

Under 14's transition into Senior Carnivals and events

Background

The Surf Sport Standing Committee approved the following at the June 2015 meeting:

To come in line with the National Youth Championships, U14's to be transitioned into senior carnivals this season.

Due to the Youth Championships being introduced in the 2015 Australian Championships, some states included their U14's in their 2015 Senior State Championships. The SSSC felt that this was too disruptive to the season and would work towards inclusion of U14's into senior events in the 2015-16 season. There were a number of items discussed by the SSSC including issues and benefits highlighted in Circular C15046.

Following quite a significant amount of feedback from clubs and meetings conducted on August 13th and September 10th the information below has been compiled. There are a number of items where a consensus has been reached and therefore a "recommended approach" has been made. There are other items where more conversation or feedback was required to achieve a smooth transition. These are detailed below.

Recommended approach:

Following consultation it has been suggested that the items below are recommended as good practice to all clubs. These have also been supported by both the Surf Sport Standing Committee (SSSC) and the Youth Development Committee (YDC).

- Clubs maintain an 'Age Managers' for U14 and U15 athletes at senior carnivals. This person may be better titled 'Team Manager' or 'Age Group Coordinator' and has a critical role in the transition process.
- That U14's be retained in club junior trainings (e.g. Saturday Nippers). Thought be given to including U15's in training sessions with U14's if it suits the club needs and structures.
- A separate water arena is set up at senior carnivals for U14/U15's and a separate Area Referee appointed.
- That 'gender specific' events be conducted in each age group but composite teams be considered for smaller clubs.
- Consider implementing the Youth Engagement Program (YEP) for U14's upwards which can provide a structured program across sport, lifesaving and development.

Issues for further discussion:

The following information has been taken direct from club feedback, from YDC and SSSC meetings plus from discussions at sub-committee meetings.

Issue	Solution / action	Who
Double Dipping	<p>Double dipping was mainly regarding U13 competitors gaining their SRC during the season.</p> <p>It was recommended that there be no double dipping, no matter what the manual may allow. i.e. U13's are to compete in Juniors only and U14's are now to compete in Seniors. Similar to SLSA National Youth Champs.</p>	SSSC
Carnival Program/Timing	Short, sharp, efficient programmed events are a must. This group is used to the efficient conduct of carnivals via the junior carnival program.	Referee and Carnival Committee
Safety to remain paramount and adherence to water safety policy	<p>This is a non-negotiable and will continue to be the case. Extra IRB required at senior carnivals and, pending decision on early season award acceptance extra water cover may be required.</p> <p>Referee, Water Safety Officer and Carnival Committee to determine requirements suitable to the venue and conditions. Appropriate cover and attention to be provided to the Youth Area.</p> <p>Coaches and Age/Team Managers to ensure <u>capability of competitors</u> on the day of competition independent of any award or proficiency (discussed also below).</p>	Referee, Carnival Committee and Safety Officer
Carnival Venues	Would need to look at mid-coast early season. Also potential to conduct U14 – U17 youth event on mid-coast and then take U19-open to south coast. Possibly schedule a local metro twilight youth event then head to Mid-Coast.	SSSC
Events and Event Distances	<p>Decision on race distances to be made. (note: this still requires further work)</p> <p>Recommended that shorter racing distances is the overall goal for all competition therefore set cans accordingly. This could result in shorter race times, quicker carnivals or more racing depending on conditions and the desires of all concerned.</p> <p>Recommended that Beach flags (distance and break) and Sprints (distance) should be consistent with the National Youth Champs.</p> <p>The main point here is to promote this amongst competitors and coaches, remain fairly consistent and stick to this for most carnivals and state champs where venue and conditions allow.</p>	Referee and Carnival Committee
3 rd water area to be opened in Senior carnivals (as an U14/15 area)	Officials quota to change (will have more parents) Appropriate Referee(s) to be found	Referee and Carnival Committee
Proficiencies/Awards	Option to continue current process for U14 which is completion of proficiency swim and competition evaluation swim prior to first event.	Clubs SLSSA

	<p>Recommended that the status quo approach is maintained for U14's however Policy 5.4 applies for State and National Championships.</p> <p>This includes the proficiency swim being conducted prior to any water based training and competition evaluation conducted prior to any competition (see below).</p> <p>SRC / Award to be gained prior to close of State Championships entries and Policy 5.4 applies regarding Patrol Hours.</p> <p>Water Safety at Carnivals relevant to U14 non SRC award participants would apply. Refer Water Safety Policy 1.1. In this regard Clubs could be required to provide this water cover if their participants are not SRC qualified. Therefore it is recommended that SRC qualifications are attained as early as possible. Consider consolidated SRC courses.</p> <p>Refer also comment on Competitors Capability.</p>	
Team composition (age groups, gender, clubs)	<p>Strong support for gender specific at this age. If all separate age group events consideration must be given to smaller clubs for composite teams. Priority must be that all get the opportunity to compete.</p> <p>Individual Gender Specific Age Groups for U14 and U15 competition. Combined Gender Specific Teams (U14 and U15 competitors) competing as U15 events as per SLSA National Youth Champs.</p>	Referee and Carnival Committee
R&R	<p>2 person: U11, U13 at Juniors, U15 at Seniors. Recommended that 5 Person be U15 at Seniors (no 5 Person conducted at Juniors).</p>	Relevant Referees and Carnival Committee
Junior Life Saver of the Year	<p>2 awards – junior lifesaver of the year for U9-U13, awarded at junior states and for this year a separate U14 award. Following years to be award for U9-U13 and a youth lifesaver of the year (perhaps U14-15 or even U14-U17).</p>	SLSSA
Internal structures and practices within the club	<p>Benefits of group training in a structured, mentored environment where they can also be role models should not be underestimated Clubs to share ideas and thoughts on how they will structure.</p> <p>It will though be up to individual clubs as to how this is coordinated at the Club level. Clubs and YDC will continue to share programs and experiences that are working (or not) to promote best practice. The main point for this transition year will be to focus on this U14 group and ensure they have the best experience possible. Structure and support</p>	Clubs

	from Age / Team Managers, Coaches, Patrol Captains (where relevant) and Parents will be critical to this experience and successful transition. Maintain the focus on this Age Group.	
Fun and social aspects of events must be a focus	Potentially include novelty / fun events or some for purely participation. Must encourage male / female interaction and interaction between clubs	Referee and Carnival Committee
Club youth leadership (e.g. junior captain)	This can still be done especially if included in 'Saturday nippers'. Can potentially have a greater role at junior carnivals if not competing. Again this will be up to Clubs depending if they already have these roles (or not). Could have U13 and U 14 Captains this year in transition. May not be an issue for some Clubs.	Clubs
March Past	Allow U14s to contest the U17 event at senior carnivals Unfortunately we need to make a clear cut decision here. U14's to compete in Senior Carnival March Past as U17's. This could bolster competition in this area given they are usually still keen to March at that age and have trained through juniors for this event. They use the bigger reel as per U17 rules.	Relevant Referees and Carnival Committee
All Age Relays	Just go with the 5 age groups (U9-U13)	Referee and Carnival Committee
Sun Smart Policy	Should be promoted and adhered to but potentially not as strict as at junior carnivals Therefore strongly encouraged – not mandated. Discussion indicated that everyone at the carnivals need to have a responsible approach to Sun Smart behaviour and the arena set up should provide access to shade (and fluids) and officials should not hold competitors during marshalling or on the line for extended periods. If so, they use the shade or encourage competitors to cover up. Support from Age/Team Managers or Parents will assist with the younger age groups.	Referee and Carnival Committee SSSC
Rule variations (e.g. one break)	Firstly need to identify all anomalies and work through solutions. 'Break' rule identified and this was agreed to be consistent with the rules applied at the SLSA National Youth Champs.	Referee and Carnival Committee SSSC
Variations in physical capability and therefore readiness	Coaching becomes critical Refer also comment on Competitors Capability.	Clubs and coaches and age managers
Any other issues	Will be up to Clubs as to whether to call their adult	

	<p>support personnel Age Managers or Team Managers or Youth Coordinators but whatever they call them it is recommended that they are provided to ensure encouragement and support at Carnivals and some structure at training.</p> <p>Same with whether to combine U14's and U15's at training. Whether Sat's is a fun – social – training – junior water cover or patrol day and coaching is combined with Seniors or conducted at different times. This will be up to Clubs but we should continue to monitor this and share what works.</p>	
--	--	--

Surf Life Saving South Australia

Junior Preliminary Skills Assessment, Competition Skills Evaluation and Awards Summary

Age Group	Preliminary Skills Assessment	Competition Evaluation Ocean Timed Swim	Surf Education
Under 6	See over page (shallow water activities only)	Not Applicable	Surf Play 1
Under 7	See over page (shallow water activities only)	Not Applicable	Surf Play 2
Under 8	25 metre swim, (any stroke). 1 minute survival float.	Not Applicable	Surf Awareness 1
Under 9	25 metre swim, (any stroke). 1 minute survival float.	150m ocean swim within 12 minutes	Surf Awareness 2
Under 10	25 metre swim, (freestyle). One and half minutes survival float.	150m ocean swim within 11 minutes	Surf Safety 1
Under 11	50 metre swim, (freestyle). 2 minutes survival float.	288m ocean swim within 12 minutes	Surf Safety 2
Under 12	100 metre swim, (freestyle). 2 minutes survival float.	288m ocean swim within 10 minutes	Surf Smart 1
Under 13	150 metre swim, (freestyle). 3 minutes survival float.	288m ocean swim within 8 minutes	Surf Smart 2 and Resuscitation Certificate
Under 14	200 metre swim, (freestyle, in less than 5 minutes). 3 minutes survival float.	288m ocean swim within 8 minutes	Surf Rescue Certificate
Notes	<p>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.</p> <p>Any child that does not meet the required evaluation level will require a higher level of supervision when involved in water based activities at the discretion of the club.</p>	<p>SLSA MINIMUM STANDARD COMPETITION ASSESSMENT including SLSSA ADDITIONAL TIMED OCEAN SWIM</p> <p>Every child who wishes to compete in swimming and board paddling events at recognised SLSSA carnivals must complete this assessment.</p>	<p>These Surf Education Awards are encouraged to be completed each season by all junior members.</p> <p>If a child wishes to compete at State Titles then they must complete the relevant age Surf Education Award prior to entry into this event.</p>
Assessors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Endorsed Age Group Manager Level 1 Coach/Official Training Officer (Bronze/SRC) Assessor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level 2 Official Training Officer (Bronze/SRC) Assessor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Endorsed Age Group Manager Level 1 Coach/Official Training Officer (Bronze/SRC) Assessor Other Appropriate Qualified person (i.e. Experienced Bronze Medallion Holder, Patrol Captain)