

Kiama Kingfishers

2024-25 Season Booklet

Updated 19/09/2024



Kiama S.L.S.C. Junior Activities Committee

For further Information visit <http://kiamaslsc.com.au>

Mission Statement

At the Kiama SLSC our goal for all Kiama Kingfishers is to primarily enjoy themselves and have fun on the beach, become competent in the surf, develop a sound knowledge of “surf awareness”, introduce them to the Surf Life Saving Movement and develop the children into future Australian Surf Life Savers.

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Kiama Kingfishers

2024-25 Season

The Kiama Kingfisher's 2024-25 season will commence on **Sunday 20th October at 9:45am** at the Kiama Surf Live Saving Club.

Introduction

Nippers is a flexible program focused on Surf Education and the creation of young surf life savers who are ready for patrol. The focus of successful and engaging junior activity programs is around fun, friendship and skill development. Competition is a means to develop our skills in becoming lifesavers. Surf Life Saving Clubs have the ability to create and tailor a program to suit the needs of their members and their beach conditions – and the SLSA Junior Development Program provides a range of resources to assist clubs delivering Junior Activities.

Kiama Kingfisher's is held most Sunday mornings with a start time of 9:45. Throughout the season there will be the odd Saturday afternoon nippers, where we can enjoy a BBQ on the deck afterwards. (see calendar)

Nippers start learning about Surf awareness and safety through Surf Life Saving Surf Education Program (Surf Ed). They are also able to participate in board paddling, surfing, swimming, running, wading and other fun activities and games.

Practising these skills allows children to compete in Club, Regional and State Surf Life Saving Carnivals representing their clubs. While competition is an element, the surf awareness and education aspect is a primary aim. Children are taught from the earliest ages how to respect, read the surf and use the surf to their advantage.

Kiama Surf Life Saving Club Info

Kiama Surf Lifesaving Club Inc. is a member of the South Coast Branch which in turn is affiliated with the NSW state body.

Surf Beach is home to Kiama Surf Life Saving Club. Surf beach is approximately 250m long, Church point is located to the north and Kendall's point is located to the south. Kiama oval sits on Church Point, a park surrounds the back of the beach with the surf club in the centre.

The Kiama SLSC is committed to Kiama, its surrounding communities and their welfare. Our club prides itself on its friendly atmosphere, strong competition and the promotion of a healthy lifestyle within our local community by promoting and teaching surf, health and life skills.

This has long been a very popular beach due to its location close to the centre of Kiama. The club was formed in 1908 and at that time people from Sydney would commute by train to Kiama to swim at Surf beach and see the famous Kiama Blowhole. The Club also celebrated its 110th anniversary in 2018, one of a handful of clubs in all of Australia to achieve this magnificent milestone.

The Kiama Kingfisher's (Nippers) is an arm of the Kiama Surf Lifesaving Club Inc. and is managed by a committee which is elected annually at the Kingfishers AGM (Annual General Meeting). The committee is chaired by the JAC (Junior Activities Coordinator – David Griffin who is also a member of the Kiama Surf Lifesaving Club Executive committee.

The Kingfishers committee is responsible for organising, arranging and funding all junior activities. Included in the committee are all the members listed in the Kingfisher Committee Members section of this booklet.

Remember, the committee members are parents just like you who volunteer their time to help children in surf awareness as well as providing resources for a child's personal development.

Web links

- Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/kiamakingfishers/>
- Instagram https://www.instagram.com/kiama_kingfishers/
- Latest version of this handbook is available at <https://kiamaslsc.com.au/members/nippers/>

Who can Join?

Any child can join the Kiama Kingfishers as soon as he/she turns 5 but not before, a child's appropriate Age Group is determined by their age at the 30th of September each year. (refer to the table below for birth dates and age groupings)

Birthdate between these dates	Age Group	Cap Colour
1 st Oct 2018 to 30 th Sep 2019	U6 (Surf Play One)	Pink
1 st Oct 2017 to 30 th Sep 2018	U7 (Surf Play Two)	Purple
1 st Oct 2016 to 30 th Sep 2017	U8 (Surf Aware One)	Yellow
1 st Oct 2015 to 30 th Sep 2016	U9 (Surf Aware Two)	Dark Green
1 st Oct 2014 to 30 th Sep 2015	U10 (Surf Safe One)	Light Green
1 st Oct 2013 to 30 th Sep 2014	U11 (Surf Safe Two)	Light Blue
1 st Oct 2012 to 30 th Sep 2013	U12 (Surf Smart One)	Red
1 st Oct 2011 to 30 th Sep 2012	U13 (Surf Smart Two)	Dark Blue
1 st Oct 2010 to 30 th Sep 2011	U14 (SRC)	Pink

Objectives

Kiama Kingfishers have three main objectives:

1. For all Kiama Kingfishers to enjoy themselves and have fun.
2. That all Kiama Kingfishers will become competent in the surf and have a good knowledge of “surf awareness”.
3. Introduce Kiama Kingfishers to the surf lifesaving movement.

Achieving our second goal will provide each junior with confidence in all aspects of Surf Lifesaving. The necessary character building and self-discipline will be achieved whilst doing something each child enjoys.

A Typical Morning at the Kiama Kingfishers

The Kiama Kingfishers assemble on the lawn at the front of the clubhouse in their appropriate age groups prior to the commencement of activities.

All Kingfishers must have their attendance recorded by the age managers who have been assigned to their age group at the start of Nippers. This is done primarily as a safety precaution and as a method of recording attendance; a point is awarded each week as a Kingfisher signs off and this is then tallied. Nippers who achieve a minimum attendance of 75% are eligible for an award at the end of the season.

All Kingfishers should arrive ready to start activities, with their age cap on and sun protection/sunscreen applied for a 9:45am start each week. In preparation for the start of Nippers, Punctual arrival is vital so that Age Managers can record attendance and be aware of who is present before starting activities. In addition weekly notices are announced at this time. It can also be time consuming for parents trying to find a child's age group once the kids have hit the beach.

U6 and U7 Nippers will learn about Surf Play. The focus is on play, participation and fun with beach activities and games. They will also learn basic safety practices, what makes up a beach environment, Sun smart guidelines; the importance of having an adult with them at the beach; what a lifesaver is and what they do; wading, beach sprinting and flags.

For Under 8 Nippers, the usual events will be a run, flag races, a wade race, relays and water activities, so that kids start to understand the water and get accustomed to small waves. The emphasis for all these Nippers is to have good fun, meet new friends, and become confident to move into the water at their own pace.

For Under 9 to 14 Nippers, Sunday morning will consist of surf education, flag races, beach sprints, swim and board events, subject to beach conditions. Sunday Nippers is about learning, fun, skill development, growth, confidence and friendly competition.

All Kingfishers must be signed off

At the conclusion of Nippers, the Age manager will only sign kids out, when a parent or caregiver is there to pick up their child.

All Nippers are to remain with their Age Manager and assistants for the full duration of Sunday Nippers, unless a parent/caregiver comes to sign out the child, to leave early.

At the conclusion of nippers, the age manager will walk their group back up onto the grass in-front of the club. Here they will meet parents/caregivers and sign the children out. Only when parents/caregivers are present. Kids will then remove their caps and be back in their parents/caregiver's care.

All parents/care-giver's are to remain on the beach at all times, and are strongly encouraged to seek out ways to help the Club, either by qualifying for Water Safety, helping set up/pack up the beach or helping out on the BBQ. Kiama Nippers is a family experience, Please ask your Age Manager what you can do to help.....it is a fantastic way to meet many new people as well.

NO WATER SAFETY PARENTS = NO WATER EVENTS

Safety – Always our First Priority

What to Bring to Nippers?

The items needed for participating in Kingfishers are swimmers, high-vis vest, towel, drink, sun screen (preferably applied before you start) and your age coloured cap.

Please ensure that items (including hats, rash vests and drink bottles) have your child's name on them and that the items are collected at the conclusion of Nippers each week and if your child swims with goggles in the pool please bring them along as we have found swimming goggles really help with confidence in the water.

Kingfisher Club swimmers, vests, shirts and caps can be purchased from the Kingfishers Uniform Officer is Jane Bourne.

Each age group has a different coloured cap. These caps must be worn by all participants as a safety measure to identify Kingfishers when on the beach and in the water. The Caps must also be worn at Nippers at Sign On and only removed once a child has been Signed Off at the end of Nippers by their group's Age Manager. The clubs Blue Caps are also Mandatory for Kiama's competitors at any SLSA sanctioned carnival, the High-Visibility Singlets must also be worn at all times by all U8's and above when in the water, there are no Exceptions.

No Cap and High Vis Rash Vest = No Water. No Exceptions.

Age Managers

Age Managers are assigned to each age group and are responsible for recording attendance and organising various Nipper activities and the following lists the Prerequisites and requirements to be an Age Manager (*as per the SLSA Age Managers Workbook*);

Prerequisites

- Be a current financial member of a club.
- Have completed the relevant state [working with children check](#) requirements.
- Must be a minimum of 16 years old (higher in some states).

Becoming an Accredited Age Manager

These are mandatory SLSA requirements.

To become a qualified age manager you must do the following within a twelve (12) month period:

- Attend an SLSA Age Managers theory course or complete online.
- Have the SLSA Age Managers workbook completed and assessed by the course presenter.
- Undertake a 2-hour on-the-beach practical session to gain an introductory understanding of surf skills (*at branch/state discretion, this may be waived if the participant has a surf background such as proficient Bronze Medallion*) at the theory course.

The main duties and responsibilities of all the Age Managers are as follows;

1. Encourage the children in their age group to participate, enjoy, co-operate and compete in all activities of the Club.
2. Keep weekly records of each child's attendance.
3. Record all Point Scoring event results.
4. Instruct the children in their age group of the necessary requirements of Surf Education.
5. Organise the children of their age group at carnivals, which includes marking the attendance sheet, assisting in team selections and marshalling the children for their allocated events.

6. Assist in the instruction of the correct techniques of the events the children may participate in at point score and carnivals.
7. Keep the children and parents informed of the requirements of the age group and of Club information.
8. Make the children in their age group aware and encourage sun protection.
9. Parents you are encouraged to yourselves known to their children's Age Manager and to offer assistance whenever required.

Age Managers are Not Baby-Sitters

Parents are requested to be accessible at all times during Nippers and to resume responsibility (for their children) at the conclusion of the day's events.

If any child has special needs it is highly recommended that you inform your Age Manager of such needs so they can be aware of the child's requirements.

Children MUST obtain their parents' permission prior to re-entering the water after Nippers concludes and should you have to leave before events are finished, please inform your child's Age Manager BEFORE taking your child from the beach.

Parents Becoming Age Managers

The club operates entirely from volunteer help. The Kiama SLSC heavily values the contribution made by parents – this is what makes our club great. There are many jobs to be filled and parent involvement is a vital part of running the Kiama Kingfishers program.

This is an open invitation to all parents to be directly involved and participate in the Kiama Kingfishers. If you would like to help in any way please email [David Griffin](mailto:David.Griffin@kiamaslsc.com.au) or come see him at any Kiama Kingfishers day and he can answer any questions and discuss any concerns you have regarding what's required to help.

*** No Surf Life Saving Experience is required. ***

Child Protection

All Parents, Guardians and Club Members over the age of 18 years are required to sign the <https://ocg.nsw.gov.au/working-children-check>. This is a **mandatory** requirement legislated by NSW law to ensure the protection of all the children.

All persons over the age of 18, who help out with the children in any fashion must have a Working With Children check. This is to be handed to the club's registrars.

Code of conduct

PARENTS CODE

- Do not force an unwilling child to participate.
- Children are involved for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Encourage children to play by the rules.
- Encourage the effort being as important as the result.
- Work towards improving skills and sportsmanship.
- Do not yell or abuse a child for making a mistake.
- Recognise and encourage good play or efforts.
- Respect the efforts of volunteer Age Managers, trainers, Water Safety and Committee members. They are not there to be abused or harassed. They are doing their best for your children.
- When at carnivals treat the Officials and carnival organisers with respect. If unhappy with a decision, launch a formal protest.

NIPPERS CODE

- Participate to enjoy the sport.
- Follow the rules.
- Control your temper and be a good sport.
- Treat other participants as you like to be treated.
- Encourage all in your team.
- Listen to your age manager, water safety and trainers.
- Respect the decision of officials at carnivals.

Sponsorship

The Club is always on the lookout for sponsors for new equipment. Sponsoring Nipper Boards are a great way of helping our kids learn skills in the water and compete in Carnivals, and giving exposure to sponsors on the beach. If you are interested in sponsoring Kiama Nippers with either a cash or equipment donation, please contact David Griffin (jac@kiamaslsc.com.au) or Lou Ashton (louashton@kiamaslsc.com.au). All enquiries or suggestions are most welcome.

Junior Preliminary Skills Assessment

A requirement of Surf Life Saving Australia and for safety and development reasons, Junior Activity participants (U6's-U14's) must complete a Preliminary Evaluation each year as detailed below. Any participant wishing to enter any Junior Surf Carnival needs to also complete the Competition Evaluation criteria as detailed below.

Age Group	Preliminary Evaluation	Pool Swim Evaluation	Beach Evaluation
U6	From a standing position in waist deep water, perform a front glide and recover to a secure position. Perform a back or front float holding a buoyant aid and recover to a secure position.	1:1	1:1
U7	From a standing position in waist deep water, perform a front glide, kick for 3m and recover to a secure position. Perform a back or front float for a few seconds and recover to a secure position.	1:1	1:1
U8	25m swim (any recognised stroke) 1-minute survival float	1:1	1:1
U9	25m swim (any recognised stroke) 1.5 minute survival float	1:1	1:1
U10	25m swim (any recognised stroke) 1.5 minute survival float	1:3	1:3
U11	50m swim (any recognised stroke)	1:3	1:3
	2 minute survival float		
U12	100m swim (any recognised stroke) 2 minute survival float	1:3	1:3
U13	150m swim (any recognised stroke) 3 minute survival float	1:3	1:3
U14	200m swim (any recognised stroke, in less than 5 minutes) 3 minute survival float	1:3	1:3

Preliminary Evaluation

All Kingfishers U6's Through to U14's are required to complete the Preliminary Skills Evaluation in order to take part in any water events in the Nippers program. Each Nipper must complete the Preliminary Evaluation.

Many activities that will be completed by children as part of junior activities each week. To ensure the safety of all children SLSA has developed a Junior Preliminary Skills Evaluation for each age group.

Every junior member is required to participate in this evaluation, conducted by the club, prior to any junior water activity training or competition being undertaken. It includes a swim and a float which is progressively increased by age group.

The intent of this is to conduct an evaluation of each junior member's own swimming and water survival ability for the information of the member, parent and age manager.

Note: It is not an assessment which if not completed competently precludes the child from becoming a member or continuing with junior surf education or training activities.

Nippers is not a learn to swim class, we strongly advise that all kids complete their own swimming lessons or training to become better skilled and proficient in the ocean.

Water Safety Requirements

All Surf Life Saving affiliated organisations have a duty of care to their members participating in aquatic activities. In all member activities we are committed to adopting reasonable and practical measures that help to prevent injury or illness. These measures include:

SLSA have recently reviewed and updated "SLSA Policy 1.1 Junior Activities and Water Safety", which has been re-named "SLSA Procedure – 1.1 Water Safety". The policy has been updated to satisfy the need for an all-encompassing water safety policy that considers ALL SLS members, and also non-members that participate in SLS activities. This policy provides clubs and services with clear instructions on standard operating procedures, minimum standards and standard risk assessment management process. The updated water safety policy is enforceable from the start of the 2024-25 lifesaving season.

The key principles of the policy are:

- Water safety is to be provided for all SLS aquatic activities.
- Each activity is to have an appointed water safety supervisor (a leader in the group to oversee safety of nippers).

- Water safety supervisors must complete a risk assessment form and record the outcome before the event. Where an unacceptable risk is identified water activities for Kingfishers for that day will be suspended.
- Minimum ratios: [Water safety personnel: participants in the water] 1:5 for groups of unqualified participants (with low/high risk) and 1:10 for low risk based events

Awards

Surf Life Saving Surf Education Program (Surf Ed)

On certain days instruction will be given on surf awareness, surf safety and surf skills using the Surf Life Saving Surf Education Program (Surf Ed). Children are required to have participated in the 'Surf Ed' program for their age group before the end of the season.

Age	Award
U/6	Surf Play One
U/7	Surf Play Two
U/8	Surf Awareness One
U/9	Surf Awareness two
U/10	Surf Safety One
U/11	Surf Safety Two
U/12	Surf Smart One
U/13	Surf Smart Two
U/14	Surf Life Saving Certificate
U/15 and onwards	Surf Life Saving Bronze Medallion

All Kingfishers should complete the SLSA award appropriate to their Age Group each year. Age Managers conduct the awards training as part of Surf Awareness Day activities. These Awards are handed out at our AGM (Annual General Meeting) and Kingfishers Presentation at the end of the Kiama Kingfishers season.

As a club we encourage as many parents as possible to achieve their Bronze Medallion. If anyone is interested in obtaining their Surf Life Saving Certificate or Bronze Medallion, please contact David Griffin (jac@kiamaslsc.com.au) for further details.

Participation Awards

A Kingfisher attendance of 75% must be attained during the 2024-25 season to be eligible for any Kingfisher awards at the end of the season.

A minimum of 60% attendance must be attained at the Kiama club. In addition a maximum of 15% may be included for attendance at any other SLSA endorsed event provided that the attendance occurs on the same weekend as a regular Kiama nipper's morning. This is to allow Nippers who are away on holidays to include participation with other clubs in their total attendance. Written/Signed confirmation from the other club must be handed to their Age Manager, Nippers Registrar or JAC.

If a carnival occurs on the same weekend as a regular Kiama nipper's morning, attendance at the carnival can be used in the 15% mentioned above. It is the nippers' responsibility to ensure that their attendance at the carnival is recorded by the Carnival Coordinator.

Participation Awards are awarded at the end of year presentation and Kingfishers Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Point Scoring Events

We have allocated 3 separate days to conduct Point Scoring for the Kiama Kingfishers as shown in the 2022/23 Kingfishers Calendar, this is to accommodate any unforeseen poor weather that may arise causing the cancellation of a Point Scoring day.

Of the 3 Point Scoring days only a maximum of 2 will count toward a competitor's final total points, what this means is if Kiama Kingfishers run all 3 Point Scoring days the competitor's lowest scoring day will be discarded and the remaining 2 of the 3 days will be tallied to create the competitor's total points.

If only 1 or 2 Point Scoring days are held due to weather conditions then all the points accumulated for those days will count toward a competitor's total score.

For example if we ran all 4 point scoring events the following table would show how the points would be tallied.

Sample Point Scoring Total

Point Score #1	Point Score #2	Point Score #3	Total
22	18	21	43

In the above scenario Point Score #2 would be discarded and not tallied as it was the lowest scoring round the competitor registered and hence the total would be **43** points and not **61** as would be the case if all 3 Point Scores were actually tallied.

Carnivals

The Kiama Kingfishers attempt to attend all scheduled carnivals throughout the season. Carnivals are for kids aged from the U8's to the U14's. At carnivals the events include the usual activities that we run at nippers. Beach sprint and flags, Surf swim, board paddle, wade (U8's), ironperson and team relays.

Carnivals are a great way for the kids to compete against other local clubs testing themselves against other nippers and the conditions.

During all events the Kiama Royal Blue cap is to be worn. All carnival entries are completed by Team Manager Elise Moore.

Carnivals in 2024/25

Carnivals include:

- Sydney Water series – Locations to be confirmed
- South Coast Branch Titles – Mid February TBC
- NSW Country Titles – Warilla
- NSW State Titles – Manly

Carnival Expectations

- Children will not be entered until carnival payment has been received
- Parents are to help throughout the carnival, with given duties from the carnival organiser/host club. (Clubs are given duty roster, dependent on numbers entered)
- Parents are expected to conduct water safety or officiate
- Children are required to wear uniform (Blue Cap)
- Children and Parents are to follow code of conduct
- Children and Parents are to enjoy and have fun

Kingfisher Training

During the season, carnival training will take place. Training is to increase fitness, skills and knowledge in different SLS events. Training will be for those kids that are dedicated to competition and will put the required effort in to seek results.

- **Board Training – With Water Coaches, Monday & Friday afternoons.**

Foam boards are to be used by U9's and U10's Only.

Fibreglass boards are to be used by U11's thru to U14's only.

Registration Fees and Clothing Prices



Registration Fees

Child U/6-U/8	\$50
Child U/9-U/14	\$50
Adult	\$50
Family (2 Adults & any family members under the age of 18)	\$130

Registrar (Juniors) Michelle Gregory (registrar_juniors@kiamaslsc.com.au)

We encourage all Kiama Kingfishers to use the [LifeSaving Online](#) web site to complete their registration and make registration payments.

Clothing Price List;

Kiama Kingfisher team wear is available.

Kiama High-Visibility Singlet (Mandatory for all U8's and above)	\$20
Age Group Coloured Cap	\$10 (free for U6s)
Swimwear	
One piece	\$55
Two piece	\$55
Jammers	\$50
Hoodies	\$65
Hat	\$15

Contact List

Kingfisher's Committee

Position	Contact
JAC (Junior Activities Coordinator)	David Griffin 0417 961 844 jac@kiamaslsc.com.au
Vice JAC	Matt Smith 0409 022 713 mpio@kiamaslsc.com.au
Secretary	Lou Ashton 0414 464 649 louashton@kiamaslsc.com.au
Registrar	Michelle Gregory registrar_juniors@kiamaslsc.com.au
Water Safety Coordinator	Peter Gallagher 0403 990 991
Beach Setup Coordinator	
Gear Stewards	
Uniform Officer	Jane Bourne uniform@kiamaslsc.com.au
Carnival Coordinator	Denita Smee 0410 413 960 surfsportscoordinator@kiamaslsc.com.au
Social Media	Kate Hollands 0413 485 255 publicityofficer@kiamaslsc.com.au
BBQ Crew	Shannon McCuskey

Age Managers

Age	Age Manager	Age Assistant
U/6	TBC	TBC
U/7	Alexis Nelson	TBC
U/8	Sam Lathbury	TBC
U/9	Marc	TBC
U/10	Lou Ashton	TBC
U/11	Nick McInerney	TBC
U/12	Kate Mansell	TBC
U/13	Grant Nelson	TBC
U/14	Lachlan Payne	TBC
	Age Manager Mentors	