



Nipper Competition: Junior Carnivals

The Nipper Carnivals begin with the Endurance Championships scheduled for 24th October 2021. Endurance Championships are a one off carnival and combined with seniors for U12 and U13 only. This season there are five other carnivals scheduled to be held in Mt. Martha, Ocean Grove, Cosy Corner, Mordialloc & Point Leo between November 21st and finishing with Victorian Junior Life Saving Championships in Lorne 25-27th February 2022. There are also two Beach Carnivals scheduled in Elwood and Altona in October and November. Carnivals are usually for U8-U13 age groups, however this season some are only for U9-U13 age groups. There are no carnival events for the U6 & U7 age groups. The Victorian Junior Live Saving Championships are for U9-U13 age groups only.

LSV does have contingencies for all events for extreme weather and other risks factors, and the practicalities of the ocean-based events means these are usually announced at late notice

Note the 2021/22 Carnival schedule is available to view on the LSV website.

Surf Badge (S Badge)

From the age of 8 (i.e. the under 9 age group) Nippers can begin to compete in water events at Nipper Carnivals. To ensure that all Nippers that wish to compete have the ability, strength and fitness to complete the course they must be able to complete the junior competition evaluation for their age group.

The junior competition evaluation is consistent with the swim distances as set out in the Surf Sports Manual for that age group and is a minimum standard in the form of an open water swim.

Competition Skills Evaluation (S-badge) requirements are as follows:

- Under 7 Nil (do not compete at Nippers Carnivals)
- Under 8 Nil (no water competition at Nipper Carnivals, except for wade which takes place in waist deep water)
- Under 9 Minimum 150m open water swim (competition course) within 12 minutes
- Under 10 Minimum 150m open water swim (competition course) within 11 minutes
- Under 11 Minimum 288m open water swim (competition course) within 12 minutes
- Under 12 Minimum 288m open water swim (competition course) within 10 minutes
- Under 13 Minimum 288m open water swim (competition course) within 9 minutes
- Under 14 Minimum 288m open water swim (competition course) within 9 minutes



These are minimum standard water proficiency requirements. No child can compete at any Nipper Carnival without completing this evaluation.

An S-Badge is valid for 12 months. Depending on water temperature, assessments will be conducted during November Training Camp, Competition training program and throughout the SHP.

The priority is to accredit new Nippers and under 9 Nippers in readiness for the competition season.

Age Managers will be able to provide more information on when assessments are scheduled and discuss your child's readiness for the swim.

Qualification Carnivals

In previous seasons, the Qualification Carnivals have been held where any Nipper intending to compete at the State Championships must attend this carnival and qualify to compete in selected events at states.

For example, qualification may be to finish in the top 10, 15, 20 or a nominated bracket depending on the number of competitors and the required start list at States. These qualification numbers will be issued to the clubs prior to the carnival. Age Managers will have all this information prior to qualifications to fully inform the age group of the requirements.

Once LSV confirms the qualification process for this season's state titles we will inform the Nipper section (this process and qualifying carnivals can vary from year to year).

State Junior Championships

This year the State Championships will be hosted by and held at Lorne SLSC from Friday 25th to Sunday 27th February. The event schedule is yet to be released but will be advised in due course. Once LSV confirms the schedule, it will be communicated to the Nipper section.

Accommodation will need to be arranged by Nipper families. There are a range of campgrounds, motels, hotels and homes available via the usual websites. **BOOK EARLY.**

Practically, Age Managers and parents collaborate and communicate during the season on these arrangements to try and ensure that age groups and TSLSC families are together as much as possible. The sooner arrangements are made the better, so if you think your child would like to participate at the States Championships let your Age Manager know.

Carnival Entries



Information will be provided to all Nipper members early in the season and prior to carnivals advising how to pay for and the costs associated with each carnival. Carnival entry costs are separate to membership fees and are payable in advance of the carnival through the member portal system.

The easiest way to pay any membership or carnival entry fees is via Team App. Team App has a link on the bottom left of the home screen “SLSA PAYMENT GATEWAY” access. Click the link and you will be directed to enter information allowing you to easily pay as necessary.

A list of the carnivals dates and costs will be issued to all members as soon as possible so members will have the opportunity to select the carnivals they want to compete in and pay in advance. This is the easiest way to ensure your children are entered the carnival. Some carnivals require the Nippers to select their events; this will be communicated to all members in advance of the carnivals.

Generally, Nippers enter all events in all carnivals as it’s a great way to keep active and ensure you are not sitting around on the beach all day for one or two events. Most carnivals also have team events which are a great way to get involved and compete for your club and with your mates.

Carnival Day

Before each carnival, we will be putting together a list of what needs to be done and will be calling for parents to volunteer to assist with these activities. If you hold a bronze medallion qualification or carnival official qualification, we are relying on you to be available to assist. Wherever possible, we will place these water safety and carnival officials into the age group where your children are competing.

Surf Lifesaving Carnivals can be a long day. Generally, carnivals require all clubs to be at the beach and ready for team and official briefings from 8:15am on the day of the carnival. From there, we will have a team meeting to give everyone a run down on the order of events and where each age group will be competing. Competition and marshalling for the first event are usually around 8:45am to 9:00am. LSV are likely to change running orders, starts times and events due to many factors, so we ask that all Nippers stay with their age group and always listen to their Age Managers and helpers.

It is always important to follow the age group flag during the carnival; this will make sure you don’t miss any events or presentations!

Age Managers throughout the carnival will receive updates on programs from the relevant area referees and duly inform the age group. Having Age Manager parent helpers is critical as boys and girls may be competing in different events at the same time in different places. For



example, boys could be doing flags on the beach and girls could be doing board in the ocean. Age Managers need assistance organizing teams and making sure the Nippers are marshalled in time, with hats and tops required. If we don't marshal correctly and on time we won't be allowed to compete!

Most carnivals program run with boys and girl's events following each other but strange things can happen with LSV carnivals – so expect and be prepared for anything and you won't be surprised!

We ask that all items required for the day are packed into a bag including all food and drink, as once the tent is left at the commencement of the day, it is unlikely that Nippers will return unless there is a large break in the carnival.

All age groups will have a bucket that is used to carry water bottles and hats/short sleeved tops. This bucket will be carried by a parent to each event site, so it is readily available for the Nippers. (This bucket will normally serve as the "home base" identifier so our team stays together throughout the day).

Marshalling for events is a critical time for the competition. When marshalling for an event, all Nippers must have on a broad brimmed hat and their short sleeved hi-vis rash vest. Nippers can marshal in long sleeved tops also if it is cold or for more sun protection. Marshalling in the correct attire i.e. a broad brimmed hat and sleeved top (which covers shoulders) protects Nippers from sun exposure. Nippers can be in the sun in the sun all day so when not competing, we always need all Nippers and parents to be sun smart and protect themselves.

Sunscreen is one of the most vital things to remember to bring. Age Managers will have sunscreen with them, but Nippers should have some in their own bag also, particularly if they have specific brand requirements for sensitive skin or eyes.

Consistent with our club training, all LSV carnivals operate using the colored age group flags which are carried to and located at each event site. These flags are the same as ours, color based with the age group clearly printed on them. At all times, parents and Nippers alike should know where the flag is as this indicates where you should be. Always follow the flag!

What to take to Carnivals?

Carnivals held in the Victorian summer are unpredictable! As we all know, 4 seasons in one day is highly likely! As such, we have put together a list of things we think you should bring with you to help make the day enjoyable and comfortable for your Nippers.

- Water bottles with fresh water
- Sunscreen and Zinc



- Competition cap (can be purchased from TSLSC)
- Food for the duration of the day including healthy energy foods and snacks (limit any chocolates with a preference for glucose-based sweets)
- Bathers
- A broad brimmed hat for marshalling. (Competition “T” caps can be purchased from the club for supportive parents)
- Goggles, two pairs if possible, sometimes they break or can get lost at sea
- Towels, always a minimum of two, towels get wet, kids get cold. Towels are great wind breaks
- Waterproof jackets, a great way to keep children dry and protected from the cold winds
- Rug, if the weather looks nasty for the carnival consider packing a rug or old sleeping bag, this will keep your child warm, warm kids are happy kids!
- Nipper board (if you have one)
- Change of clothes for the end of competition to travel home in

Please pack any item that is specific to your children’s needs i.e. asthma inhalers, medical items, specific dietary requirements etc.

These items must be packed and taken with you as you travel around the carnival site. As mentioned before, the club tent is rarely used unless there is a delay in competition. The tent is always available as a “base” for TSLSC to keep boards, belt and reel, water safety equipment, extra items/food that you may not want to carry around.

If you do use the club tent to store extra items, please do not let the children go back to the tent to get these items, parents should do this for children as children must stay with the age group and Age Manager as they are their responsibility, and may also miss events. If a child wishes to use the bathroom, please inform the Age Manager or assistant before taking them. Missing children on a beach can create a significant issue.

Nipper Competition: TSLSC Nipper Champions

Promoting the inclusiveness of Torquay Nippers and in recognition that the outstanding efforts these children put in all season does not always result in medals at State Championships, the club awards Nipper Champions at the conclusion of the season.

The aim is to, based on the results and a corresponding points system, have a Nipper champion(s) for each age group and an overall winner at the end of the season. Overall Nipper club champions (1 boy and 1 girl from across all age groups U9 – U13) will be the Nippers that have accrued the most points across the whole competition season. There is a very real



possibility that the overall Nipper club champion could be from the U9 age group as this is a point-based system based on participation and results of carnival participation.

Points will be allocated as follows:

- Carnival Participation 3 Points
- Event Participation 1 Point
- Competing in a final in an event 2 Points
- 1st Place in carnival event 6 Points
- 2nd Place in carnival event 5 Points
- 3rd Place in Carnival event 4 Points
- 4th Place in Carnival event 3 Points
- 5th Place in Carnival event 2 Points
- 6th Place in Carnival event 1 Point

Points will be allocated to each participant in an event (individual or team) for their placement in said event based on the above.

Maximum points for an event would be possibly 12, participation in an event, participating in a final and winning that final i.e. $3+1 + 2 + 6 = 12$.

Age Managers or team Managers are likely to be calling on a parent helper to assist with recording at each carnival.



TORQUAY S.L.S.C.