Circular

Title:	**Regional Championship and Qualifying for the 2025/26 Nipper Championships**
Date:	22 May 2025
Document ID:	**06, 2025/26**
Department:	Sport & Development Department
From:	Ph: 08 9207 6666 (SLSWA Office Hours Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5pm) Email: nippers@slswa.com.au
Audience:	Surf Sports Directors/Coordinators, Nipper Directors/Coordinators
Action:	Clubs are asked to ensure Nipper Age Managers and parents of Nippers are aware of the qualification processes for the 2025/26 Nipper Championships.
Attachment:	1. Program of Events and Suggested Water Arena Layout 2. Regional Championship Recording & Report Sheet. This sheet must be scanned and sent to nippers@slswa.com.au on or before 2 February 2025.

Summary

1. Each region is encouraged to run a Regional Championship for their U8 – U13s Nippers. This could be one event for all age groups or two events one for U8 – U10 and one for U11 – U13 – see attachment 1.
2. Each region can determine the date/s of their Regional Championships but are asked to meet and advise SLSWA (via email nippers@slswa.com.au) by 31 July 2025 of the date/s and venue/s for inclusion in the seasons Surf Sports Calendar.
3. The Regional Championship together with the Nipper Qualifier on 7 & 8 February 2026 form the two-pronged qualifying process for the 2025/26 Nipper Championships as outlined in detail below.
4. The 2025/26 Nipper Championships will comprise of several events including a beach event day and a weekend of ocean events.

For the 2025/26 Season, country nippers will potentially be able to qualify for the Nipper Championships via two ways;

1. Via their Regional Championships or Sunset Challenge

Four regions have been established and will conduct Regional Championships as outlined in the table below.

Regions	Clubs	Club Code
Mid-West	Champion Bay	CH
	Geraldton	GN
	Dongara Denison	DD
Peel	Secret Harbour	SH
	Mandurah	MH
	Port Bouvard	PB
South-West	Binningup	BP
	City of Bunbury	BY
	Dalyellup Beach	DB
	Busselton	BN
	Margaret River	MR
	Smiths Beach	SM
Great Southern	Denmark	DK
	Albany	AL
	Esperance-Goldfields	EG

Surf Life Saving Western Australia
PO Box 700
Balcatta WA 6914
7 Delawney Street
Balcatta WA 6021

t. +61 8 9207 6666
e. mail@slswa.com.au
w. mybeach.com.au

ABN 38 926 034 500

At these Regional Championships results will need to be recorded on the attached **Regional Championships Recording & Report Sheet**. Please use the Club Code in the table above on these recording sheets. These sheets will need to be scanned and sent to nippers@slswa.com.au on or before 2 February 2026.

Beach Flags and Beach Sprints

One individual per age/gender in each region will qualify for the 2025/26 Nipper Championships via the Mid-West, Peel, South-West and Great Southern Regional Championships (4 in total). This will be the Gold Medallist. If the Gold Medallist does not enter the 2025/26 Nipper Championships, the spot will go to the Silver Medallist, if entered, or if they are not entered the Bronze Medallist. If none of the medallist are entered in the 2025/26 Nipper Championships, the qualifying spot it will be forfeited, and a random draw of General Reserves will be conducted and that spot offered to the winner of that draw.

Board Rescue

One club team per age/gender in each region will qualify via the Mid-West, Peel, South-West and Great Southern Regional Championships (4 teams in total). This will be the first placed club team. If the first placed club team do not enter the 2025/26 Nipper Championships, the spot will go to the second placed, if entered, or if they are not entered the third placed. If none of the top three club teams are entered in the 2025/26 Nipper Championships, the qualifying spot will be forfeited, and a random draw of General Reserves will be conducted and that spot offered to the winner of that draw. Please note:

1. Combined teams are not considered a club team
2. 100% of the club team can change at the Nipper Championships from what placed at the Regional Championships with the condition that those making up the club team did not compete in the Board Rescue at the Regional Championships.

Board Race, Ironman and Ironwoman

Two individuals per age/gender in each region will qualify via the Mid-West, Peel, South-West and Great Southern Regional Championships (8 in total). This will be the Gold Medallist and Silver Medallist. Should one of these two not enter the 2025/26 Nipper Championships the Bronze Medallist, if entered, will take that spot. If spot/s are not taken by medallist, it/they will be forfeited, and a random draw of General Reserves will be conducted and that spot/those spots will be offered to the winner/s of that draw.

Sunset Challenge (Broome & Dampier SLSC Only)

Due to their distance from the mid-west Broome and Dampier Nippers may attempt to qualify via the Sunset Challenge held up in Broome in July 2025. The process is outlined in the table below.

Event	Qualifier
Beach Sprints	First Broome or Dampier Nipper across the line
Beach Flags	Last Broome or Dampier Nipper eliminated
Board Race	First two Broome and/or Dampier Nippers across the line
Ironman/Ironwoman	First two Broome and/or Dampier Nippers across the line

Please note the Sunset Challenge is not considered a Regional Championship.

2. Via the Qualifier

The Nipper Qualifier on the 7 & 8 February 2026 in Perth will be **open to Nippers from all clubs** both metropolitan and country. The following will apply:

Beach Flags and Beach Sprints

Twelve individuals per age/gender will qualify via the Qualifier on 7 & 8 February 2026. A minimum of four reserves will be recorded at the Qualifier.

Board Rescue

Twelve club teams per age/gender will qualify via the Qualifier on 7 & 8 February 2026. A minimum of four club teams will be recorded as reserves at this event. Please note: 100% of the club team can change at the Nipper Championships from what qualified at the Qualifier with the condition that those making up the club team did not compete in the Board Rescue at the Qualifier.

Board Race, Ironman and Ironwoman

Twenty-four individuals per age/gender will qualify via the Qualifier on 7 & 8 February 2025. A minimum of eight reserves will be recorded at this event.

General Reserves

Reserves from the Nipper Qualifier together with medallists from Regional Championships who did not qualify will become what is termed General Reserves. These General Reserves will be offered a position, via a random draw, for one of the following three reasons:

> 1. A country nipper or club team, who has already qualified in that event via their Regional Championships, finishes in the top 12, or where outlined the top 24, at the Nipper Qualifier
>
> 2. A medallist/place getting team from a region do not take their regional spot
>
> 3. A qualifier does not attend the Nipper Championships

In the case of 1 & 2 above the draws may occur prior to the Nipper Championships and if so clubs will be sent an updated Qualifier List.

In the case of 3 above the draw will occur at Marshalling so it is important that all General Reserves present themselves to the marshals when the event is called.

Should any further clarification be required on the 2025/26 Nipper Championships qualifying process please contact Charlie Rigby, Surf Sports Officer – Little Nipper & Nipper Events.

James O'Toole
Chief Executive Officer

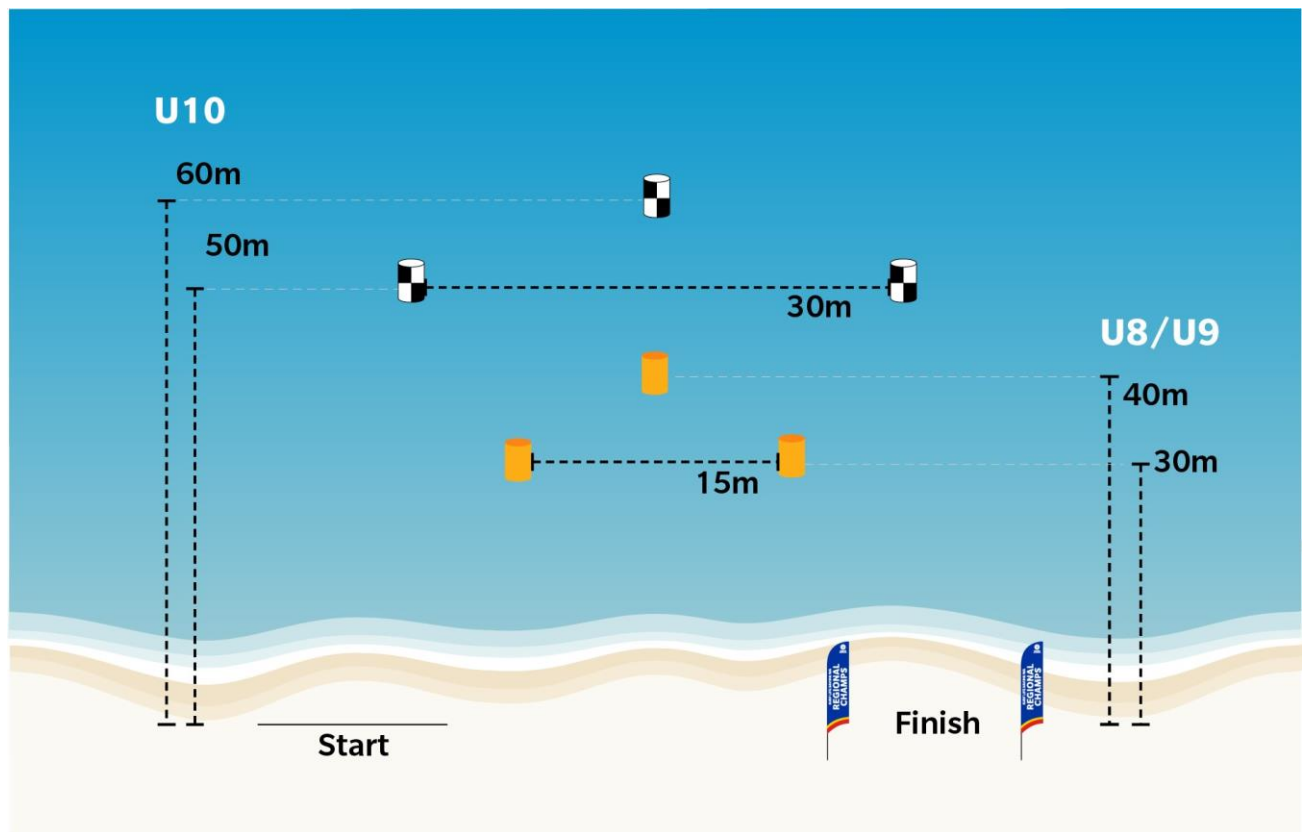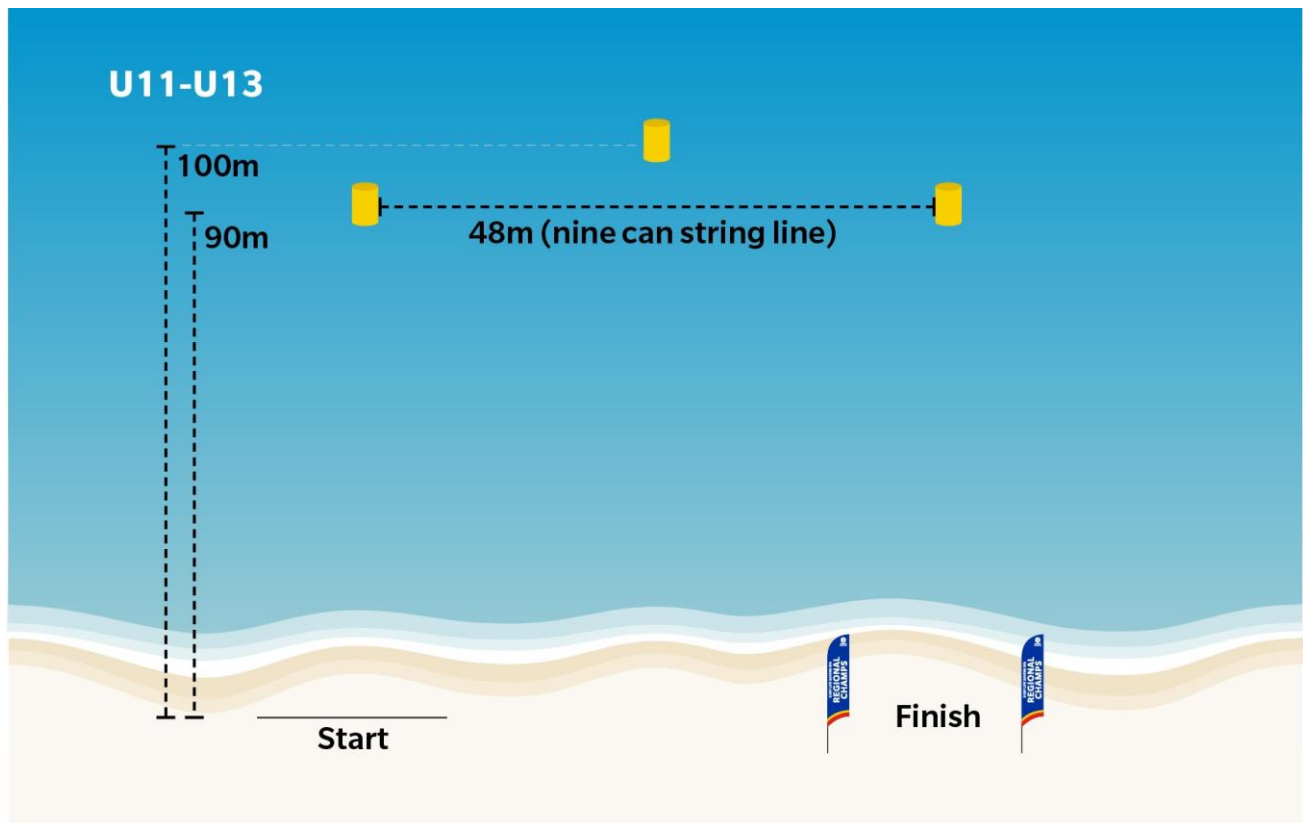Surf Life Saving Western Australia   t. +61 8 9207 6666
PO Box 700   e. mail@slswa.com.au
Balcatta WA 6914   w. mybeach.com.au
7 Delawney Street
Balcatta WA 6021   ABN 38 926 034 500

Nipper Regional Championships

Regions	U8, U9 & U10	U11, U12 & U13
Mid-West Champion Bay Dongara-Denison Geraldton **Peel** Mandurah Port Bouvard Secret Harbour **South West** Binningup Busselton City of Bunbury Dalyellup Beach Margaret River Smith Beach **Great Southern** Albany Denmark Esperance Goldfields	U10 Ironwoman** U10 Ironman** U8 Female Surf Race U8 Male Surf Race U9 Female Surf Race U9 Male Surf Race U10 Female Surf Race U10 Male Surf Race U8 Female Board Race U8 Male Board Race U9 Female Board Race U9 Male Board Race U10 Female Board Race* U10 Male Board Race* U8 Female Beach Flags U8 Male Beach Flags U9 Female Beach Flags U9 Male Beach Flags U10 Female Beach Flags* U10 Male Beach Flags* U8 Female Beach Sprint U8 Male Beach Sprint U9 Female Beach Sprint U9 Male Beach Sprint U10 Female Beach Sprint* U10 Male Beach Sprint*	U11 Female Board Rescue* U11 Male Board Rescue* U12 Female Board Rescue* U12 Male Board Rescue* U13 Female Board Rescue* U13 Male Board Rescue* U11 Female Surf Race U11 Male Surf Race U12 Female Surf Race U12 Male Surf Race U13 Female Surf Race U13 Male Surf Race U11 Female Board Race** U11 Male Board Race** U12 Female Board Race** U12 Male Board Race** U13 Female Board Race** U13 Male Board Race** U11 Ironwoman** U11 Ironman** U12 Ironwoman** U12 Ironman** U13 Ironwoman** U13 Ironman** U11 Female Beach Flags* U11 Male Beach Flags* U12 Female Beach Flags* U12 Male Beach Flags* U13 Female Beach Flags* U13 Male Beach Flags* U11 Female Beach Sprint* U11 Male Beach Sprint* U12 Female Beach Sprint* U12 Male Beach Sprint* U13 Female Beach Sprint* U13 Male Beach Sprint*
Medals	Total medals = 340 gold, silver & bronze	
Payment for event	$1,200	$1,800
	One event = $3,000	
Notes	* indicates an event where the winner qualifies for Nipper or Beach Championships ** indicates an event where first and second qualify for Nipper Championships • Events to be run prior to 2 February 2026 if they are to be used to qualify for Nipper Championships. • A club could run as one event or one/two clubs could run as two separate events on the same or different dates • One male and female competitor from U10-U13 will be offered a $400 travel subsidy to the Nipper Championships	

Suggested Water Arena Layout

U8 – U10

U11 – U13

Regional Championships Recording & Report Sheet

Region _____   Date _____

Record first and surname of each medallist and record club they are from

Event	Age	GOLD	Club	SILVER	Club	BRONZE	Club
BEACH FLAGS	U10 F						
	U10 M						
	U11 F						
	U11 M						
	U12 F						
	U12 M						
	U13 F						
	U13 M						
BEACH SPRINT	U10 F						
	U10 M						
	U11 F						
	U11 M						
	U12 F						
	U12 M						
	U13 F						
	U13 M						
BOARD RACE	U10 F						
	U10 M						
	U11 F						
	U11 M						
	U12 F						
	U12 M						
	U13 F						
	U13 M						
IRONPERSON	U10 F						
	U10 M						
	U11 F						
	U11 M						
	U12 F						
	U12 M						
	U13 F						
	U13 M						
SURF RACE	U10 F						
	U10 M						
	U11 F						
	U11 M						
	U12 F						
	U12 M						
	U13 F						
	U13 M						

Record first and surname of each medallist and record club they are from

Event	Age	First placed club team	Club	Second placed club team	Club	Third placed club team	Club
BOARD RESCUE	U11 F						
	U11 M						
	U12 F						
	U12 M						
	U13 F						
	U13 M						

Event Report

Please list the clubs present, a contact for each club and provide us with the number of competitors per club

	Clubs present	Club Contact	Number of competitors
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
Total competitors in event			

Event Wrap - venue, date, conditions and outstanding performances

We welcome any photos that you would like to send through to us - nippers@slswa.com.au

Referees/Event Coordinator Signature _____

Form to be scanned and sent to nippers@slswa.com.au on or before 2 February 2026