

Junior Surf Program

Whakatane Surf Life Saving Club



Important Date Reminders

Auckland Anniversary Weekend- NO SUNDAY SESSION

January 31st- Friday Evening session 4.30-5.30pm

Saturday February 8th- Pukehina "Harris Cup" surf sport Carnival- whole club event (no Sunday session)

March 9th- Club Fund Day (last Sunday session for the year).

JANUARY to MARCH...

The Very Best Part!

We are thrilled to see how much your confidence has already grown (that goes for our parent helpers too) and we can't wait to see what else this summer holds for you!

The second part of our season starts this Sunday the 12th of January at 9.45am-10.45am. It is usually the warmest part of the season when we enjoy our water time just a little bit more and the days are sunny, warm and bright!

It is also when we introduce the opportunity to be involved in *surf sport* for those that are keen to have a go. Read below for a detailed description and explanation of *surf sport* if you want to know more. Everyone is **WARMLY** welcomed to have a go but there is absolutely no expectation for the Sunday Session kids to take part if they are not interested in this more competitive aspect of the junior surf program yet.

SURF LIFE SAVING “SURF SPORT”

Surf Sport is just the same types of water and beach activities your kids have already been practicing during our Sunday Sessions but now incorporates aspects of competition.

Different Surf Life Saving clubs from around the Bay of Plenty host “carnivals” where kids can come together to use their water skills to challenge themselves in a new beach environment. Being involved in *Surf Sport* can be a great opportunity to connect with other families from throughout the Bay of Plenty who, like you, are part of the their local Surf Club community and we often hear from families that their child was able to consolidate their learning and confidence from the Sunday sessions after attending a carnival during the summer.

In general, younger age groups compete in teams, while older age groups (U11 and above) compete individually and/or in teams. Examples of surf sport events are “beach flags”, running races, the “run-swim-run water course” and “the diamond water course”. Most of these events incorporate running, swimming and using a boogie board or knee board to go around a course set out in the water and on land.

Our club attends a handful of the local carnivals over the next three months. Some carnivals are specifically geared towards certain age groups and others include all ages. The carnivals that we attend as a club will be supported by at least one Junior Surf coach for the day but will require parental supervision on site at all times, transport to and from the events for your child and a willingness to volunteer to help with managing teams of kids on the day and transporting gear to/from our club.

Our philosophy with competition in junior sport is that it is an opportunity for your child to put themselves in a fun and safe situation where they can PRACTISE & LEARN how they effectively manage the emotions and experiences of failure, success and sportsmanship. Our expectation is that all those attending these events will mentor positive, effort focused and encouraging behavior and attitudes towards each other and themselves- our club is already known for this in the Bay and let’s keep it that way!

“SURF SPORT” CARNIVALS 2025

Papamoa Junior Surf Comp U8- U14s	January 19th	Papamoa SLSC
Eastern Regional Junior Surf Comp U11-U14s	Feb 1 and 2nd	Whakatane SLSC
Harris Cup Invitational Carnival U6-U14s	February 8th	Pukehina SLSC
Omanu Junior Surf Comp U8-U10s	February 16th	Omanu SLSC
Ocean’s Junior Surf Comp U11-U14s	February 20-23rd	The Mount SLSC
Whakatane Junior Surf Club Champs U6-U14s	March 2nd	Whakatane SLSC

In order to attend a *surf sport* carnival you will be asked to register on our website under the “carnivals” tab and pay an additional fee towards the hosting club. Whakatane Surf Club does not charge any additional fees to its members to attend carnivals above and beyond the hosting club fee. Teams can be arranged by the kids themselves or the Junior Surf coaches can make up teams and add your kids where a spot exists. More info will be give at Sunday surf as carnivals come up.

