

Circular

Title:	2027 Nipper & Youth Awards
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Department:	Sport & Development
From:	David Somers, Sport & Development Manager Ph: 08 9207 6666 (SLSWA Office Hours Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5pm) Email: dsomers@slswa.com.au
Audience:	Youth/Junior Directors, Youth/Junior Coordinators, Club Administrators
Summary:	This circular contains information on the 2027 Nipper & Youth Awards.
Action:	Some awards require club nominations – refer to Table 1 and Table 2 “Club Action Required” Column. Nominations close for those awards at 8am Tuesday 16 March 2027 .

Introduction

This Circular relates to the 2027 Nipper & Youth Awards, scheduled for May 2027. The Nipper & Youth Awards recognises the outstanding achievements of nipper and youth members across the state. The awards that will be presented at the 2027 Awards Ceremony are summarized in the tables below, with further details on each following.

TABLE 1: NIPPER AWARDS (U10 – U13)

<i>Category</i>	<i>Nomination process / selection process</i>	<i>Club action required</i>
1. Nipper Surf Sports Age Champions	SLSWA will determine based of criteria outlined below	No
2. Nipper Club Achievers	One nomination only per club – refer Appendix A	Yes
3. Nipper of the Year	Selected by Development Committee from Nipper Achievers	No

TABLE 2: YOUTH AWARDS (U14 – U17)

<i>Category</i>	<i>Nomination /selection process</i>	<i>Club action required</i>
4. Surf Sports Age Champions (U14 & U15)	SLSWA will determine based of criteria outlined below	No
5. U14/U15 Lifesaver of the Year	One nomination only per club – refer Appendix B	Yes
6. Youth Official of the Year	One nomination only per club– refer Appendix C	Yes
7. Youth Club Achievers	One nomination only per club – refer Appendix D	Yes
8. Youth of the Year	Selected by Development Committee from Youth Achievers	No
9. Gold Level Youth Recognition Program	SLSWA will invite those who have achieved Gold Level	No

1. Nipper Surf Sports Age Champion (U10-U13)

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 held on 27 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. Parents of winners of these awards will be notified after the Championships and the winners will be invited to the Awards Ceremony.

2. Nipper Club Achiever Award:

This award recognises the outstanding club contributions of one Nipper member (preferably an Under 13 age group member but must be in U10's or above) and their achievement of the outcomes in the areas of individual safety, surf awareness, lifesaving and surf sports skills as prescribed in the Woodside Nipper Program. A Club Officer needs to complete and submit the nomination form (Appendix A) by 8am Tuesday 16 March 2027. Criteria for this award is outlined on Appendix A. Please note that the nomination will be used by the Development Committee to determine the **Nipper of the Year**.

3. Nipper of the Year

Each nominated Nipper Club Achiever will be considered for the Nipper of the Year, which will be determined by the Development & Youth Committees and announced at the Awards Ceremony. It is imperative therefore, that clubs ensure they clearly address the criteria for Nipper Club Achiever to give their member the best possible chance of becoming the Nipper of the Year.

4. Surf Sports Age Champions (U14 & U15)

The Surf Sports Age Champions will be determined for each gender age group in U14 & U15 based on performances at the 2027 Fuel to Go & Play WA Surf Life Saving Championships held on 6, 7, 13 & 14 March 2027 (Beach & Ocean events). The winners of each gender 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. Parents of winners of these awards will be notified after the Championships and the winners will be invited to the Awards Ceremony.

5. U14/U15 Lifesaver of the Year

This award recognises outstanding patrolling service during the 2026/27 season by a youth member. Only youth members in the U14 or U15 age group are eligible for this award. A Club Officer needs to complete and submit the nomination form (Appendix B) by 8am Tuesday 16 March 2027. The Development Committee will determine the winner of this award.

6. Youth Official of the Year

This award recognises and rewards a youth member who has made an outstanding contribution to officiating during the 2026/27 season. The member must be a registered SLSWA Youth Official. The Development Committee will determine the winner, and clubs are invited to nominate one registered youth official (U14 – U17) via the nomination form (Appendix C) by 8am Tuesday 16 March 2027. SLSWA can also nominate youth members for this award.

7. Youth Club Achiever Award:

This award recognises the outstanding club contributions of one youth member (Under 14 - Under 17) in the areas of lifesaving, training, leadership and surf sports. A Club Officer needs to complete and submit the nomination form (Appendix D) by 8am Tuesday 16 March 2027. Criteria for this award is outlined in Appendix D. Please note that the nomination will be used by the Development Committee to determine the **Youth of the Year**.

8. Youth of the Year

Each nominated Youth Club Achiever will be considered for the Youth of the Year, which will be determined by the Development Committee and announced at the Awards Ceremony. It is imperative therefore, that clubs ensure they clearly address the criteria for Youth Club Achiever to give their member the best possible chance of becoming the Youth of the Year.

9. Gold Level Youth Leaders Program

SLSWA will invite all youth who achieve Gold Level in the Youth Recognition Program (YRP) during the 2026/2027 season to the Awards Ceremony. To receive recognition at the 2027 Award Ceremony, completed Gold Level Recording Sheets must be submitted to SLSWA prior to 8am Monday 22 March 2027.

Conclusion

This is a great opportunity for clubs to recognise their outstanding Nipper and Youth members and we strongly encourage all clubs to nominate members even if they do not meet all criteria, particularly in the case of the Nipper and Youth Club Achievers. The criteria for these awards will be primarily be used to determine the Nipper and Youth of the Year. Further details of the Awards Ceremony will be provided to invited guests, finalists and winners closer to the event date.

As well as the awards outlined in this Circular there are several other awards recognising the outstanding contribution of adults to our nipper and youth programs. Details on these awards will be provided in the Awards of Excellence Circular.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. O'Toole'.

James O'Toole
Chief Executive Officer

2027 NIPPER CLUB ACHIEVER AWARD Nomination Form – To be completed by Club Officer

Nominations close at 8:00am Tuesday 16 March 2027

Nominated Member: _____ Age: _____

Home Address: _____

Suburb: _____ Postcode: _____

Parent's Email Address: _____

Club: _____ Age Group (Circle): U10 U11 U12 U13

Please address each criteria item below with information related to this season

1. Achievement of **individual safety** outcomes as prescribed in the Woodside Nipper Program

2. Achievement of **surf awareness** outcomes as prescribed in the Woodside Nipper Program

3. Achievement of the **lifesaving** outcomes as prescribed in the Woodside Nipper Program

4. Achievement of the **surf sports skills** outcomes as prescribed in the Woodside Nipper Program

5. Attitude displayed by member eg positive, tries their best, team orientated, respectful, role model

6. Level of participation of member – attendance on Sundays, at training, at carnivals

7. Contribution to club

CLUB ENDORSEMENT

I endorse that the above nominated person has met the award criteria as stated above.

Officer's Name: _____

Officer's Position: _____

Officer's Signature: _____

**Please return club endorsed nomination to Maddison Walker, Senior Development Officer,
by 8:00am Tuesday 16 March 2027.**

Email: nippers@slswa.com.au or by Post: PO Box 700 Balcatta WA 6914

2027 U14/U15 LIFESAVER OF THE YEAR AWARD
Nomination Form – To be completed by Club Officer
Please address each criteria item below with information related to this season

Nominated Member: _____ Age: _____

This member has obtained their Surf Rescue Certificate; True / False / Unsure (please circle)

This member has obtained their Bronze Medallion; True / False / Unsure (please circle)

Home Address: _____

Suburb: _____ Postcode: _____

Parent's Email Address: _____

Club: _____ Age Group (Circle): U14 U15

1. Attitude displayed by member whilst on patrol eg positive, team orientated, respectful

2. Level of participation of member – hours this season to date, roles undertaken

CLUB ENDORSEMENT

I endorse that the above nominated person has met the award criteria as stated above.

Officer's Name: _____

Officer's Position: _____

Officer's Signature: _____

**Please return club endorsed nomination to Maddison Walker, Senior Development Officer,
By 8:00am Tuesday 16 March 2027.**

Email: youth@slswa.com.au or by Post: PO Box 700 Balcatta WA 6914

2027 YOUTH OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR AWARD
Nomination Form – To be completed by Club Officer
Please address each criteria item below with information related to this season

Nominated Member: _____ Age: _____

This member is a SLSWA registered Youth Official; True / False / Unsure (please circle)

Home Address: _____

Suburb: _____ Postcode: _____

Parent's Email Address: _____

Club: _____ Age Group (Circle): U14 U15 U17

1. Attitude displayed by member whilst acting as an Official eg positive, team orientated, respectful

2. Level of participation of member – carnivals attended in 2026/27, roles undertaken

CLUB ENDORSEMENT

I endorse that the above nominated person has met the award criteria as stated above.

Officer's Name: _____

Officer's Position: _____

Officer's Signature: _____

**Please return club endorsed nomination to Maddison Walker, Senior Development Officer,
by 8:00am Tuesday 16 March 2027.**

Email: youth@slswa.com.au or by Post: PO Box 700 Balcatta WA 6914

2027 YOUTH CLUB ACHIEVER AWARD Nomination Form – To be completed by Club Officer

Nominations close at 8:00am Tuesday 16 March 2027

Nominated Member: _____ Age: _____

Home Address: _____

Suburb: _____ Postcode: _____

Parent's Email Address: _____

Club: _____ Age Group (Circle): U14 U15 U17

Please address each criteria item below with information related to this season

1. Achievement in **lifesaving** area – hours on patrol to date this season, awards gained this season

2. Achievement in **training** area – assistance provided to training area, training award gained

3. Achievement in **leadership** area – leadership activities undertaken, registered for YLP

4. Achievement in **surf sports** area – club, interclub, coaching, officiating

5. Attitude displayed by member eg positive, tries their best, team orientated, respectful, role model

6. Level of participation of member – attendance on Sundays, at training, at carnivals

7. Contribution to club

CLUB ENDORSEMENT

I endorse that the above nominated person has met the award criteria as stated above.

Officer's Name: _____

Officer's Position: _____

Officer's Signature: _____

**Please return club endorsed nomination to Maddison Walker, Senior Development Officer,
by 8:00am Friday 16 March 2027.**

Email: youth@slswa.com.au or by Post: PO Box 700 Balcatta WA 6914