



## STOCKTON SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

### All about Nipper Carnivals

Surf Life Saving has many facets and some Nippers enjoy surf sports by participating in competitions at Surf Carnivals. Carnivals are a great way to meet other people and for the kids to represent Stockton and keep fit whilst improving their skills.

All Nippers wishing to compete at carnivals must complete their Junior Proficiency swims prior to their first carnival of the season.

#### **EVENTS**

Surf Sports involves both individual and team events in many disciplines

|         | <b>Individual Events</b>  |
|---------|---|
| U8      | Wade, beach sprint and beach flags  |
| U9-U10  | Surf race (swim), board race on foam nipper board, beach sprint and beach flags                                       |
| U11-U13 | Surf race (swim), board race on fibreglass nipper board, iron person (swim, run, board), beach sprint and beach flags |
| U14     | Surf race (swim), board race on fibreglass racing mal, iron person (swim, run, board), beach sprint and beach flags   |

Team events in the water are surf race team (swim), Cameron relay, board relay and wade relay (U8 only)

The March Past is a tradition at some carnivals and is usually conducted prior to the first water event. This involves those Nippers attending to carry the Stockton flag and march in a group alongside Nippers from other clubs. For this event we encourage the Nippers to wear their long sleeve yellow rashie and the Stockton competition cap.

#### **COST**

Carnivals within the Hunter Branch cost \$16 to enter. There is also a one off cost of \$10 at the beginning of the season for a hi-vis vest. These are available at the registration desk at each Hunter Branch carnival

## **TIME FRAME**

Most carnivals start at around 8.30-9.00am with sign on starting an hour before. Water events are usually conducted first with beach events starting a little later in the morning. Hunter Branch carnivals are usually finished by 2pm.

## **HOW TO ENTER A CARNIVAL**

Let Jo Dryden and/or your child's Age Manager know which carnival your child would like to attend. The \$16 entry fee is payable on the Monday prior to the carnival so we can get the entries in on time.

Where a Nipper enters a carnival and subsequently fails to attend there can be no refund as Hunter Branch will charge the club.

At most carnivals it is possible to enter on the day for the normal entry fee plus a late fee of between \$5 and \$20

## **COMPULSORY ITEMS**

All Nippers competing for Stockton SLSC must wear:

- Red and blue competition cap in all water and beach events
- Hi-vis pink singlet in water events

## **WHAT ELSE TO BRING**

It would be great if Nippers could be responsible for transporting their own board to carnivals. If you need to borrow a club board and/or need help with transporting a board, please talk to Jo Dryden or Bonnie Danuser.

Other items for a day at the beach should include swim cap and goggles, sun hats, sunscreen, long sleeve shirt for sun protection, warm jacket, towels, plenty of food and water, bag for rubbish, board wax, spare competition cap, fold up chair.

## **WATER SAFETY AND OFFICIALS**

For every ten competitors there is a requirement that the club supply one Official and one Water Safety person for carnivals. To assist with water safety you must hold a current SRC or Bronze Medallion. To assist with officiating you need to complete an officials course. Courses to become qualified as an official are conducted by Hunter Branch throughout the season and can be found at [www.hsls.org.au](http://www.hsls.org.au) This course is not very time consuming and is very interesting. Officiating and helping with Water Safety are rewarding roles as you are close to the Nippers during the races, the day goes very fast 😊 and you are provided with water, morning tea and lunch!

## **ON THE DAY OF THE CARNIVAL – For Nippers**

- Make sure you bring your Stockton cap, pink competition vest (or purchase when you get there) and board
- Sign in on arrival – you will sometimes receive a coloured wristband or stamp according to age group
- Find the bright yellow Stockton Nippers M.O.L.E.S. tent on the beach
- Get settled in and perhaps have a swim or paddle to warm up and get used to the conditions.
- Participate in March Past if it is on
- During the day listen to marshalling calls – there is a first call, second call and final call for each event.
- When called, go to the marshalling tent in your water area and wait for directions from the Officials. Once each race is over, wait at the finish line until you are dismissed.
- During the day drink lots of water and eat healthy foods. Keep in the shade when possible and HAVE LOTS OF FUN 😊😊
- Sometimes it is possible for Stockton Nippers to join in with kids from other surf clubs to form composite teams at carnivals if we do not have enough to form a Stockton team. These are called ‘Barbarian’ teams and are a lot of fun for the kids.

## **ON THE DAY OF THE CARNIVAL – For parents**

Aside from helping with all of the above there are a couple more little tasks we share around...

- ... The tent needs to be transported to each carnival, put up and taken down etc.
- ... If a parent is officiating or in the water as water safety we all look out for their kids and make sure they've had something to eat and drink and are organised for their races.
- ... If someone is unable to transport a board we make sure someone else can take it.
- ... And sometimes things get broken or misplaced so if you have a spare competition cap, spare goggles etc throw them in just in case someone has a mishap!

Many thanks.