

WATER SAFETY CHECKLIST

Complete before every water-based Junior Activities session. This checklist should be used alongside the mandatory Risk assessment (Surf Risk Rating (SRR)).

Before the session

- ☐ Risk Assessment (SRR) completed by the Water Safety Supervisor (WSS) or accredited coach/training officer
- ☐ Check in with the Patrol Captain to determine appropriate set up location, safety precautions and confirm risks and mitigations.
- ☐ Water arenas set up according to prevailing surf conditions, as determined by the WSS
- ☐ Decision made on which age groups can participate in water activities based on today's conditions
- ☐ All Water Safety personnel confirmed present and signed on
- ☐ Water Safety ratio confirmed: as risk rating level (1:5, or 1:10)
- ☐ All Water Safety personnel hold current qualifications (Bronze Medallion, Surf Rescue Certificate, or Nipper Safety Assistant)
- ☐ Water Safety personnel in correct uniform (high-vis orange rash vest and cap)
- ☐ Rescue equipment available and accessible (rescue boards, tubes, radios)
- ☐ First aid kit accessible and stocked
- ☐ Emergency contact numbers confirmed (Patrol Captain, Lifeguard, 000)
- ☐ Communication method confirmed between WSS and Age Managers (radio, whistle signals, verbal)

U6/U7 specific checks

- ☐ Water activities in shallow water only
- ☐ U6/U7 Nippers wearing distinctive bright cap (e.g. fluorescent green)
- ☐ No competitive activities planned for this age group
- ☐ Approved foam boogie boards only – no hard plastic, rails, or fins

U8 board training specific checks (if applicable)

- ☐ Beyond January 1st for the season.
- ☐ U9 preliminary evaluations completed for all participating U8 Nippers
- ☐ Surf Risk Rating reflects a Low risk.
- ☐ Maximum distance from shore: 50 metres
- ☐ Gradual slope, firm clean bottom, no structure hazards
- ☐ Training approved by club Management Committee (with age group and location specified)
- ☐ SLSA-approved soft nipper boards only

During the session

- ☐ All Nippers signed in before entering the water
- ☐ Water Safety positioned before any children enter the water
- ☐ Age Managers conducting headcounts before and after each water activity
- ☐ Conditions being monitored continuously – WSS to reassess if conditions change
- ☐ Any Nippers who did not pass preliminary evaluation identified and receiving additional supervision

After the session

- ☐ All Nippers accounted for (final headcount)
- ☐ Water Safety personnel signed off
- ☐ Any incidents or near-misses reported to JAC and WSS
- ☐ Equipment checked and stored

This checklist is a practical support tool. It does not replace the mandatory Risk Assessment required by SLISA Policy 1.01 – Water Safety.