

4th October 2023

Hello Nipper families,

Here is your 2023/24 preseason update:

With the days getting longer and the water a little warmer, Nippers season is not far away. We know many of our new Nippers are keen to get started on their lifesaving journey and those Nippers returning to the program are keen to reconnect with their nipper friends. We are aware families are keen to get some further information about the program start so the following information details three key areas: Volunteer Positions, Preliminary Swim Test and Pre-Season information session.

Volunteers

While it has been amazing to see new and returning families commit to their indicated volunteer roles, we still have families who have not yet made a firm commitment to a designated volunteer role for the season and we have a number of key volunteer roles that need to be filled. **The following roles are so crucial to our program that unless they are filled before the season commencement date the season start will be delayed until they are filled.**

We are urgently seeking volunteers to commit to the following roles:

- Water Safety Coordinators (shared role by two or more volunteers)
- Nipper Program Administration (individual or shared role between two)
- Additional Surf Education Coordinator to join two other committed volunteers
- Age Managers
- Officials (note: our ability to compete will be dependent on having enough officials)

In addition we are seeking:

- Beach Coach/es
- Gear Steward

Preliminary Swim Test

Purpose:

The preliminary swim test is a compulsory requirement from Lifesaving Victoria for a Nipper to participate in the water program. All OGSLSC Nippers must be witnessed completing the preliminary swimming test by a qualified person and have the required paperwork signed off and received by OGSLSC administration prior to the Nipper commencing in the program. This can be done by a pool instructor if currently taking formal swimming lessons, however the club is also able to help facilitate the preliminary swim test, as follows.

Where:

The club has booked the Bellarine Aquatic and Sports Centre in Ocean Grove for the completion of the preliminary swim test. Pay a casual entry fee or present your membership card at reception and tell them you are with the OGSLSC. There is no need to book or RSVP prior. When arriving at the pool, report to the club members and coaches who will conduct and sign off the test.

What to bring:

- Bathers
- Towel

When:

- | | | | | |
|---|----------|--------------|---------------|------|
| - | Sunday | October 8th | 2.45pm-4.45pm | BASC |
| - | Saturday | October 14th | 2.45pm-4.45pm | BASC |

Times are split as follows to help with logistics on the day.

- U8-U10 - 2:45-3:45
- U11-U13 - 3:45-4:45

While the test itself will not take long we have a large number of nippers needing to access this opportunity being provided by the club so please be patient in waiting for your child's opportunity to swim and be signed off.

Pre Season Information Session

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|---|--------|--------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| - | Sunday | 15th October | 3.00pm-4.30pm | Ocean Grove Surf Life Saving Club |
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This session is for new and returning Nipper Families to hear about the changes that have been made to program management of the 2023/24 Nipper Season and to clarify other key information.

It is crucial that at least one Nipper parent attends the session to help ensure clarity of the season information. This session will be a great opportunity for all volunteers who have committed to a role to connect with the other volunteers in their team and for other families to commit to a role if they are yet to do so. Ideally Nippers won't attend this session as the information is targeted to parents but Nippers are still welcome to attend.

The season calendar is kept updated on the club website (under the Nippers tab) and will be explained in more detail at this session.