellations of Tuesday board sessions is via WhatsApp only (see the QR code below to join)



## Oceans and Junior Club Champs Requirements

Junior surf is all about participation and we want to encourage as many kids to take part in as many events as we can. Surf events can be challenging environments, so to ensure that the experience remains a positive one we have some requirements for certain events aimed at building confidence and skills.

For our junior club champs, nippers need to attend at least 2 carnivals during the season to be eligible for our club trophies. For Oceans, nippers should aim to do the same, and should be attending training regularly following the Christmas break. If coaches do not feel that a nipper can safely compete in any given conditions, they may be scratched before or during an event. This call is ultimately at the coaches discretion. The best way to manage this is to take part in training and events through the season to demonstrate the required skills and confidence

A special thank you to Jenny at Siasoi Photography (@jensfine) and Holly (@holly.couch.photos) for the stunning photos taken last season.



## CONTACT

pslnippers@gmail.com

027 538 8999 (Henry Curtis, Junior Surf Coordinator)

[Nippers | Facebook](#)

[Little Nippers | Facebook](#)

Insta @paekakarikisurflifeguards

<https://paekakarikisurflifeguards.wordpress.com/>

U11-U14 PSLs Nippers Training

WhatsApp group



## Fundraising and building our new clubrooms

We are getting so close to having a fully functional new clubhouse but we still need help!  
Check out our fundraising opportunities to help us achieve our goal!



## Make your mark on Paekākāriki's new surf club

### Sponsor Legacy Wall

Buy a glass tile (small, medium, or large) to get your name on the wall of the new club.

DONATE

[paekakarikisurflifeguards.store](https://paekakarikisurflifeguards.store)

