Dear Nipper families,  
  
So far this season there has been lots happening in the OGSLSC Nipper program. The Nipper program kicked off in October in our new streamed format including Sunday Core Nipper sessions and Surf Sports, and hosting the first nippers carnival of the season in November.

The third stream of our Surf Education intensive program commences on 27th December. The program is a fantastic opportunity to share the joys of nippers over six days with new and returning nippers. The program develops their basic skills and education with a strong focus on being fun.

To run a successful program the club is urging all members to help with something throughout the program whether it is water safety, set up, pack up or helping to cook some sausages – no job is too big or too small but is definitely appreciated.

**Please see the link below for volunteer sign up**. Please ensure you read the important info tab which details role descriptions before signing up.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Xg41a9UrYw_8Rlf0TGDaEuNfBEtg80pWknNYvMt-Eh8/edit?usp=sharing>

This year the intensive Surf Education program is only for those who elected ‘surf education intensive’ as their chosen stream. However, parents and volunteers with children in the core nippers or surf sport stream that are offering to volunteer for Surf Ed can also bring their children along to participate in session if they choose to. Parents will need to register their nipper at the first attending session and sign their nipper in and out of each session thereafter.   
  
**Dates for the 2023/2024 Surf Ed intensive program are:**

* Session one – Wednesday 27th December (AM)
* Session two – Thursday 28th December (AM)
* Session three – Friday 29th December (AM)
* Session four – Saturday 30th (PM)\*\*\*
* Session five – Tuesday 2nd January (AM)
* Session six – Wednesday 3rd January (AM) returning for the Disco\* at 6.00 to 8.30pm

\*Please note: The disco costs $10 and includes 2 sausages in bread, a drink and lolly bag.

**Session times**

* Under 8, Under 9, Under 10 sessions run from (AM) 9.30 to 11.00am, (PM) 5.00 to 6.30pm
* Under 11, Under 12, Under 13 sessions run from (AM) 10.00am to 11.30am, (PM) 5.30 to 7.00pm.

**Communication**

All communication during the program is via the Stack Team app.

**Parents must Download Stack Team App from the App store (look for the red ‘T’ logo, on a shield), search for Ocean Grove SLSC and use ‘settings’ to request access to ‘Nippers Surf Education’, ‘Nipper Core (Sundays)’ or ‘Nippers Sport and Competition’ if applicable.**

Once installed and assigned to your group, you will receive text or email notifications. Program updates, including change to times, location due to prevailing weather will only be communicated via Team App prior to the session.

**Equipment**

Nippers require the following for each session:

* Rashie (provided)
* Competition cap – $20 and needs to be purchased via club uniform shop prior to starting
* Bathers/Wetsuit (wetsuit for sessions recommended - the water can still be cold)
* Goggles – recommended
* Towel
* Drink bottle
* Suncreen - Please ensure your nipper has applied sunscreen before the session

**Registration and sign in**

Day 1 of the program is extremely busy with all nippers required to register prior to commencement. Please arrive up to an hour before your session starts to allow for registration, collection of high-vis vest and purchase of **compulsory club competition cap $20.** Payment for the end of program disco (**$10**) can also be made on registration day. Cash and card payments available.

At the start of every session parents need to sign their nipper into the sign on manager at the respective age group flag at the club rooms (not down on the beach). There **MUST** be a parent or guardian nearby at all times should your child need assistance or parental support.

Nippers are **NOT** to be in the water with their high-vis vest on prior to the nippers session. At the completion of each session parents must sign out their nipper and have them take off their high-vis rash vest.

*\*\*\* It is imperative if your child needs to leave the session prior to the for any reason that they are signed out vai the sign on manager.*

**Surf Ed. certificate – Minimum requirement**

Nippers attending Surf Ed must attend **four** of the **six** sessions to be eligible for their award.

**Swim proficiency – Completion prior to attending Surf Ed**

The age group swim proficiency is the minimum standard to be eligible to participate in Surf Ed. This requirement was documented as an important requirement of your enrollment in the Nippers Program and can be completed by a swim teacher or coach.

**If this assessment is not completed prior to your child's commencement they will not be able to participate in water-based activities until a club official has done a preliminary assessment in the ocean. Please note this may delay your child participation in water based activities.**

Junior Activities Committee and Surd Education Coordinators  
Ocean Grove Surf Life Saving Club