



Appendix 6

RISK ASSESSMENT GUIDANCE – SWIMMING

LEISURE CENTRE AND SWIMMING POOLS WITH AN ATTENDANT LIFEGUARD

- The pool's lifeguard will be on duty to supervise all swimmers. This does not reduce the duty of care the event leader and leaders have for the children and young people. All the leaders must constantly be able to account for the children and young people and should monitor the behaviour of the children and young people.
- Where possible leaders should consider using Leisure Watch facilities* or other approved activities.

PRIVATE SWIMMING POOLS

A private swimming pool may only be used under the supervision of a qualified lifeguard, and in the presence of at least one other adult, both of whom should stay out of the water unless there is an emergency. Supervision ratios must accommodate the needs of the children and young people and be increased as necessary.

OPEN WATER SWIMMING

Swimming or paddling in the sea or other natural waters should be allowed as formal and supervised activities, preferably in recognised bathing areas which have official surveillance i.e. qualified lifeguard cover. Nonetheless, children and young people should always be in sight of their leaders. One leader should always stay out of the water for better surveillance.

The event leader, or another leader in the group, should hold a relevant life saving award, especially where lifeguard cover may not be available. For further advice contact:

**The Royal Life Saving Society, River House,
High Street, Broom, Warwickshire, B50 4HN
Telephone No. 01789 773 994
www.lifesavers.org.uk**

When swimming takes place in a river, lake or the sea, the event leader will need to:

- Consider the suitability of the water including the temperature.
- Define the limits of the swimming area.
- Brief the children and young people on any matters specific to the location e.g. limits to the area in use, other water users and hazards before they enter the water.
- Adopt and explain the signals of distress and recall.
- Contact the local coastguard, harbour master, lifeguard or tourist information to obtain details of the nature and location of hazards.
- Establish a base to which members of the group may return if separated.
- Look out for hazards such as glass, barbed wire and sewage overflows etc.
- Ascertain for themselves the level of the pupils' swimming ability and ensure adequate supervision rotas for the particular group.

*Leisure Watch is an initiative that is founded upon the premise that people in the community can play a part in reducing the risks posed to children by adults in the community who may harm them. Where the Leisure Watch sign is displayed, staff will have been trained to be observant and aware of the safety of children and young people and know what to do if they see behaviour which causes any concern.