



Outdoor Council of Australia

**N**ational  
**O**utdoor  
**L**eaders  
**R**egistration  
**S**cheme

# **SNORKELLING / WILDLIFE SWIMS REGISTRATION LEVELS AND ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS**

**NOLRS VERSION 2.2**

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**Outdoor Council of Australia**

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## Introduction

This document contains information on the minimum skills required to achieve Registration within the National Outdoor Leader Registration Scheme (NOLRS) at specific levels within the activity of SNORKELLING / WILDLIFE SWIMS

Additional documents are available at [www.outdoorcouncil.asn.au](http://www.outdoorcouncil.asn.au) that provide information about the Scheme and the registration process include:

- **NOLRS Registration Guide** - information about the registration requirements and process
- **NOLRS Re-registration Guide** - information about the re-registration requirements and process
- **Application for Registration**
- **Application for Subsequent Registration**
- **Application for Re-registration**
- **NOLRS Partnered Assessment Providers** - a guide for organisations that conduct assessment of outdoor leaders, detailing how to have their course outcomes recognised as equivalent to the skill and knowledge requirements of the NOLRS.

## What is SNORKELLING / WILDLIFE SWIMS?

The activity of Snorkelling involves participants swimming, primarily on the surface of the water (positively buoyant) using a mask, snorkel and usually fins. The activity of snorkelling is synonymous with “viewing what is under the water” including wildlife, reef formations and plant life.

Snorkelling is also undertaken by persons for specific purposes of interacting with wildlife including dolphins and whale sharks.

Snorkelling activities may be boat or shore based. Snorkelling does NOT involve any diving in which compressed gas is used.

## Registration Levels and Description

SNORKELLING / WILDLIFE SWIMS registration levels apply to Guides and Instructors who conduct SNORKELLING / WILDLIFE SWIMS activities on the surface of the water (positively buoyant), using a mask, snorkel and usually fins.

*The following registration levels are available within the NOLRS within the activity of SNORKELLING / WILDLIFE SWIMS -*

- Guide
- Instructor

### **SNORKELLING / WILDLIFE SWIMS Guide:**

A person designated as a SNORKELLING / WILDLIFE SWIMS Guide has the skills, knowledge and experience to work autonomously within a closely defined range of skilled operations involving known routines, methods and procedures, where a small amount of discretion and judgement is required in the selection of equipment, services or contingency measures. This person may conduct activities independently only within clearly defined contexts where there are clearly defined Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and relevant documented guidelines for the activity, they are familiar with those SOPs, and where assistance is readily available should a non-routine situation arise.

A SNORKELLING / WILDLIFE SWIMS Guide leads or guides dependent participants in SNORKELLING / WILDLIFE SWIMS activities. There is no intention of imparting skills or knowledge to participants beyond that which is necessary to enable their safe participation in the snorkelling activity. At the end of a session or program with a Guide, the intent is not for the participant to have acquired the skills to independently participate in the activity

A SNORKELLING / WILDLIFE SWIMS Guide may conduct activities only at sites which have documentation that defines the key safety features and risk management procedures for the activity.

A SNORKELLING / WILDLIFE SWIMS Guide does not have the ability to adequately assess the suitability of a new facility / site and its characteristics or to independently develop procedures for the conduct of SNORKELLING / WILDLIFE SWIMS activities. They may work as an assistant with a more experienced leader in potentially non-routine or more complex activities and programs.

A SNORKELLING / WILDLIFE SWIMS Guide has the knowledge, skills and experience that enable them to:

- Plan for minimal environmental impact
- Undertake risk analysis of activities
- Interpret weather forecasts
- Guide outdoor recreation sessions
- Follow defined Occupational Health and Safety policy and procedures
- Facilitate groups and deal with conflict
- Participate in snorkeling activities
- Respond to emergency situations
- Respond to an aquatic emergency using basic water rescue techniques
- Guide groups in snorkelling

### **SNORKELLING / WILDLIFE SWIMS Instructor:**

A person designated as a SNORKELLING / WILDLIFE SWIMS Instructor facilitates skill transfer or development to participants in order that they may independently SNORKELLING / WILDLIFE SWIMS. This requires the instructor to be able to transfer required skills and

knowledge, apply a variety of appropriate instructional strategies, and assess a participant's skill and knowledge acquisition during and at the end of a program or session.

A SNORKELLING / WILDLIFE SWIMS Instructor has the knowledge, skills and experience of a SNORKELLING / WILDLIFE SWIMS Guide as well as additional skills and experience in training and assessment that enable them to

- Train small groups
- Instruct snorkeling skills
- Plan Outdoor recreation activities

## **SNORKELLING / WILDLIFE SWIMS Skill, Knowledge and Experience Requirements**

### **SNORKELLING / WILDLIFE SWIMS Guide:**

Critical aspects of a SNORKELLING / WILDLIFE SWIMS Guide experience, knowledge and skills:

- Ability to respond to emergency situations relevant to a SNORKELLING / WILDLIFE SWIMS activity in range of aquatic environments and situations.
- Application of risk analysis principles in a SNORKELLING / WILDLIFE SWIMS context
- Ability to identify, and plan for, basic requirements of a SNORKELLING / WILDLIFE SWIMS activity (i.e. equipment, food, water, clothing)
- Maintenance of a participant's physical and emotional safety during snorkelling sessions in a diversity of situations (eg, different participant groups, different learning outcomes)
- Ability to plan, guide and evaluate SNORKELLING / WILDLIFE SWIMS sessions at a number of different locations to suit available resources, environmental limitations and different types of participant groups with differing needs and activity aims
- Establish and maintain positive group dynamics
- Knowledge of environmental impact issues associated with SNORKELLING / WILDLIFE SWIMS and methods to minimise impact
- Monitor and review minimal impact practices
- Knowledge of the implications of relevant Australian and International standards on equipment use and performance
- Understanding of relevant state legislation regarding underwater activities
- Accepted industry best practise or recommendations (as specified in operating procedures, risk management guidelines, professional association recommendations or current texts)
- Technical snorkelling/equipment knowledge
- Equipment usage in rescue situations
- First aid knowledge appropriate to the location
- Selection and use of equipment for snorkelling
- Knowledge of selected locations

In order to demonstrate currency, an applicant seeking registration must have verifiable evidence of guiding a minimum of four (4) SNORKELLING / WILDLIFE SWIMS sessions (minimum of 2hours hours per session) in the past twelve (12) months. In addition, evidence must be supplied of 'in-house' or external aquatic rescue training within the past 12 months, or participation in aquatic rescue of 'real' participants.

Newly trained outdoor leaders require verifiable evidence of guiding a minimum of six (6) SNORKELLING / WILDLIFE SWIMS sessions (minimum of 2 hours per session) at least two (2) different locations.

**SNORKELLING / WILDLIFE SWIMS Instructor:**

Critical aspects of a SNORKELLING / WILDLIFE SWIMS Instructor skills and knowledge include those of a SNORKELLING / WILDLIFE SWIMS Guide **PLUS** the following:

*Skills to:*

- Recognise participants' abilities and needs, in order to adapt the instructional session
- Assess the activity location of the site and its suitability for the conduct of the instructional session
- Apply the relevant legislation impacting upon the instruction or conduct of a snorkelling activity i.e. Occupational Health and Safety, Land and water management authorities, Local government
- Incorporate theories of instruction applicable to a range of ages and learning abilities

*Ability to demonstrate and / or teach the following:*

- Apply knowledge of safety practices to plan and conduct a safe instructional session in accordance with risk management plans, industry guidelines and occupational health and safety requirements
- Demonstrate snorkeling techniques or skills accurately
- Establish a positive learning environment
- Provide constructive feedback which enhances the participants learning
- Provide instruction in required knowledge and skills for snorkelling

In order to demonstrate currency, an applicant seeking registration must have verifiable evidence of instructing or guiding a minimum of four (4) SNORKELLING / WILDLIFE SWIMS sessions (minimum of two hours per session; at least three sessions must be instructing) in the past twelve (12) months. In addition, evidence must be supplied of 'in-house' or external aquatic rescue training within the past 12 months, or participation in aquatic rescue of 'real' participants.

Newly trained outdoor leaders require verifiable evidence of instructing or guiding a minimum of six (6) SNORKELLING / WILDLIFE SWIMS sessions (minimum of two (2) hours per session; at least three (3) sessions must be instructing) at different locations.