



Surf Life Saving Australia - Circular

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Proficiency Testing requirements for 2009/2010 season

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Summary

This circular provides minimum proficiency test requirements for the 2009/10 season.

From

Craig Delahoy
National Education Manager

Peter George AM
National Director of Lifesaving

All active lifesavers are required to complete a proficiency test to prove competency in the lifesaving award/s they hold and wish to remain current in as per this circular. Proficiency tests are necessary to:

- ensure ongoing competency of members in their area of training and activities
- maintain the standards of knowledge and expertise of surf life savers
- satisfy legal and statutory requirements
- reinforce and maintain our service commitment to the bathing and beach going community

A member's proficiency is valid until the 31st December each year (31 July in the NT) unless stated otherwise in Surfguard or via Circular (e.g some awards have a two year proficiency requirement).

When a proficiency check is successfully completed (or a member gains a relevant award after 30 June, in a particular year) the proficiency or qualification is current until 31st December in the following season.

Directors of Lifesaving may include additional checks in cases where there is doubt of a member's proficiency in aspects of another award.

A member may at anytime during the season be requested to complete an additional proficiency check by the Club, or authorised SLS Official. A member who fails a proficiency check at anytime during the season is deemed to be non-proficient until such time as another proficiency check is completed successfully. Further, this member cannot participate in patrol activities or compete at carnivals until the proficiency check has been completed successfully.

Any member who did not successfully complete the appropriate proficiency check in the immediate season prior, is not permitted to patrol or compete until such time as a proficiency check is completed successfully.



Members who are wishing to return to active surf lifesaving duties and already hold an SLSA award previously obtained through Surf Lifesaving can participate in an in-depth proficiency with a qualified Assessor. The Assessor must conduct a gap analysis to determine what differences occur between the award as it currently stands and what skill and knowledge the award consisted of at the time the member was last proficient.

If the gap analysis determines there is a gap in skill and/or knowledge, the candidate may be required to undertake training and assessment in the gap(s) identified. For example – a member may have obtained their Bronze Medallion when the use of oxygen therapy was not taught therefore the member would have to be trained and assessed in this skill and knowledge.

Each State/Territory will be responsible for describing the appointment of Assessors for proficiency testing.

The requirements below detail the **minimum national requirements** as ratified by the National Board of Lifesaving. Additional requirements may be included by the State/Territory Director of Lifesaving.

AQUATIC RESCUE AWARDS

Surf Rescue Certificate and Bronze Medallion Proficiencies

The proficiency test for the Surf Rescue Certificate and Bronze Medallion for the 2009/10 season will be:

- Run Swim Run (timed)
- Resuscitation (CPR).
- Signals – 10 correct
- Rescue (1 of either Board or Tube)

Run Swim Run

Run distances and Swim distances for the Surf Rescue Certificate and Bronze Medallion:

- Be taken from waist deep water, e.g. the run is from a flag, around a marker and to waist deep water, the swim is from waist deep water around two swimming buoys and back to waist deep water
- Course must be around two swimming buoys

Distances

Surf Rescue Certificate	100m Run / 100m Swim / 100m Run
Bronze Medallion	200m Run / 200m Swim / 200m Run

Time

Surf Rescue Certificate	To be completed in 5 minutes or less
Bronze Medallion	To be completed in 8 minutes or less

Resuscitation

A patient assessment on a live patient and demonstration of lateral position.

CPR, 1 and 2 people (adult or child or infant) on a manikin. To include resuscitation using a mask with oxygen supplement.



Defibrillation

Defibrillator awareness and use should be included in the 2009/10 proficient test for existing patrolling members and must be included in the 2010/11 proficiency test so that all active patrolling members will be proficient in the use by 31 December 2010. This awareness and use should take the form of a short workshop and practice in application of pads and safety awareness during a resuscitation scenario.

Signals

Surf Rescue Certificate and Bronze Medallion holders must demonstrate 10 correct signals as determined by the Assessor conducting the proficiency.

Rescue

Surf Rescue Certificate and Bronze Medallion holder must demonstrate a rescue, using either a rescue tube or a rescue board, according to SLSA operating procedures in the current Public Safety and Aquatic Rescue Training Manual. The rescue must consist of the following events being assessed:

1. Negotiating the surf zone
2. Securing the patient
3. Returning to shore with the patient
4. Calling for assistance

The Assessor may request the candidate to conduct a patient assessment on the beach. The member may choose the rescue equipment and can use flippers during the tube rescue.

Gold Medallion (Advanced Lifesaving) Proficiencies

The Gold Medallion is only to be assessed by an assessor appointed on an annual basis by the Branch/State Director of Lifesaving (or equivalent). Assessors who are appointed must be noted in the Branch/State minutes annually.

The proficiency test for the Gold Medallion for the 2009/10 season will be:

- Pool Swim (timed)
- Mission Test (timed)
- Rescue (Board and Tube, and complex rescue scenario)

A member must be proficient in the Silver Medallion (Advanced Emergency Care) pre-requisites [i.e the Advanced Resuscitation Certificate or Advanced Resuscitation Techniques Certificate and the Senior First Aid certificate] before completing Gold Medallion proficiency and remain current in this award for the Gold Medallion to remain current. If this award proficiency lapses during the season, even after successful completion of the Gold Medallion, then the member will become non-proficient in the Gold Medallion.

Pool Swim

The member must complete an 800 metre swim in 14 minutes or less in a swimming pool of not less than 25 metres. The pool swim must be completed before any other component of a Gold Medallion proficiency.

Mission Test

Run distances and aquatic distances for the Gold Medallion:

- Be taken from waist deep water, e.g. the run is from a flag, around a marker and to waist deep water, the aquatic components are from waist deep water around two swimming buoys and back to waist deep water
- Aquatic course must be around two swimming buoys



Distances

Gold Medallion Mission 400m swim, 800m run, 400m board paddle, and 800m run

Time

Gold Medallion Mission 25 minutes or less

Rescue

Gold Medallion holder must demonstrate being able to conduct a board and tube rescue according to SLSA operating procedures in the current Public Safety and Aquatic Rescue Training Manual.

Tube Rescue

Complete a tube rescue of a patient 100 meters out to sea and return.
Member may use flippers during this rescue

Board Rescue

Complete a board rescue of a patient 200 meters out to sea and return.

Complex Rescue Scenario

Gold Medallion holder must demonstrate being able to conduct a complex rescue scenario as set by the Assessor according to the SLSA operational procedures in the current Public Safety and Aquatic Rescue Training Manual.

The rescue must consist of the following events being assessed:

1. Negotiating the surf zone
2. Securing the patient
3. Returning to shore without losing the patient
4. Calling for assistance
5. Performing emergency care as required by the patient

EMERGENCY CARE AWARDS

Resuscitation Certificate

Award holders must successfully complete a proficiency check, showing their competence in resuscitation techniques including:

- A patient assessment on a live patient and demonstration of lateral position
- DRABCD, CPR 1 and 2 person (adult or child or infant) on a manikin – to include resuscitation methods using a mask

Awards involving resuscitation are to be assessed annually. Once proficiency is achieved, resuscitation in other award proficiencies is not required.

NOTE: Even if a member has been deemed proficient in resuscitation, they must still demonstrate proficiency in conducting resuscitation in conjunction with equipment associated with the award being assessed. i.e. Advanced Resuscitation Techniques Certificate.



Advanced Resuscitation Certificate (ARC)

Award holders must successfully complete a proficiency check, showing their competence in:

- resuscitation techniques, AND
- Oxy Viva operation, AND
- the insertion of an Oropharyngeal Airway

NOTE: An ARC proficiency DOES NOT include assessing the application of a neck brace as this now sits in the Spinal Management award and proficiency.

A member may complete their Resuscitation Certificate proficiency as part of their ARC proficiency, if not already assessed in another award.

Resuscitation

(as per Resuscitation Certificate above)

REMEMBER: If a member has already completed an award that required Resuscitation to be assessed i.e. Bronze Medallion, they are considered to be proficient.

Oxy Viva Operation

Use of air bag resuscitator on conscious/unconscious patient(s) during resuscitation scenario, e.g. therapy and resuscitation.

Oropharyngeal Airways

Correct measurement and insertion of an Oropharyngeal Airway (on a manikin where possible). Candidates must have an understanding of when and why an airway is introduced into resuscitation.

NOTE: The 2009/10 season is the last season in which clubs should be issuing this award. Following the 2009/10 season, holders of this award should be transitioned into the new Advanced Resuscitation Techniques (ART) Certificate, as outlined in the Advanced Resuscitation Techniques Implementation circular.

Defibrillation Certificate

Award holders must successfully complete a proficiency check, showing their competence in:

- Resuscitation techniques, AND
- Defibrillator operation.

A member may complete their Resuscitation Certificate proficiency as part of their Defibrillation proficiency, if not already assessed in another award.

Resuscitation

(as per Resuscitation Certificate above)

REMEMBER: If a member has already completed an award that required Resuscitation to be assessed i.e. Bronze Medallion, they are considered to be proficient.

Defibrillator Operation

- Demonstrating knowledge, and skill, in safety precautions associated with using a Defibrillator.
- Use of defibrillator on an unconscious patient(s) as part of a resuscitation scenario.

NOTE: The 2009/10 season is the last season in which clubs should be issuing this award. Following the 2009/10 season, holders of this award should be transitioned into the new Advanced Resuscitation Techniques (ART) Certificate, as outlined in the Advanced Resuscitation Techniques Implementation circular.



Spinal Management Certificate

All Spinal Management holders must have successfully completed the following proficiency checks:

- Demonstrating placing a patient on a spinal board in a surf environment and on land.
 - This may require multiple scenarios to enable each person to demonstrate competence.
- Application of cervical collar on a patient
 - This may occur during the above scenarios clearly identifying how to correctly measure and apply a cervical collar

Silver Medallion – Advanced Emergency Care

A member must remain proficient in:

- Advanced Resuscitation Certificate AND
- Senior First Aid certificate AND

to remain proficient in the Silver Medallion – Advanced Emergency Care.

POWERCRAFT AWARDS

IRB Crewperson, Silver Medallion (IRB Driver) and RWC Operator

All IRB Crewperson, Silver Medallion (IRB Driver) and RWC Operator must demonstrate proficiency in the pre-requisite awards associated with the award:

IRB Crewperson

- Proficient Bronze Medallion

Silver Medallion (IRB Driver)

- Proficient Bronze Medallion
- Proficient IRB Crewperson
- Hold a current state/territory boat licence (where applicable)

RWC Operator

- Proficient Bronze Medallion
- Hold a current state/territory boat/pwc licence (where applicable)
- Additional State/Territory pre-requisites

The National Board of Lifesaving agreed that not all crewperson and/or drivers necessarily need to demonstrate skills in a “one off” proficiency test and that many may be seen as proficient via demonstration of competency during the operational activities. Proficiency of crewperson and/or drivers of craft may be able to be assessed in numerous ways such as through the use of log books and club/service powercraft officer recommendation.

IRB Crew

The proficiency of this award may be able to be assessed in numerous ways such as through the use of log books and club/service powercraft officer recommendation.

IRB crew who completed the in-depth proficiency or obtained the IRB crew award (15yo+) over the last two seasons will need to complete the following:



- Questions on safety and the SLSA Powercraft Code of Conduct.
- Demonstrate effective and safe crewing practice and ability including but not limited to:
 - Parallel running,
 - Figures eight,
 - Response to signals,
 - Negotiation of surf as required.
 - Other crewing skills to be deemed as competent.
 - Demonstrate patient rescue.

Silver Medallion (IRB Driver) and RWC Operator

The proficiency of this award may be able to be assessed in numerous ways such as through the use of log books and club/service powercraft officer recommendation.

In general IRB/RWC Drivers must successfully demonstrate their competence in current IRB/RWC driving techniques such as:

- Knowledge on safety and the SLSA Powercraft Code of Conduct.
- Demonstrated ability to apply safe driving practice and the ability including but not limited to:
 - parallel running,
 - figures eight,
 - response to signals,
 - negotiation of surf as required.
- Other driving skills to be deemed as competent.
 - Demonstrate ability to conduct a patient rescue.
 - Demonstrate ability to carry out a patient lift, exit, carry, lay and assess.

For **RWC operators** they must also be able to reboard the craft from deep water.

Specialist Powercraft Awards (JRB/ORB)

Proficiencies for specialist groups shall be determined by the individual group and as approved by the relevant Branch/State Director of Lifesaving. Again, options provided for in the IRB/RWC should be considered.

ATV Operators

ATV Operators must hold a current, valid state driver's license. A member who loses their state driver's license (whether through cancellation or suspension) is considered to be non-proficient in this award. Once the member's state driver's license is reinstated, they are then required to resit the ATV Operator proficiency.

Clubs should also conduct a proficiency check consisting of:

- Pre-post operational checks
- Driving assessment with oral questioning on safety precautions etc



BEACH MANAGEMENT AWARDS

Silver Medallion (Patrol Captain) OR Silver Medallion (Basic Beach Management)

No proficiency is required for these awards. Proficiency is required in the pre-requisites for the awards to remain current.

TRAINING AND ASSESSING AWARDS

Assessors

- Participate in an annual Board of Lifesaving proficiency check or attend an in-service course as required by Surf Life Saving Australia, for the respective discipline or disciplines.
- Be endorsed by the branch or state/territory Board of Lifesaving.
- Hold the relevant assessor qualification as required by the State.

Trainers

- Maintain proficiency in the awards in which they are providing training.

Pain Management

Proficiencies for this award will be required at a minimum every two years and in some states annually depending on state permit requirements. Independent of the frequency, items included in the proficiency will include:

- demonstration of set up and simulated use
- knowledge of local security and state documentation requirements.