Portsea Nippers Program 20/21

Important Information – Please Read Carefully

Registration

Thank you for registering your child in the 20/21 Portsea Nippers Program.

We have been working closely with LSV to assess our ability to run the Portsea Nipper Program this year. We are pleased to be able to announce that subject to final clearances, we will be running a modified COVID normal program (Scenario 1 in our previously communicated options) at both the Quarantine Station (Under 7 – 9) and Portsea Back Beach (Under 10 – 13).

Our program is fully booked – reaching our cap of 600 participants earlier this month. A provisional wait list has now been put in place to allow for replacements for any withdrawals from the program. All participants registered/waitlisted at 12am on 3 December 2020 will gain automatic entry into the program (subject to any changes to COVID regulations).

Time to get excited…

Program Numbers

We are allowed up to 500 participants at each location (Quarantine Station and Portsea Back Beach) which includes:

- Participants
- Nipper Helpers
- COVID Officers
- Beach Managers

- Age Managers
- Water Safety
- First Aid
- Administration

We are in the process of allocating participants to specific groups which can be no more than 50 in number and must be 5m apart from other groups. Groupings will be notified at the Accreditation Swim. In the circumstances, friendship groups cannot be guaranteed and there should be no changing of allocated groups unless explicitly agreed with the relevant Age Manager.

Given the restrictions on numbers, we will be requesting that only 1 parent undertakes drop-off/pick-up of participants. Given increased numbers of participants at the Portsea Back Beach, we will have designated areas for parents to wait for their children.

If your child has special needs, then please notify us before 20 December 2020 and we will include you in the total number of participants.

Sign-In/Sign-Out Process

It is likely that we will need to use both a QR Code (for tracking purposes) and utilise a manual sign-in/sign-out process. This is being worked through with LSV at present and further details will be provided in due course. Age Managers will sign-in/sign-out participants at designated locations. Please ensure that you do not leave without signing your child out. More details will follow.

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Program Dates

The program dates will be as follows (as previously revised/unchanged):

- 27 December 2020 – Session 1 - Accreditation Swim – Quarantine Station (see below)
- 29 December 2020 – Session 2
- 31 December 2020 – Session 3
- 2 January 2021 – Session 4
- 4 January 2021 – Session 5
- 6 January 2021 – Session 6
- 8 January 2021 – Session 7 – Competition Day (NB: Revised Date)

Session Start Times

Given the need to stagger start/finish times to avoid overcrowding on the beach exits, the following start times will be implemented:

- 9:15am start – Under 7 (Quarantine) and Under 10 (Back Beach)
- 9:30am start – Under 8 (Quarantine) and Under 11 (Back Beach)
- 9:45am start – Under 9 (Quarantine) and Under 12 (Back Beach)
- 10:00am start – Under 13 (Back Beach)

  (all sessions run for 2 hours except for Under 7s whose program runs for 90 minutes)

Please arrive at the beach dressed ready to go and observe all entry/exit signage. Upon arrival at the relevant beach, please sign-in and immediately progress to your designated age group area.

Program Activities

All activities will run as normal except for beach flags where contact is not permitted (an abbreviated form of beach flags will be introduced).

All equipment used will be disinfected before, during and after each session by designated COVID Officers in each age group.

Clearly, any participant (or adult) showing symptoms of COVID-19 should immediately self-isolate and an email should be immediately sent to Nippers@portseasurf.com.au.

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Accreditation Swim

Session 1 – Accreditation Swim – Quarantine Station

The accreditation swim is a compulsory part of the program. The accreditation consists of the following activities:

Course 1	**U7** – 3m glide and 30 sec float (on back)
Course 2	**U8 & 9** – 25 Metre swim, 1 min float
	U10 – 25 metre swim, 1 ½ min float
	U11 – 50 metre swim, 2 min float
Course 3	**U12** – 100 swim float, 2 min float
	U13 – 150 metre swim, 3 min float

Accreditation Swim Times

We will run the accreditation swim by registered surname (family name) as follows:

A – C: 9:30 – 10:00am	D – H: 10:00 to 10:30am
I – M: 10:30 to 11:00am	N – R: 11:00 to 11:30am
S – T: 11:30 – 12:00am	U - Z: 12:00 – 12:30pm

Accreditation Wristbands

Accreditation wristbands will be provided to all participants who meet the above requirements, and they must be worn throughout the program. No wristband, no water-based activities, no exceptions.

Once all accreditation requirements have been met, participants will be able to collect their Nipper Packs from the designated collection area. Once collected, we would appreciate it if all participants leave the Quarantine Station area immediately in preparation for the following group to arrive (and to free up available car spaces). Details on car parking options will be provided in due course.

Communication - Team App

Please ensure that you join the "Portsea SLSC Nippers" community on Team App as soon as possible. We will be using Team App for all communications in relation to the program.

Uniforms

Portsea SLSC bathers/jammers must be worn to all sessions. These can be purchased online www.swimweargalore.com.au or at the Sorrento Store, 131 Ocean Beach Road, Sorrento. 03 5984 0322. Nippers need to purchase the plain red swimwear.

Nipper Packs

Our packs will also look a bit different this year. We have agreed with LSV that our Portsea red "Nipper Rashie" can be used as a water safety vest – meaning that it must be worn at all times (including being worn over the top of any wetsuits). Also, don't rush out and buy any googles…as there may be a surprise for you in your packs! As always, remember to bring all of your gear with you to the beach as we do not have any spare packs available for use and contact with parents will need to be limited.

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NB: If families intend to stay at the beach after completion of the program on any given day (as many chose to do), we have been requested to inform participants that they should remove their Portsea Nippers rash vest whilst on the beach to assist with management of Nipper participants

Face Masks
Face Masks should be carried by all participants (and adults) over 13 years of age. Government face mask requirements should be followed as appropriate.

Nipper Disco
Given restrictions on gatherings indoors, the Nipper Disco has been cancelled this year. We weren't game to hold it outdoors. This is unfortunate as it is a great part of the Nippers Program, however it will be back next year.

Nipper Parents Cocktail Party
We are still assessing our ability to hold this event. If we do, it is likely to be held on 2 January 2021 (outdoors) and will likely be limited attendees. More details to follow.

Under 13s Boot Camp
We intend to run the Under 13s Boot Camp as a non-residential one-day program (10:00am to 6:00pm – including an early BBQ dinner for participants). Watch out for further communications. Places will be limited to 45 participants on a first come/first served basis. Cost will be $40 per head and the session will be facilitated by an external provider (Baden Small) who successfully ran the program last year.

Junior Swim Classic
The 500m Junior Swim Classic returns after a successful inaugural event last year. Numbers will be limited to 120 participants. Look out for further details in "Swim Classic" related communications.

Nipper Competition Day
Planning is underway for the Nipper Competition Day to be held at 9:30am at Quarantine on 8 January 2021 (our last session of the program). Based on the feedback provided, we will modify distances to suit all participants – ensuring a great opportunity to put the skills developed throughout the program into practice. The Nipper Competition Day will be run by the Junior Competition Team. For those interested in competing, further details on the Junior Competition Team can be found on the Club's website.

The Club
To avoid congregation in the Clubhouse (in accordance with Government requirements), The Club will be accepting lunch reservations and as an alternative will be offering take-away lunch packs for pre-order. Please refer to the website for further details.

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Portsea SLSC Club Values

The Portsea SLSC has recently developed our "Values Statement" which define us - who we are and what we represent. The "Values Statement" defines how we aspire to see ourselves:

- People who demonstrate respect and teamwork
- People who protect the community with courage, enthusiasm and care
- People who develop strong and resilient leaders by sharing responsibilities, experiences and providing valuable development opportunities

These values are critical to how we intend to operate as a club - and set the standard for our behaviours. These values are important to us – and they need to be important to you.   We encourage you to take the time to familiarise yourself with these values.

Covid Safe Planning

The Portsea SLSC has a COVID-19 plan which is available to be viewed at the Club's Administration Office. Any COVID-19 queries in relation to the Nipper Program should be referred to Claire Whitbread (who will be located at the top of the ramp at the Back Beach at each session).

Our Volunteers

Thanks for your patience – we have an army of volunteers spending an incredible amount of time to get the program up and running this year for the benefit of your children – if you get the chance, please say thanks those who help run the program each session – I am sure that it will be greatly appreciated by them.

More information

As always, please review the website for further details or alternatively reach out to nippers@portseasurf.com.au with any queries.

We look forward to seeing you on the beach!

(albeit in your designated areas!)