

# A Beginner's Guide to Carnivals for Transition, Nippers and Nip-Nips (U6, U7, U8, U9, U10)

It's all a bit new and scary going to carnivals for the first time and even knowing what to expect. We thought you might like to know what we learned and maybe then you will feel like giving it a go!

A carnival consists of four events for Nippers (Under 8, Under 9 and Under 10), sometimes there is an opportunity to compete in a 5th event 'Diamond'.

The events- Flags, Sprints, Run-Wade-Run and Boogie board race. There are no surprises here. These are all the activities that we take part in at East End every Saturday morning. Your child will know what to do if they go on Sundays.

They will move around with their age/gender group for the carnival. E.g. all the U9 girls will be together from all clubs and move from event to event together, competing against each other.

You are required to let the EE club contact person know that you will be attending a carnival. This is important for U10 and above as we have to enter online by a set deadline. It is better to enter if you are not sure and pull out, than miss the cut off dates and not be able to enter at all.

## Nip-nips (under 7s and below)

Sometimes the host Surf club will run a different arena for the Nip-Nips, for approximately one hour. They will run sprints, flags and Run-Wade-Run too. This is very low key and fun, and there is no mention of placings. They will compete in age groups too. But all at the same arena. Usually siblings of older competitors take part in these. If you were going to travel just for this age group, check with the EE Junior Coordinator first in case it is not happening.

## What to wear

-the hats in the pic (compulsory)

-High vis vests in the pic (compulsory)

-togs/swimsuit

-a rash shirt for being sunsmart (it does not have to be an East End one, but it looks great to be part of the club if you can)

-wetsuits are optional, sometimes the hosting club will make a call depending on water temperature as to whether or not wetsuits are allowed. As a general rule, U10 and above don't wear wetsuits unless the water temperature is under a certain temp.



We always take our wetsuits. When our kids are due in the Water Arena, there is time to put it on, if you take it to them at the arena (don't take them away from events to get changed, go to them where they are). They may choose not to wear it on warm days.

**All Nip nips and Nippers, competitors need the hats in the pic.** These need to be purchased from East End- you can do this over the Bar about 9.45am on usual session mornings and if you get desperate and have forgotten there is sometimes the opportunity to get them about 7.15am from East End on the morning of the carnival.

### Arriving

When you arrive, find the East End tent and there will be a coach there - usually your same coach from Sunday sessions, but sometimes someone else will be allocated this role. So be prepared to be a bit flexible on this. You need to get U8, U9 or U10 written on your child's hand. You have to be under the age at midnight 30 September. E.g. If you are 8 in September, then you will compete in Under 9.

### Food

You are often asked to arrive at a time that is much earlier than the competition. There is usually a fun inter-club event involving parents/caregivers from each club that you may be asked to participate in (no pressure!!!). At Opunake there was a relay, at NPOB(Oakura) it was a Tug-of-War. So there is a bit of time to eat once you arrive, take this opportunity. Once the events start, there is no allocated eating/drink/toilet breaks. So it is good for you you carry a water bottle around if you think your child will need it and sometimes a quick light snack if the groups are big and there is a bit of waiting. Take a picnic lunch as your child/children will be hungry when they are finished!!! Each club will usually put on a sausage sizzle and this is usually free to competitors.

### Cost

There is no entry cost to competitors.

### What if I have kids in Nippers and Nip-Nips/or in different age groups?

For our first carnival, with more than one child and in different groups, we took an extra adult. Grandparents love it ;). If you have a child that is not very confident it is a good idea to follow that child until they feel comfortable. However, if you are not able to take another adult, parents from our club and other clubs can be really helpful. The other kids in the group can be a great help too! We have managed to zip from child to child to watch, but it can be a busy time.

So be prepared that even if both your children are in Nippers, they will be in different events if they are different ages. E.g. Your U8 daughter will maybe be at Sprints while your U9 child may be at Flags.

From time to time our club may be allocated an event to be in charge of. At NPOB the other weekend we were needed to help with Flags. Sometimes there is a small possibility that you may have to help and not watch your child for an event or two. This has only happened at one out of four carnivals we have been to, and even then we only missed watching one event.

### **200m badge**

This can be confusing. U10 competitors have the option of competing 'badged' or 'unbadged'. Badged means that you have successfully completed a 200m swim in under 8 minutes in the Bell Block pool, and then a 200m swim in the ocean on a Sunday morning. You will be told at training if your child requires this, check with the coach if you are not sure.

Unbadged U10s do the same events as U9s and U8s and use body boards.

Badged U10s compete in the same events as U11 and U12 with a 8" 10 board. The 200m badge is sewn on the competition hat and must be visible to the officials.

You cannot compete as a 'badged' U10 without it.

All U11, U12, U13 and U14 competitors require a 200m badge, so they have to complete the pool and ocean swims too.

There are toilets/changing rooms available at each event.

Carnivals are usually about 2 hours and the children are competing from approximately 10-12 noon, depending on numbers. Times can differ depending on tides.

### **Presentation**

There are ribbons for placings that are presented there on the day, or if you are unable to wait for prize giving these will be given to you at the next Sunday muster at 10.15am.

### **Flexible**

Carnivals are rarely cancelled. You have to be flexible as weather conditions, ocean conditions and event order changes can happen. On the day events can be modified, changed or cancelled in the best interests and safety of your child. So be prepared for this. Sometimes it can mean a location change mid competition.

Facebook - make sure you are signed up to [the East End Junior Surf](#) page. There is an East End one and a Junior one.

