



**BALMORAL BEACH CLUB**  
**BBC Nippers - Safety Management Plan**  
Season 2018-2019

## **Event Safety Plan**

### **A. Intent of the plan and responsibility for event**

1. Intent
2. Responsibilities

### **B. Conditions Assessment**

1. Responsibility
2. Summary
3. Conditions Assessment

### **C. Event Running**

1. Responsibility
2. Summary
3. Equipment
4. Briefings
5. Waiver
6. Events

### **D. Rescue Plan**

1. Responsibility
2. Procedures

## **BBC Nippers - Safety Management Plan**

### **Introduction**

BBC Nippers is a nipper program conducted over 14 Sundays from October to March each summer. Entry is open to children of Members and non-members. Children are between the ages of 4 and 12.

Participants explicitly remain the responsibility of their parents/ guardians at all times. Parents/ guardians are required to be present at all times.

“ The primary aim of the Balmoral Beach Club (BBC) Nippers program is to provide children with a healthy and fun development program at the beach. The Nippers program relies on parents and volunteers to run the events “

### **A. Intent of the Plan & Responsibility for Events**

#### 1. Intent

The intention of the Event Safety Plan is to:

- Apply a set of standards to the running of the BBC Nippers Program that are able to be maintained simply, therefore, providing an appropriate level of safety.
- Allocate responsibilities for the Program.
- Provide a plan for risk management for the safety of Program participants.
- The plan is to be reviewed at the commencement of each summer season.

#### 2. Responsibilities

Convenors: The Balmoral Nippers Crew

The Convenors will be jointly responsible for implementing this plan.

## **B. Conditions Assessment**

1. Responsibility: The Convenors
2. Summary

The Convenors are responsible for ensuring a decision is formally made to run or cancel the Program on any given day. The decision is to be based upon the following:

- Consultation with experienced swimmers at the BBC.
- Conditions are assessed as per point 3 below.
- The Convenor is to assess if a 'conditions' warning is appropriate to issue to participants and parents/ guardians, due to abnormal and potentially hazardous conditions.
- Note that conditions at Edwards Beach are generally safe, given the protected nature of the Beach. Conditions requiring a warning to participants and parents/ guardians, modification of the Program, or cancellation of events are unusual, but potentially necessary.

3. Conditions Assessment

Prior to the event, the following should be considered in making a decision to run or cancel an event:

- Overall weather conditions
- Tide condition and swell size (if any)
- Wind direction and strength
- Location of rips and waves (if any)
- Stingers, sharks, water pollution

### **Conditions which may cause a convenor to cancel water-based events would be as follows:**

- High surf - greater than a 1.0m swell breaking at the beach (note this is a lower level than for the Seniors swims)
- Strong rips & turbulence as a result of high surf
- Pollution as a result of high rainfall over a number of days
- Receiving advice as to the presence of a shark

### **Conditions which may cause a convenor to cancel beach-based events would be as follows:**

- The presence or reasonable threat of lightening
- Pollution as a result of high rainfall over a number of days or other causes

### **C. Event running**

1. Responsibility: Convenors & Age Managers and designated helpers.

2. Summary

The Convenors, Age Managers and designated helpers all have a responsibility to ensure they have the appropriate equipment for running the Program.

3. Equipment

The following equipment is required for the effective running of the Program:

- First Aid Kit (located in the Nippers Tent on the Beach)
- Whistle (for attracting attention)
- Siren (for attracting attention in the case of emergency)
- Surf rescue boards – two boards per group (except 4's) to be located on the beach and to be used by groups boarding in water deeper than 1.5m
- Stretcher (located in the male change room)
- Rescue tubes (x12) (located with Age groups at points along the beach. Two tubes per group (except 4's)
- Beach Health and Safety notes (in Nippers packs)
- Resuscitation instructions (at the Nippers Tent)
- Notice to swimmers (read and agreed at point of registration)
- Telephone (located in the BBC office)
- Waiver forms (including Parent/ Guardian wording)
- St Johns Ambulance attendees

4. Briefings

- The Convenor is to convene a general briefing of Age Managers and Helpers prior to the commencement of each season.
- On any given day, the Convenor to assess if a 'conditions' warning is appropriate to issue to participants/ parents/ guardians, due to abnormal and potentially hazardous conditions.
- This warning should be given by the Convenor prior to the commencement of the events, advising of the unusual circumstances or hazard.
- The warning needs to be reiterated to participants/ parents/ guardians that participants swim at their own risk, and that they are to read the BBC 'Notice to participants' such that they understand the risk of the event.

## 5. Waiver

The parent/ guardian of each person participating in a BBC event is required to read, acknowledge and sign a personal waiver form. The form explains the risks and hazards a participant may encounter, the BBC requirements and obligations of a participant/ parent/ guardian, explains that the BBC does not provide lifesaver, rescue, first aid, or emergency assistance. In the case of the Nippers, the form is signed by a parent/ guardian and includes wording applicable to the role of parents/ guardians.

## 6. Events

### **General**

All Age Managers and Helpers are to wear clearly identifiable red rash vests.

Age groups limited to 110 participants and split between Girls and Boys – with an Age Manager to be responsible for each group.

### **4 year old age groups**

No water-based activities to take children out of their depth. No boarding or swimming activities. All activities to be limited to Edwards Beach – no activity to take place on grass reserve adjacent to beach or any other area.

If the participant is in the 4s then they will not be required to swim unassisted in the ocean.

### **5 year olds and up**

Any one individual swim or wade event to be limited to 30 participants.

Wades: One helper must be in the water for every 5 participants

Swims: One helper must be in the water with a rescue tube beyond the furthest point of the course.  
One helper must be in the water for every 5 participants.  
Participants to be counted before and after each swim event.

Boards: The Convenors may (if conditions permit it) allow the 5s to start to get familiar with the surf board paddle which will require one-on-one parental assistance at the time.

One helper to be on a rescue board beyond the furthest point of the course.

Beach volunteers as well as the person(s) on the rescue board(s) will have the responsibility of being 'lookouts' on swims/ board paddles, looking out for emergencies from the beach.

All participants in an age group of 5s or over need to be proficient at swimming in the ocean to participate. If the participant is not a highly competent ocean swimmer (i.e. can swim 100m in ocean unaided) but rather a capable swimmer a parent or guardian (that is a competent swimmer) will be required to be next to them in the water at all times. It is important to understand that Nippers is not "swimming lessons". It is strongly encouraged that all participants attend swimming lessons / squads at their local pool prior to and during the Nippers season.

#### **D. Rescue Plan**

##### **1. Responsibility**

The Convenors are responsible for the rescue plan.

##### **2. Qualified Persons Roster**

The Convenors will arrange and maintain a roster of first aid qualified persons, drawing from parents and guardians of nipper participants. A minimum of one and ideally two first aid qualified people will be designated as "on call" in case of an incident requiring medical attention.

##### **3. Procedures**

In the event of an emergency, the following procedures apply:

- A. Age Managers/ Convenors/ Parents/ Board paddlers are likely to spot any person in trouble. A whistle is to be blown, in 3 long blasts, at 10 second intervals, until personnel from the Club or the Nippers Tent, or from the Program are attracted, & advised of the nature of the incident/rescue required. The whistle will also attract the attention of the "on call" first aid qualified person.
- B. Beach volunteers are to call 000 from the Club phone, or from a mobile phone if necessary.
- C. Rescuers are to bring the patient to the beach using either the rescue tube, or the surf rescue board if applicable.
- D. First aid is to be administered until help arrives.