



Water Safety & Swimming Policy

Philosophy Statement

Epic Holiday Camps are committed to creating a fun and safe environment for school-aged children to enjoy meaningful **real-world experiences** to remember forever. With a focus on **learning through play**, we offer exciting **age-matched activities** to support children in gaining confidence, developing their identity and enhancing their **health and wellbeing**. Organisational culture is important to us and we strive to build teams of motivated, fun and **engaging teachers** who children and families can **respect and trust**. Effective communication with children and their families underpins everything we do, ensuring we foster respectful relationships and **continually improve** our program delivery.

Policy Rationale

EPIC Holiday Camp 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.

EPIC Holiday Camp 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

EPIC Holiday Camp 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 the all staff and parents/guardians regarding child water safety. The policy details EPIC Holiday Camps' goals for water safety for all children and staff; commits to safe water practices and children playing safely in and around water.



Water Safety Procedures

When the swimming program is conducted at a venue where there is no lifeguard (provided by the venue) on duty during times when children are engaged in swimming, an educator who holds a Bronze Medallion or Austswim trained staff member, will be in attendance of the pool area at all times, in ADDITION to the programs overall staff to child ratios. Staff student ratio of 1:10 are applied to Intermediate and Advanced swimmers and staff ratio of 1:6 apply to all Beginner swimmers. This includes 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.

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

All EPIC Holiday Camp staff members wear an easy to recognize EPIC Holiday Camp 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.

The service must meet its requirements in relation to approved first aid and CPR training qualifications.

Where children swim at a 'Beginners Standard' (that is, children are in shallow water and have little or no experience swimming), EPIC Holiday Camps ensures a ratio of 1 staff to maximum 6 students and water depth is restricted to 1.2m with clear and obvious barriers.

Where children swim at an 'Intermediate Standard', 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. EPIC Holiday Camps ensures ratios of 1 staff to maximum 10 Intermediate Standard swimmers/children.

Where children swim at an 'Advanced Standard', 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. EPIC Holiday Camps ensures ratios of 1 staff to maximum 10 Advance Standard swimmers/children.

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

All staff communicate, and are made aware of, all children's illnesses, individual needs, special equipment and/or medical conditions that may exist prior to entering the pool area.

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

Where staff and children are sub 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 manner that supervision of all children occurs at all times near water. Where children walk near water, or on a water based activities, children are in pairs. Staff ensure that children walk and never run, when near water.

Children of 4 years old are not permitted to access pools or water based activities at EPIC Holiday Camps.

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