

Circular

Title:	Regional Championship and Qualifying for the 2026/27 Nipper Championships
Date:	21 May 2026
Document ID:	09, 2026/2027
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 2026/27 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 8 February 2027.

Summary

1. Each region is encouraged to run a Regional Championship for their U8 – U13s Nippers prior to 8 February 2027. 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 2026 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 6 & 7 February 2027 form the two-pronged qualifying process for the 2026/27 Nipper Championships as outlined in detail below.
4. The 2026/27 Nipper Championships will be conducted over the March long weekend, 27 February, 28 February & 1 March 2027.

For the 2026/27 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

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 8 February 2027.

Beach Flags and Beach Sprints

One individual per age/gender in each region will qualify for the 2026/27 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 2026/27 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 2026/27 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 2026/27 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 2026/27 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 2026/27 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 2026. 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 6 & 7 February 2027 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 6 & 7 February 2027. A minimum of three reserves will be recorded at the Qualifier.

Board Rescue

Twelve club teams per age/gender will qualify via the Qualifier on 6 & 7 February 2027. A minimum of three 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 6 & 7 February 2027. A minimum of six 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. No medallist/place getting team from a region 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 an updated Qualifier List may be published.

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 2026/27 Nipper Championships qualifying process please contact David Somers, Sport & Development Manager.



James O'Toole
Chief Executive Officer