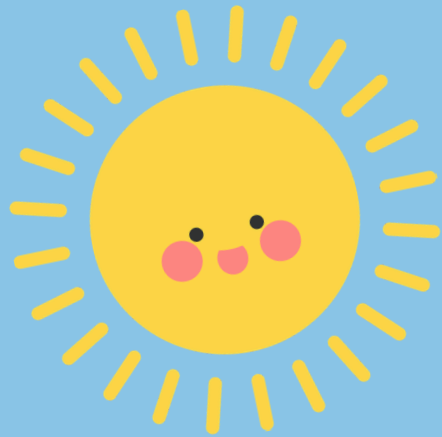




WOODSIDE NIPPERS GUIDE

2026/2027



A big **welcome** to everyone joining Woodside Nippers for the **2026/2027** season at Esperance Goldfields Surf Life Saving Club! It's great to see familiar faces back for another season, and we're excited to welcome our new members too.

We're all about building a friendly, inclusive club where everyone feels part of the team, no matter their beach skills or experience.

Woodside Nippers is now offered at **31 locations across WA**, helping kids build water confidence, learn valuable beach safety skills, make friends and have plenty of fun along the way!

♥ ALL ABILITIES NIPPERS ♥

We're excited to be running our Woodside All Abilities Nippers program for the first time this season too, creating more opportunities for children with diverse needs and abilities to enjoy Nippers, build confidence and be part of our club community.

Programs like Nippers only work because parents and carers pitch in – whether you're helping set up the beach, getting involved in activities, cheering from the sand or helping with water safety.

Your support makes a huge difference!

If you'd like to get more involved, consider completing your NRC, SRC or Bronze Medallion. We're always looking for Water Safety Crew, and the kids love seeing their families involved on the beach! We offer NRC, SRC and Bronze courses – just reach out to me or email education@egslsc.com.au for more information.

We'd love to hear your feedback throughout the season.
If I'm not around, just have a chat with your child's Age Group Manager anytime!

DATES TO REMEMBER...

18 October 2026 -
Open Day

25 October 2026 -
Proficiency Evaluations

1 November 2026-
First Day of Nippers

See you on the beach! 🌊

Karina Ruddenklau

Director of Juniors
Email: nippers@egslsc.com.au



WOODSIDE NIPPERS

2026/27 AGE GROUPS

Age Group	Date of Birth	Cap Colour
U6	1 Oct 2020 – 30 Sep 2021	pink
U7	1 Oct 2019 – 30 Sep 2020	light grey
U8	1 Oct 2018 – 30 Sep 2019	yellow
U9	1 Oct 2017 – 30 Sep 2018	green
U10	1 Oct 2016 – 30 Sep 2017	light blue
U11	1 Oct 2015 – 30 Sep 2016	purple
U12	1 Oct 2014 – 30 Sep 2015	dark blue
U13	1 Oct 2013 – 30 Sep 2014	red

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT TWILIGHT

 **Arrival:** Please arrive by 8.30am to allow time to sign in.

 **Finish:** U6 & U7 – 10.00am | U8–U13 – 10.30am

 **Bring:** Woodside Hi-vis vest, coloured cap, wide-brimmed hat, towel, sunscreen, water bottle, goggles & any required medication. Rashies and wetsuits welcome.

 Please label all items with your child's name using a black permanent marker.

 **What We Do:** Beach sprints, relays, flags, swimming, board races, surf safety, games & plenty of fun!

 **Parking:** Please use the Twilight Beach carpark. The club carpark is reserved for patrolling members.

PROFICIENCY EVALUATIONS

To keep our Nippers safe and meet Surf Life Saving standards, all Nippers U6 and above must complete a proficiency evaluation before participating in water activities.

 **Bay of Isles Leisure Centre**

 **Sunday, 25th October 2026**

 **12.00pm – 2.00pm**

Please make sure your child attends their proficiency evaluation.

For more information, visit <https://www.nipperswa.com.au/what-is-woodside-nippers/participant-requirements>

A QUICK REMINDER

Woodside Nippers is not a swimming lessons program.

Nippers need to have appropriate swimming ability before participating in water activities. We strongly recommend that children attend regular swimming lessons through an external provider to build and maintain their swimming skills.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT & SUPERVISION

 All Nippers **must** have a parent or carer on the beach and within sight of them at all times.

 **Under 6 & Under 7:** A parent or carer must be actively participating with their child throughout the activities.

 Parents and carers must remain available during all Nipper days and events and resume full responsibility for their child at the conclusion of activities.

 Please come dressed and ready to participate – including getting wet with your child!

 For more information, please read the Parent Guide for Woodside Nippers:

<https://www.nipperswa.com.au/what-is-woodside-nippers/parent-involvement/>

WATER SAFETY

 Our Water Safety Crew play an essential role in keeping Woodside Nippers safe during water activities.

 To provide water activities for all Nippers, we need adequate Water Safety Crew numbers. If numbers are low, this may limit how many children can enter the water at one time.

 A **minimum** ratio of 1 Water Safety Crew member to 10 children must be maintained for all age groups.

Get Involved.....

 Throughout the season, we run courses for parents and carers interested in upskilling and gaining SLSWA accreditation, including:  Nipper Rescue Certificate -  Surf Rescue Certificate -  Bronze Medallion

 You don't need to be an expert to get involved – we'd love to see more parents and carers supporting our Nippers and helping keep them safe in the water!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS...

 My child is currently 11 (12 in January). What age group will they be in?

Your child will be in Under 12, as age groups are determined by their age on 30 September.

 My child turns 5 in October. Can they join then?

Yes! A child may join as soon as they turn 5 years old, but not before, in line with SLISA insurance requirements.

If they turn 5 after 30 September, they may join for the remainder of that season but will remain in U6 again the following season.

 Can I drop my child at Woodside Nippers and leave the beach?

 **No.** A parent/carers must remain at the beach for the entire duration of Nippers.

 I have 3 children and can't be with all groups at the same time. What do I do?

 That's perfectly OK – many families are in the same situation!

 Parents of U6 & U7 children must always be with their group.

 For higher age groups, simply let the AGM know where you will be on the beach.