Western Australia

Bulletin

Title:	**2027 Fuel to Go & Play WA Nipper Championships**
Date:	
Document ID:	**05, 2026/2027**
Department:	Sport and Development
From:	Sport Sports Team – Email: surfsports@slswa.com.au
Audience:	Club Administrators, Club Surf Sports Management, Team Managers, Competitors and Officials
Summary:	This bulletin outlines event and general competition conditions for affiliated clubs for the 2027 Fuel to Go & Play WA Nipper Championships
Action:	Clubs are to note Entry Conditions

EVENT	EVENT DATE & VENUE	ENTRIES CLOSE	TEAM MAKEUP CLOSE
Surf Rescue Championships • R&R • March Past	Sat 13 Feb @ Scarborough Beach	*Thu 4 Feb, 11.59pm*	*Mon 8 Feb, 11.59pm*
Beach & Ocean Championships	27 Feb – 1 March @ Trigg Beach	*Thu 18 Feb, 11.59pm*	*Mon 22 Feb, 11.59pm*

Note: Please print in colour, as colour coding of events has been used throughout the document

BULLETINS BINDING ON MEMBERS

Amendments, alterations, interpretations, or other changes to SLSWA regulations shall be advised to members of the association by means of Bulletins approved by the Chief Executive Officer. Affiliated Clubs shall take reasonable steps to distribute information in the Bulletins to individual members. Such inclusions in the Bulletins are binding upon all members.

It is most important that the information in this Bulletin is brought to the attention of all Carnival Officials, Team Managers, Coaches and Competitors. Non receipt of this Bulletin will not be taken as an excuse if a Club, Team or Individual does not comply with the requirements outlined in this and other Bulletins and Circulars.



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GENERAL

These championships will be guided by the most recent version of the Rules and Regulations of the SLSA Surf Sports Manual, Rescue and Resuscitation Competition Manual, related SLSA Circulars and subsequent amendments and the SLSWA Championships Bulletins. These can be accessed via the SLSWA website at this link. Additionally, any amendments that may be advised as per the Event Committee on the day.

Please note SLSWA reserves the right to alter course distances and layout for the purposes of safety and programming. This could result in distances being shorter than what is prescribed in the SLSA Surf Sports Manual.

For any event to be contested at the 2026 Fuel to Go & Play WA Nipper Championships (see Table of Events below), a minimum of three (3) teams and individual from two (2) different clubs is required.

LIST OF EVENTS

		U10		U11		U12		U13	
DISCIPLINE	**EVENT**	**Male**	**Female**	**Male**	**Female**	**Male**	**Female**	**Male**	**Female**
MARCH PAST	Mixed March Past	✓							
R & R EVENTS	2 Person R&R	✓				✓			
WATER	Surf Race	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Surf Teams Race	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
MULTI-DISCIPLINE	Ironman/Ironwoman	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓*
	Board Rescue*			✓*	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓*
	Cameron Relay	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BOARD	Board Race*	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓*
	Board Relay	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BEACH	Beach Flags*	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓*
	Beach Relay	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Beach Sprint*	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓*	✓*
	1km Beach Run	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	2km Beach Run							✓	✓

**** Denotes qualification events***

Further details for the events above area available in the 2026/27 Little Nipper & Nipper Competition Guide.

ENTRY CONDITIONS

PROFICIENCY OF COMPETITORS

The specific requirements for competitors are outlined in SLSWA Circular 26 Woodside Nipper & SLSWA Youth Programs and Requirements for 2026/27.

The following events will not require the competitor to have a current Competition Evaluation; 2 person R&R, March Past, Beach Sprints, Beach Flags, Beach Relay, 1km Beach Run and 2km Beach Run. Clubs are reminded however, that in the interest of ensuring a standard of competition appropriate for a state championship that only suitably prepared competitors should be entered.

PRE-QUALIFICATION EVENTS

- Beach Sprint, Beach Flags, Board Rescue, Board Race and Ironman/Iromwoman are pre-qualified events.
- Metropolitan Club competitors can only compete in these events if qualified through the 2026/27 Fuel to Go & Play Nippers Qualifier.
- Country Club competitors can only compete in these events if qualified through either their Regional Championships/Sunset Challenge or the 2026 Fuel to Go & Play Nippers Qualifier.
- Information about the qualification process can be found in SLSWA Circular 09, Regional Championships and Qualifying for 2026/27 Nipper Championships.

NIPPER TEAM EVENTS

Nipper competitors can only compete in team events in their own age group or in the age group directly above them i.e., U11 can compete in U11 and U12 but not U13. Competitors stepping up age groups to make up a team cannot represent more than 50% of the members in that team. e.g., In an U12 Cameron Relay, only one or two U11 competitors can be in the team. "Stepping up" can only occur in one team, not multiple teams. Competitors stepping up age categories require their respective age group evaluations/awards but will not require those of the age category to which they are stepping up.

In individual events there can be no substitution. Members shall compete in heats as drawn. In events where two or more persons comprise a team, substitution of up to and including all team members is permitted (note, it is not permissible to substitute with a competitor that has already been eliminated in the event they are substituting for).

ENTRIES

DECLARATION

(a) It is a condition of entry that by using the online entry system, clubs declare that the competitors entered are financial, proficient and the entries are in all other ways, in accordance with Association and Club regulations.

(b) As a condition of entry, all competitors agree to have any photography taken during the 2027 Fuel to Go & Play WA Nipper Championships which is used for promotional material by SLSWA. This is in accordance with the SLSWA Surf Sports Media Policy. If a member wishes not to be photographed for any reason, please communicate this to SLSWA via media@slswa.com.au prior to the close of entries of the Championships.

ENTRIES

Entries must be registered via our online system https://entries.surftec.com.au/ by the respective closing dates. Any entries received after the closing date will not be considered.

ENTRY CLOSURE

(a) Entries will close for the relevant events as listed in the table on page 1 of this Bulletin.

(b) Once entries close, clubs will be responsible for creating teams from those entered. (Members must have their competitive rights with that club at close of individual entries). Teams must be entered in the online system by the Team Makeup closing date as listed in the table on page 1 of this Bulletin. Teams that are not named or complete (correct number of competitors) will not be considered and will be deleted prior to creating draws.

(c) Late entries will not be accepted after 11.59pm on the respective closing dates for each event.

ENTRY FEES (INCLUDES GST)

Surf Rescue

- R&R - **Flat fee of $30 per competitor**
- Nipper March Past **– $15 admin fee per competitor only** (no admin fee if doing R&R)

Beach & Ocean - $15 admin fee, $10 per individual event, $10 for one or more team events

Individual Events

- 1km Beach Run (U10 – U12)
- 2km Beach Run (U13)
- Beach Sprints – (Qualifiers only)
- Flags – (Qualifiers only)
- Surf Race
- Board Race – (Qualifiers only)
- Ironman and Ironwoman – (Qualifiers only)

Team Events

- Beach Relays
- Teams
- Board Relays
- Cameron Relays
- Board Rescue – (Qualifiers only)

(a) Entry fees are non-refundable if members do not take part in these Championships or if events are subsequently cancelled.

(b) All prices outlined in this Bulletin include GST.

TEAM ENTRIES AND CHANGES

The composition of teams will be taken as they are entered in SurfTec. No ***additional*** team entries will be accepted after the closing date of entries. To ensure the most accurate team information – please note the team makeup closing dates. For team changes after this, all team changes will need to be submitted via the Team Changes Notification Form (attached to this Bulletin) at the Administration van. Note, Clubs will be charged $25: Per Team Change Form submitted (up to 5 changes permitted per change form).

EVENT INFORMATION

EVENT COMMITTEE

The Event Committee, under whose directions shall be placed all matters relating to the actual conduct of the 2027 Fuel to Go & Play WA Nipper Championships, will fulfil safety related operational, coordination and advisory roles at the event. The team consists of the Event Manager from SLSWA plus volunteers appointed to the following positions:

- Championship Referee
- Emergency Services Officer

The team will consult with Sectional Referees as appropriate and will seek advice from other relevant parties on safety issues as required.

CARNIVAL SAFETY

The provision of a safe environment at all SLSWA competitions is paramount. SLSWA endeavours to ensure that the appropriate safety standards as set by SLSA are met at all Nipper surf sports carnivals/championships, including the provision of qualified personnel, rescue craft and communications. Should an emergency situation arise during competition, correct control and discipline shall be maintained under the direction of the Event Manager, Championship Referee and the Emergency Services Officer.

Water Safety and First Aid

Clubs wishing to enter the 2026 Fuel to Go & Play WA Nipper Championships, may be asked to provide water safety and first aid personnel on a 'pro-rata' scale based upon the number of competitors entered per club at this season's Nipper events. This roster for the 2026 Fuel to Go & Play WA Nipper Championships will be found on the bottom of the event program on www.mybeach.com.au once released**. If a water safety and/or First Aid volunteer does not attend as required, the Club risks their competitors being ineligible to participate further in the competition until the matter is resolved.**

Officials 1:15 ratio

Officials play an important part within our organisation and are integral to the ongoing delivery of our sport. Officials ensure competitions are run in a safe and secure environment, while maintaining rules and regulations. For this reason, clubs are requested to provide at least 1 official for every 15 competitors entered. **If the Official quota is not met the Club risks their competitors being ineligible to participate in the competition until the matter is resolved.**

HIGH VISIBILITY LYCRA VESTS

All Nipper competitors in water-based surf lifesaving events will be required to wear their high visibility Woodside Nippers lycra vest per Circular 20 – 2026/27 High Visibility Competition Vest Requirements. Except where otherwise specified, vests must be worn by all competitors and handlers entering the water beyond knee depth. All participants wanting to enter the water, including but not limited to, competitors, Team Managers, coaches, officials and staff are recommended to bring old Lycra singlets from previous competitions for this purpose as additional Lycra singlets will not be distributed. It is also acceptable for handlers to wear hi-viz worker Velcro vests. It is also an expectation that competitors warming up or cooling down for events in the water prior to or during competition also wear the high visibility vests, this includes beach competitors.

EVENT TIME LIMITS

All water events may be subject to a time limit. Such a time limit shall be advised to competitors prior to the commencement of the event.

- In the board relay and cameron relay events, where the winning team is across the finish line, any other teams with members yet to enter the water may be withdrawn from the event.
- In board rescue rounds, once the first six place getters have been confirmed, any teams still on the water may be directed to paddle to the side of the course and return to the beach.

- In iron races, once the winner is across the finish line, any other competitor yet to enter the water for the final leg may be withdrawn from the event.
- In surf races, a time limit may be announced on the day and any competitor exceeding that limit may be picked up by the duty boat and withdrawn from the event.

Where practicable, disqualifications due to the time limit being exceeded shall be advised to the competitor by the Referee, Sectional Referee or the Course Judge-in-Boat.

DISCIPLINE/PROTESTS

Misconduct before, during and after the Championships, including tampering with signs, fences or PA system equipment will not be tolerated. Offending members risk disciplinary action.

All protests shall be lodged with the appropriate Sectional Referee on the appropriate form in accordance with the procedures set down in the SLSA Surf Sports Manual 37th Edition, section 14 – PROTESTS, APPEALS AND DISCIPLINE and shall identify the specific sections/clauses in the Competition Manual upon which the protest is based. There will be a $150 cash charge to lodge an Appeal.

MARSHALLING

SLSWA will be using SurfTec (RFID) bands and associated software to manage the championships. All athletes will be required to have a **red wrist band** (RFID tag). Bands will be allocated at carnivals throughout the season. Clubs have also been provided the opportunity to allocate bands to their own members.

Bands will be available at the championship in the Event Administration Van. Note, there is a $5 fee for a band if you lost or misplaced an already issued band. Location of the administration van will be advised in the program which includes all site maps. Please note, the following events will not be using the RFID bands for marshalling: March Past and R&R.

BEACH LAYOUT AND ACCESS

The Championships beach layout will be available in the event program. No unauthorised vehicles will be permitted on any of the Beach locations under the various local government regulations. The only people permitted in the competition arena are:

- Active competition Officials
- Active competitors (those in the marshalling area or in events)
- Competitor stand-ins/proxies (these people must be wearing the competitors' club cap in the marshalling area and competition arena for identification)
- Club team manager (one per club)
- SLSWA approved photographers

The Event Manager, Referee or Sectional Referee has the right to evict any person(s) from the arena if the above access requirements are breached. Any person(s) that breaches the above access requirement may be subject to disciplinary action.

PARKING, GEAR TRAILERS, CRAFT STORAGE AND SECURITY

Parking will be as per the local government regulations. The various local governments will be enforcing the parking restrictions throughout the weekend so please abide by all regulations.

There will be limited security on Friday and Saturday evenings. No responsibility will be taken for theft/damage of gear that is left unattended. Leave gear at your own risk.

CLUB TENTS AND SPECTATOR VIEWING

Club tents are to be erected in the designated tent areas as outlined on the event map. Please ensure tents are securely fixed to the sand by use of pickets or similar. All spectators and competitors are requested to utilise all rubbish bins made available to ensure the beach remains tidy at all times and is left in pristine condition. Take out what you bring in.

COMMUNICATIONS AND BRIEFINGS

A Team Managers and Competition Officials On-Site Briefing will be scheduled for each of the championships and will be listed in the relevant program.

TEAM APP

Surf Life Saving WA will be using the 'Team App' smart phone application to send out updates and notifications to competitors. Download 'Team App' from your App Store or Google Play. Once you have downloaded the app and created a user login, search for '**SLSWA Sport**' in the search bar at the top of the screen and click on the event to join. From here you will be able to access news feeds, event information, key event documents as well as all the latest and up to date information on Surf Sports. It may also be helpful to visit the website for further clarification at Team App

PRESENTATIONS AND NIPPER AGE CHAMPIONS

Medals
Championship medallions in gold, silver and bronze will be awarded to the first three (3) individual/team place getters in each event. Medals will be presented immediately following the event at the dais within the respective arena.

Competitors will not be permitted to receive their medal unless appropriately dressed. Competitors must present themselves with Club Competition Cap and costumes only, however, Club and sponsor t-shirts and rash vests are permitted for sun protection.

If any athlete is required to report for another event before or during presentations, it is the club's responsibility to send a proxy to marshalling. That event will be delayed until the presentation is completed, and the area announcers will then coordinate the presentation. Please ensure that all three place getters are at the presentation area at this time in order to receive their medal. Your stand-in/proxy must remain until you return to the competition arena.

In the event of a medal winner not reporting to the dais, the presentation will still proceed. The missing medallist will be able to collect their medal from the appropriate presentation area any time during the day, however, no additional presentations will be made. **Please note there will not be a presentation for a single medallist.**

Any medals not handed out on the day will be posted to the recipient's club before the end of April 2026. Championship results will be available on the SLSWA Competition Results web page.

2027 Fuel to Go & Play WA Nipper Championships Champion Club Banner
Presented to the Club with the highest total (aggregate) point score overall at the 2026 Fuel to Go & Play WA Nipper Championships. Events as listed on page 2 of this Bulletin. This may be presented at the conclusion of the ocean event on Sunday 8 March or at a later date as advised.

2027 Fuel to Go & Play WA Nipper Championships Handicap Winner Banner
Presented to the Club with the highest total handicap point score overall at the 2026 Fuel to Go & Play WA Nipper Championships. Events as listed on page 2 of this Bulletin. This may be presented at the conclusion of the surf event on Sunday 8 March or at a later date as advised.

Nipper Age Champions
The Surf Sports Age Champions will be determined for each gender age group based on performances at the 2027 Fuel to Go & Play WA Nipper Championships which includes, Beach and Ocean events held over 28 February -1 March 2027. The winners of each gender age group will be determined by tallying the number of individual gold medals won. In the case of a tie the determination will then be made based on the number of individual silver medals won and then individual bronze medals won. If still undetermined team medals will be taken into consideration with gold considered firstly, then silver, then bronze. There will be an overall Surf Sport Champion as well, determined using the method outlined above. The Surf Sports Age Champions will be presented at the Surf Life Saving WA Nipper and Youth Awards.

SURF LIFE SAVING WESTERN AUSTRALIA
SURF SPORTS COMPETITION

TEAM CHANGES NOTIFICATION FORM

Club Name:				
Event No	**Name of Event** (Include Age/Gender e.g., U17F; Open M)	**Team Name**	**Competitor Out**	**Competitor In**

FEE $25 per form completed. Each form can have up to and including five event team changes.
Please note, team changes made due to injuries will be considered on a case by case basis and the fee may be waived.

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