



## Guidelines for Aquatic Activities

### Background

During the course of a school year, students will be involved in aquatic activities. If aquatic activities are to provide beneficial, enjoyable and safe experiences, it is essential that schools make students aware of the importance of water safety and equip students with the necessary skills for safety and survival.

### Types of Aquatic Activities

At Wollongong West Public School students may participate in:

- weekly learn to swim and water safety programs throughout Terms One and Four;
- annual swimming carnivals for students aged eight years and older; and
- recreational swimming incorporated into school excursions or camps for students in Stage Three.

### Parental/Carer Permission

For all aquatic programs and activities, parents will be informed of full details of the location, supervision to be provided and planned activities to be undertaken. Written permission from a parent/carers will be obtained for all students and an indication of a child's swimming ability will be recorded.

### Students with a Medical Attention or Disability

Parents/carers must disclose in writing any medical condition or disability of a student. A risk assessment will then be undertaken by the school to determine a child's level of participation in the aquatic activity and additional support required.

### Student Preparation

The preparation of students to be safe swimmers will vary according to the student's age, ability  
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and experience, the venue and the nature of the proposed swimming activity. Such preparation will include the following types of information and procedures:

- The essential safe practices for swimming at the venue.
- The boundaries of the swimming and out-of-water waiting, rest or playing area.
- How to use swimming aids and other equipment safely.
- Who to notify if leaving or returning to the water.
- Designation of recreation and rest areas when out of the water.
- What to do and or say if approached by an unwelcome member of the public.
- Any limitations to activities or play in the water.
- The sun protection measures which are appropriate.
- The response to any accident or other emergency that might occur.

## **Supervision**

A minimum of two adult supervisors, one of whom must be a teacher, with appropriate expertise and qualifications will be present at all times during aquatic activities. Factors such as age, ability, experience and maturity of the students and experience of the adult supervisors will be considered when arranging supervision.

Provisions for students when they are not swimming will be made that identify where these students should be, what they can do and how they are supervised.

Supervising teachers must observe the following procedures:

- The roll is to be taken before entrance and upon exit of the swimming facility.
- Students are to be counted regularly upon entering and exiting the water.
- Regular student counts are also to be performed during the aquatic activities.
- All students in the water will be continuously supervised.

For learn to swim classes, all instructors must possess the AUSTSWIM Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety qualification. The supervising school teacher will have current training in:

- training in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR); and
- training in emergency care

The ratios for supervision for learn to swim classes are

- Beginners - little or no experience 1 teacher: 10 students.

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- Intermediate - able to achieve basic survival skills 1teacher: 12 students.

For recreational swimming, the supervisor will hold current qualifications in one of the following:

- AUSTSWIM Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety Certificate;
- RLSSA Bronze Medallion;
- Swimming Teacher Rescue Award;
- SLSA Patrol Bronze Medallion; or
- SLSA Surf Rescue Certificate.

The supervising school teacher will have current training in:

- training in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR); and
- training in emergency care

The ratio for supervision for recreational swimming activities will not exceed 1 teacher: 20 students.

## **Changing of Students**

The supervising teacher will oversee the changing facilities. Parents/carers may assist with supervising the changing of younger students after signing in at the office and presenting appropriate proof of identification.

## **Emergency Procedures**

A resuscitation chart and a set of pool rules will be posted in a conspicuous location at the swimming facility.

Plans detailing emergency response procedures will be available at the venue and should include the location and telephone numbers of the nearest emergency services.

Emergency assistance equipment will be readily available at the facility. This includes appropriate rescue equipment, such as buoyancy and reaching aids. A first aid kit will be located on site

## **Venues**

Where aquatic facilities are used:

- Fencing around the pool will conform to Local Council and any other statutory requirements that apply.
- Signage will conform to relevant Australian Standards and meet all statutory requirements that apply.
- Water quality is monitored regularly to meet Department of Health standards.
- Pool, pool deck, fittings and fixtures will conform to any industry or statutory requirements that apply.