

Junior Preliminary Skills Evaluation

July 2014



Introduction

Many activities that will be completed by children as part of junior activities will be conducted in the water. To ensure that all children have a suitable swimming ability to allow them to participate in these activities, SLSQ has developed a Junior Preliminary Skills Evaluation for each age group.

All distances set out in the Junior Preliminary Skills Evaluations are the standard. Some Branches may set distances above the standard. Please ensure that you liaise with your respective Branch for confirmation of their specified requirements.

Before the commencement of any water based lifesaving training a documented risk assessment must be carried out on the selected area. Refer to the SLSA Water Safety Policy for the form.

Pool Evaluation

Every junior member is required to participate in the Pool Evaluation, prior to any junior activities being undertaken. It includes a pool swim, and a timed survival float. This would normally occur at the very first training session. If not this must be completed before any water activity is undertaken. The intent of this is to conduct an evaluation of each junior member's swimming and water survival ability for the information of the member, parent, and age manager.

Conducting the Pool Evaluation

The Pool Evaluation must be conducted in a safe constructed pool environment with a water safety ratio as per the SLSA Water Safety Policy. A 1:5 water safety ratio is to be implemented for all members under evaluation.

Only a current SLSA Assessor (SRC/ Bronze), Junior Activities Accreditation Officer, SLSA Development Surf Coach, AUSTSWIM Instructor or a Bronze Accredited Swim Coach can determine if a child is competent at the pool evaluation. Surf or Swim Coaches must sign the SLSQ Junior Activities Preliminary Pool Evaluation Endorsement Form. Note - swim or surf coaches must provide proof to their local branch of their accreditation. SLSA Assessors or a SLSQ Junior Activities Accreditation Officer must sign the necessary SurfGuard form.

Following the Pool Evaluation

Any child that does not meet the required Pool Evaluation level cannot participate in any junior activities until the child can successfully complete the Pool Evaluation. Further it is advised that club's liaise with parents to suggest that external swim training be provided to improve the child's swimming ability.

Any child that does complete the Pool Evaluation successfully must then complete the Competency Beach Evaluation (Run Swim Run).

Competency Beach Evaluation (Run-Swim-Run)

Every junior activities member must also complete the Competency Beach Evaluation (Run-Swim-Run) prior to any junior activities competition being undertaken, and prior to gaining their age award. This ensures that all children can demonstrate a standard of competence to enable preliminary levels of survival skills at a beach with conditions similar to what would be experienced during weekly junior activities programs. This is an SLSQ standard.

***NOTE:** It is not an assessment which if not completed competently precludes the child from becoming a member or continuing with junior development or training activities.*

Conducting the Beach Evaluation

The Beach Evaluation (Run Swim Run) must be conducted in a safe beach environment with a recommended water safety ratio 1:5, as per the SLSA Water Safety Policy, at a beach with conditions similar to what would be experienced during weekly junior activities programs.

Only a current SLSA Assessor (SRC/ Bronze) or a Junior Activities Accreditation Officer can determine if a child can competently complete the Beach Evaluation (Run Swim Run). The Assessor or Accreditation Officer must personally view all competencies performed.

Following the Beach Evaluation

Any child that does not meet the required beach evaluation level, and have it recorded on SurfGuard, will require a higher level of supervision when involved in water based activities at the discretion of the club. It is a requirement that these children must be supervised with a 1:1 ratio until the child can successfully complete the Beach Evaluation (Run Swim Run).

Those juniors who do not complete the Competency Beach Evaluation (Run-Swim-Run) and have it recorded on SurfGuard are ineligible to partake in intra-club water based competition and cannot gain their relevant junior age award. There may be limits applied to the number of times that a child can attempt the Beach Evaluation (Run-Swim-Run) during the season, based on the capability of the club/ branch to manage the assessments.

Any child that does complete the Beach Evaluation (Run-Swim-Run) successfully is eligible to continue participating in all learning outcomes for their respective age award and can progress to age group appropriate water based junior activities noting the SLSA Water Safety Policy requirements.

Should the child wish to compete in inter-club competition they must complete the Junior Competition Evaluation.

Junior Competition Evaluation

From the age of 7 (Under 8) juniors may begin to compete in inter-club competition. To ensure that all junior members who wish to compete have the ability, strength, and fitness standard to complete the course they must be able to complete the junior competition evaluation for their age group.

The junior competition evaluation is based on the swim competition distances as set out in the current SLSA Australian Surf Sports Manual for that age group and is a standard in the form of an open water swim. Individual branches may have a higher standard for their competition evaluation. Contact the relevant Branch office for confirmation.

Intra Club Training

For children who don't want to participate in inter-club activities, Clubs are encouraged to conduct intra-club swimming and board training and competition related events in a progressively challenging but safe environment regarding distances, water safety personnel and in relation to the abilities of their junior members.

This intra-club environment is where club's should really encourage their juniors to challenge their personal skills and abilities and progressively work towards competently completing the official carnival competition distance in swimming, board, multi-discipline and relay related events if they wish to pursue inter-club competition.

The intra-club environment is where age managers and water safety personnel can more closely assess and manage their own members swimming or board paddling skill level.

Junior Preliminary Skills Evaluation Table

The distances below are the standard. Some Branches may set distances above the standard. Please ensure that you liaise with your respective Branch to meet their standard.

	Preliminary Evaluations		Competition Evaluation	Age Award
	Pool Evaluation	Competency Beach Evaluation (Run-Swim-Run)		
Water Safety	1:5	1:5	1:5	1:5
Under 6	Kick on wall with face in water 30 second float	Nil (shallow water activities only)	NA (No Competition)	Surf Play 1
Under 7	Torpedo (push off wall) with face in the water 30 second float	Nil (shallow water activities only)	NA (No Competition)	Surf Play 2
Under 8	25 metre swim (freestyle) 1 minute survival float	25m-25m-25m Run-Wade-Run	25m x 25m x 25m Run - Wade - Run	Surf Aware 1
Under 9	50 metre swim (freestyle) 1 minute survival float	50m-50m-50m Run-Swim-Run	Minimum 150m open water swim (competition course distance as per competition manual)	Surf Aware 2
Under 10	50 metre swim (freestyle) 1.5 minute survival float	50m-50m-50m Run-Swim-Run	Minimum 150m open water swim (competition course distance as per competition manual)	Surf Safe 1
Under 11	100 metre swim (freestyle) 2 minute survival float	50m-100m-50m Run-Swim-Run	Minimum 288m open water swim (competition course distance as per competition manual)	Surf Safe 2
Under 12	100 metre swim (freestyle) 2 minute survival float	50m-100m-50m Run-Swim-Run	Minimum 288m open water swim (competition course distance as per competition manual)	Surf Smart 1
Under 13	150 metre swim (freestyle) 3 minute survival float	100m-100m-100m Run-Swim-Run	Minimum 288m open water swim (competition course distance as per competition manual)	Surf Smart 2
Under 14	200 metre swim (freestyle, in less than 5 minutes) 3 minute survival float	100m-100m-100m Run-Swim-Run	Minimum 288m open water swim (competition course distance as per competition manual)	Surf Rescue Certificate (MUST be assessed by SRC/Bronze Assessor)
Assessor	Bronze Accredited Swim Coach; OR SLSA Level 1 Surf Coach; OR AUSTSWIM Instructor; OR Junior Activities Accreditation Officer; OR Assessor (SRC/Bronze).	Assessor (SRC/Bronze) Junior Activities Accreditation Officer		
Notes	<i>Every junior member must successfully Complete the Pool Evaluation, prior to undertaking competency beach evaluation. This is a standard water proficiency requirement.</i>	<i>Every junior member must successfully complete the Beach Evaluation prior to undertaking the competition evaluation. Any child that does not meet the required evaluation level will require a higher level of supervision when involved in water based activities.</i>	<i>The competition evaluation must be achieved before being eligible to compete in inter-club competition. This is a standard open water proficiency requirement. Distances may be adjusted by the Chief Assessor dependent on risk assessment.</i>	<i>If a child wishes to compete in a Branch and/or State Championship event, their respective age award must be completed prior to close of nominations.</i>

