

Curriculum activity risk assessment

Snorkelling, Open Water

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Activity scope

This document relates to Snorkelling as a curriculum activity. This may include swimming on the surface of the water using snorkelling equipment, or breath-hold diving and swimming below the surface for a relatively sustained period of time.

This document refers to snorkelling undertaken at any venue other than a swimming pool. Where relevant, this guideline is to be read on conjunction with [Power Boating in Small Craft](#).



Risk level

This document is a guideline, the actual risk level will vary according to the specific circumstances of the activity and these **must** be considered when assessing the inherent risk level and planning the activity. As a starting point, ask the following questions:

- Which students will be involved?
- What will the students be doing?
- What will the students be using?
- Where will the students be?
- Who will be leading the activity?

Inherent risk level		Action required/approval
<input type="checkbox"/>	High	Likely chance of a serious incident and injury requiring medical treatment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A Curriculum Activity Risk Assessment must be completed. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Principal or delegated Deputy Principal or Head of Program (i.e. HOD, HOSES, HOC) to review and approve risk assessment. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Obtaining parental permission is recommended. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Once approved, activity details are to be entered into the <i>School Curriculum Activity Register</i>.

Teachers/leaders:

Activity description:

Start date:

Finish date:

No. of students (approx.):

Class groups:

Supervision ratio (approx.):

Listed below are the minimum recommendations for this type of activity. For any items ticked 'No', provide further information regarding the additional or alternate controls to be implemented for the safe conduct of the activity.

Minimum supervision

Adequate adult supervision is to be provided. In determining what is adequate, consider the number of students, their individual needs, and the nature of the activity. If an adult other than a registered teacher is engaged for instruction, a teacher should be present to take overall responsibility. [Blue Card](#) requirements **must** be adhered to.

Supervisors should be knowledgeable of the requirements of the [Recreational Diving, Recreational Technical Diving and Snorkelling Code of Practice 2010](#) (the Code). The Code directs that for a group of 10 or less snorkellers, the supervisor may also be the guide and lookout. With groups over 10, a separate person must be identified as the lookout.

The Code also directs that students/parents be advised that snorkelling is a dangerous activity and that those participating must, if they have a medical condition that may impact on their safety, be cleared by a medical practitioner, to do so.

Registered teacher with minimum qualifications as outlined below

OR

An adult with minimum qualifications as outlined below, in the presence of a registered teacher.

Two adults including:

a registered teacher

one adult with the minimum qualifications outlined below

two adults ready to enter the water at ALL times.

Note: Additional adult supervision may be required depending on:

- individual needs and number of students
- conditions/characteristics of the dive (site/route) plan
- profile of the group including their degree of training and experience
- purpose of the activity
- experience of the leader(s).

Further information:

Minimum qualifications

The qualifications listed in this section are minimums for each type of situation. Leaders are encouraged to seek training to raise their qualification level above the minimum listed.

- Current first aid qualifications including Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)
 - If within one hour from definitive medical care, senior first aid qualifications are required
 - If beyond one hour from definitive medical care, an advanced wilderness/remote first aid qualification is required.
- [Blue Card](#) requirements met.

For a registered teacher:

- A statement of attainment from a registered training organisation covering the following units of competence:
 - SISOSNK201A Demonstrate snorkelling activities
 - SISOSNK302A Guide snorkelling activities
 - SRCAQU003A Respond to an aquatic emergency using basic water rescue techniques
 - SISOSNK303A Instruct snorkelling skills
- OR**
- Certificate III in Sport and Recreation or Outdoor Recreation or a Diploma of Outdoor Recreation, with specialisations in appropriate activities
- OR**
- a registered leader, under the National Outdoor Leader Registration Scheme, at the level of snorkelling/wildlife swims guide
- OR**
- [Associated Underwater Scuba Instructor](#) (AUSI) Guide accreditation
- OR**
- [National Association of Underwater Instructors](#) (NAUI) Snorkelling Instructor
- OR**
- a statement of attainment from a registered training organisation covering the following unit of competence:
 - SISOSNK403A Instruct snorkelling skills
- OR**
- a level two NCAS Snorkel Coach
- OR**
- competency in National Association of SCUBA Diving Schools (NASDS) – assistant SCUBA instructor
- OR**
- competency in SCUBA Schools International (SSI) – snorkel instructor, dive controller or associate instructor
- OR**
- competency in [Professional Association of Diving Instructors](#) (PADI) or NAUI – assistant scuba instructor
- OR**
- [Australian Underwater Federation](#) (AUF) snorkelling coaching qualification and appropriate rescue/resuscitation qualification being any of the following:
 - surf bronze medallion
 - surf rescue certificate
 - any in water SCUBA rescue qualification
 - lifesaving bronze
 - rescue diver qualification or higher qualification.

It is recommended that teachers hold an oxygen provider qualification such as the [Royal Life Saving Queensland's](#) Oxygen Equipment Resuscitation award.

Minimum qualifications

The qualifications listed in this section are minimums for each type of situation. Leaders are encouraged to seek training to raise their qualification level above the minimum listed.

For a leader other than a registered teacher:

- a statement of attainment for a nationally recognised course, at snorkelling guide level, from a Registered Training Organisation
 - OR**
 - Certificate III in Sport and Recreation or Outdoor Recreation or a Diploma of Outdoor Recreation, with specialisations in appropriate activities
 - OR**
 - a registered leader under the National Outdoor Leader Registration, at the level of snorkelling/wildlife swims guide
 - OR**
 - a level two NCAS Snorkel Coach
 - OR**
 - competency in National Association of SCUBA Diving Schools (NASDS) – assistant SCUBA instructor
 - OR**
 - competency in SCUBA Schools International (SSI) – snorkel instructor, dive controller or associate instructor
 - OR**
 - competency in [Professional Association of Diving Instructors](#) (PADI) and [National Association of Underwater Instructors](#) (NAUI) – assistant SCUBA instructor
 - OR**
 - Australian Underwater Federation (AUF) snorkelling coaching qualification and appropriate rescue/resuscitation qualification being any of the following:
 - surf bronze medallion
 - surf rescue certificate
 - any in water SCUBA rescue qualification
 - lifesaving bronze
 - rescue diver qualification or higher qualification
 - AND**
 - oxygen provider qualification.
- Support staff (assistants such as teacher aides, or inducted volunteers such as accompanying teachers who bring their students to a supervised camp) **must** be at least 17 years of age and **must** have completed a snorkelling induction specific to the site or hold an approved entry-level snorkel qualification.

Further information:

Minimum equipment/facilities <i>If 'No' is ticked, provide further information.</i>	Yes	No
First aid kit suitable for activity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communication system: <input type="checkbox"/> phone-line at location <input type="checkbox"/> mobile phone <input type="checkbox"/> walkie talkies/UHF radio <input type="checkbox"/> student/adult messenger Other:		
Access to oxygen How a teacher will be able to access oxygen, if necessary, must be clearly identified in their risk assessment to meet the requirement of the Recreational Diving, Recreational Technical Diving and Snorkelling Code of Practice 2010 section 2.2.4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sun safety equipment (hat, sunscreen, shirt etc)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dive flags	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drinking water (students should not share drinking containers)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flotation and reaching aids (reaching aids may include light-weight poles, dive flag, noodles or ropes with a float attached)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Further information:		

Governing bodies/associations	Yes	No
Guidelines/codes of practice are established for this activity. See: Marine Teachers' Association of Queensland , Recreational Diving, Recreational Technical Diving and Snorkelling Code of Practice 2010 , Safety in Recreational Water Activities Bill 2011 and review other industry websites, e.g. AUF , AUSI . Have these been considered during the planning of this activity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Further information:		

Hazards and suggested control measures

All persons engaging in this activity should:

- identify the hazards, including any additional hazards not mentioned here
- assess their significance
- manage the potential risks.

Listed below are indicative hazards/risks and suggested control measures. They are by no means exhaustive lists. After checking these, add details of any other identified hazards/risks and additional controls you intend to implement.

Hazards/risks	Control measures	Yes	No	Implementation plan/ Additional controls
Animal bites/diseases <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine stingers • Dangerous animals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adhere to the Surf Life Saving Queensland Marine Stinger Risk Management Guidelines. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Biological material <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bodily fluids (e.g. blood, sweat, saliva) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comply with Infection Control Guideline. Students with open cuts and abrasions are to be removed from the activity and treated immediately. If bleeding cannot be controlled completely, the participant should not be allowed to return to the activity. All clothing, equipment and surfaces contaminated by blood should be treated as potentially infectious. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Environmental conditions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tides • Weather • Temperature • Visibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess weather conditions (e.g. temperature, storms) before and during activity. • Select dive location having regard for the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ depth of water ○ tidal flow and currents ○ visibility ○ water temperature ○ underwater vegetation ○ marine life ○ protection from watercraft. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Physical exertion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strains and sprains • Cramps • Exhaustion and fatigue • Shallow water blackout 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that appropriate warm-up and warm-down exercises are implemented. • Follow progressive and sequential skills development. • Continuously monitor students for signs of fatigue and exhaustion. • Advise students against hyperventilation 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Hazards/risks	Control measures	Yes	No	Implementation plan/ Additional controls
Students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special needs • High risk behaviours • Medical conditions • Student left behind 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain parental permission, including medical information. • When students with medical conditions are involved, ensure that relevant medical/emergency plans and medications are readily available (insulin, Ventolin®, Epipen®, etc). • Where necessary, obtain advice from relevant advisory visiting teachers or specialist teachers. • Ensure there is adequate adult supervision. • Ensure systems are in place to monitor student numbers. • Refer to Individual education plan/Educational adjustment plan/Behaviour management plan and other student documents. • Jewellery can be a serious hazard when undertaking many activities. All forms of jewellery should be considered in terms of the risk it presents for each activity. Procedures should be put in place to ban, dissuade or protect (e.g. tape) the wearing of jewellery accordingly. 	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Water <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of drowning • Panic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure students participating are suitability competent. • Adhere to Recreational Swimming guideline. • Adhere to Guidelines For Managing Risks in Recreational Water. • Adhere to Recreational Diving, Recreational Technical Diving and Snorkelling Code of Practice 2010. 	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Vehicles/Vessels <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boats and other sea craft 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continually assess threat of vehicles/vessels. • Consult appropriate documents, such as zoning plans produced by the Department of Environment and Resource Management or other relevant authority. 	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	

Additional control measures

These would relate to the specific student needs, location and conditions in which you are conducting your activity.

Hazards/risks	Control measures

Submitted by:	Date:
List the names of those who were involved in the preparation of this risk assessment.	

Approval	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Approved as submitted:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Approved with the following condition(s):
<input type="checkbox"/>	Not approved for the following reason(s):
By:	Designation:
Signed:	Date:
Once approved, activity details should be entered into the <i>School Curriculum Activity Register</i> by administrative staff.	Reference no.

Monitor and review <i>To be completed during and/or after the activity and/or at the completion of the series of activities.</i>	Yes	No
Are the control measures still effective?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have there been any changes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are further actions required?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Details:		

Important links

- HLS-PR-003: First Aid
<http://education.qld.gov.au/strategic/eppr/health/hlspr003/>
- HLS-PR-004: Infection Control and Management of Prescribed Contagious Conditions
<http://education.qld.gov.au/strategic/eppr/health/hlspr004/>
- HLS-PR-005: Health and Safety Incident Recording and Notification
<http://education.qld.gov.au/strategic/eppr/health/hlspr005/>
- HRM-PR-010: Working with Children Check – Blue Cards
<http://education.qld.gov.au/strategic/eppr/hr/hrmpr010/>
- HLS-PR-013: Developing a Sun Safety Strategy
<http://education.qld.gov.au/strategic/eppr/health/hlspr013/>
- SCM-PR-002: School Excursions
<http://education.qld.gov.au/strategic/eppr/schools/scmpr002/>
- Infection Control Guideline
http://education.qld.gov.au/health/pdfs/healthsafety/infection_control_guideline.pdf
- Recreational Diving, Recreational Technical Diving and Snorkelling Code of Practice 2010
http://www.deir.qld.gov.au/workplace/resources/pdfs/divingrecreational_code2010.pdf
- Department of Environment and Resource Management
<http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/>
- Surf Life Saving Queensland Marine Stinger Risk Management Guidelines
<http://www.thesurfclub.com.au/slsc/documents/MarineStingerRiskManagement23-08-08FINAL.pdf>
- Guidelines For Managing Risks in Recreational Water
http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files_nhmrc/file/publications/synopses/eh38.pdf
- Maritime Safety Queensland
<http://www.msg.qld.gov.au>
- Maritime Teachers' Association of Queensland
<http://www.marineteachers.org.au/>
- Tallebudgera Beach Outdoor Education School – RPL frequently asked questions
http://www.talloec.eq.edu.au/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/snorkelling_CARA_v1.1.doc
- *Safety in Recreational Water Activities Bill 2011*
<http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/Bills/53PDF/2011/SafeRecWAB11.pdf>

Further information

For further information on incorporating risk management strategies into curriculum activity planning refer to [HLS-PR-012 Managing Risks in School Curriculum Activities](#) and the associated list of [Curriculum Activity Risk Management Guidelines](#).

For further support with risk management training and advice, contact trained staff in schools such as Workplace Health and Safety Officers (WHSOs) and Workplace Health and Safety Representatives (WHSRs), and regional staff such as Senior Health and Safety Consultants.