



# WATER SAFETY AND SWIMMING POLICY



## POLICY RATIONALE

TeamKids recognises that activities involving water pose particular risks. We also acknowledge that becoming a confident and competent swimmer is essential to children's safety. Furthermore, swimming increases children's opportunities for fun in leisure and sporting participation.

TeamKids identifies 'Water-based activities' as activities that engage children in an environment where they are in and/or near water. These may include:

- Surfing
- Canoeing
- Tubing
- Snorkelling
- Raft building
- Kayaking
- Fishing
- Beach games
- Rock pooling

TeamKids is committed to exercising extra caution where any water-based activity or water-based excursion is delivered.

## POLICY OBJECTIVES

This policy provides clear guidelines, expectations and commitments to all staff and parents/guardians regarding child water safety. The policy details TeamKids goals for water safety for all children and staff. The Policy commits to safe water practices and children playing safely in and around water.

## WATER SAFE PROCEDURES

When a swimming program is conducted at a venue where there is **no venue appointed lifeguard** on duty during times when children are engaged in swimming:

- An educator who holds a Bronze Medallion or AustSwim level trained staff member will be in attendance of the pool area at all times, in addition to the programs overall staff to child ratios.

Where the venue **provides a lifeguard**, the additionally qualified educator will not be required.

- The staff-student ratio of 1:10 apply to **Intermediate** and **Advanced** swimmers, and a staff ratio of 1:6 apply to all **Beginner** swimmers, including times when water-based activities may be planned and led by external service providers.

This procedure may be altered subject to individual service approval conditions imposed by the Regulatory Authority.

Where water activities occur outside of the pool environment, a qualified staff member will complete a Risk Assessment of the activity and the environment.

## PARENT REQUIREMENTS

Parents must provide the completed and signed 'Swimming Ability Permission Form' for their child to participate in the swimming component of the program and/or any water-based activities.

**Children of 4 years old are not permitted to access pools or water-based activities at TeamKids.**

## TEAMKIDS STAFF REQUIREMENTS

- All TeamKids staff members wear an easy to recognise TeamKids uniform so all children can quickly and confidentially identify staff.
- All staff supervising with the swimming component of the program are familiar with all relevant medical information of each child, including epilepsy, diabetes, asthma and heart conditions, and where appropriate, measures are taken.
- All staff communicate and are made aware of all children's illnesses, individual needs, special equipment and/or medical conditions that may exist before entering the pool area.
- At all times, a minimum of one staff member will have their approved first aid and CPR training qualifications.
- Where staff and children are divided into groups and separate across a venue, all staff carry mobile phones and are contactable by all other staff members at any time.
- Staff discuss the rules of being near and around water with children before arriving at a pool and/or water-based activity.
- Staff are to ensure that they understand the swimming capability and competency of each child participating in swimming or water-based activities.
- Staff explain to each child how to signal for help, if needed, before entering the pool or water-based activity.
- Staff are positioned in a manner that supervision of all children occurs at all times near water.
- Staff ensure that children walk and never run when near water.

## SWIMMING STANDARD REQUIREMENTS

Where children swim at a 'Beginners Standard', as reflected by their parent in the swimming consent form (that is, children are in shallow water and have little or no experience swimming), TeamKids ensures a ratio of 1 staff to a maximum of 6 students and water depth is restricted to 1.2m with clear and obvious barriers.

Where children swim at an 'Intermediate Standard', as reflected by their parent in the swimming consent form, the children's ability is demonstrated to staff at the beginning of the swimming component of the program in shallow water. These children demonstrate their ability to swim at least 25 metres unassisted. TeamKids ensures ratios of 1 staff to a maximum of 10 Intermediate Standard swimmers/children.

Where children swim at an 'Advanced Standard', as reflected by their parent in the swimming consent form, the children's ability to; swim 50 metres using 2 recognisable strokes, and demonstrate 1 survival stroke (breaststroke or freestyle) in deep water, is demonstrated to staff at the beginning of the swim component of the program. TeamKids ensures ratios of 1 staff to a maximum of 10 Advance Standard swimmers/children.

The swimming components of the programs consist of 1-hour sessions maximum before 15-minute breaks are imposed.

Children with ear infections, throat infections, colds, papillomas and other contagious infections are not permitted to enter the water.

## DIVING BOARDS

1m and 3m Diving Boards are only used after all children are out of the pool. All children line up and wait at the bottom of the ladder (completely off the diving board platform) and only proceed after staff has provided clear and safe instructions. Before any diving activities by children, staff provide a demonstration of how to safely enter the water.

- No child is permitted to dive off the 5m board.
- No children under the age of 8 are allowed on the 3m diving board.

## REFERENCES:

- ACECQA National Quality Framework Resource Kit (2012)
- Quality Area 2 – Children’s health and safety
- Education and Care Services National Regulations (2011) R 25(1)(c) for venues with pools.
- Education and Care Services National Law Act (2010) S 165, S 167

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