



**Department of
Education**

Appendix Q: Snorkelling

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Snorkelling

This document contains specific requirements related to snorkelling activities and must be read in conjunction with Appendix A: General requirements in the Recreation and Outdoor Education Activities for Public Schools procedures.

1. Background

Snorkelling is an activity in which students use a mask, snorkel and swimming aids (for example fins) when swimming in calm and open water locations. SCUBA or other breathing apparatus (including SNUBA apparatus) are not to be used.

Snorkelling does not include activities in swimming instruction programs where masks and snorkels are used as a teaching aid or incidentally as part of the swimming program. Refer to Swimming and Water Based Activities for further information, qualifications and supervision requirements that apply.

Guidance

The word "SNUBA" is a portmanteau of "snorkel" and "SCUBA". The swimmer uses swim fins, a diving mask, weights, and diving regulator as in SCUBA diving. For that reason, it supplies air under pressure which means barotraumas and decompression sickness become a factor. For this activity, the mandated requirements in Appendix P:SCUBA Diving, would apply.

Definitions

Assistant supervisor

Assists the qualified supervisor and or Department teacher-in-charge and must have relevant qualifications and experience.

Calm water

A still or slow-moving water environment with no to low swell, within **400 meters** from a safe landing point. These areas may include a sheltered/ protected coastal area or river, dam, waterhole or inland water body.

Department teacher-in-charge

A member of the teaching staff employed by the Department of Education (or an approved provider) and managing the school activity. For information relating to approved providers refer to Appendix A: General requirements.

Fixed location

Within **50 metres** of the initial entry point.

Non-fixed location

Any area beyond **50 metres** from the initial entry point.

Open water

An unprotected water environment that may be fast flowing or turbulent, such as a surf beach, flowing river or waterway, tidal coastal water, or areas affected by swell and or/strong currents. This also applies to calm water areas greater than **400 meters** from a safe landing point.

Qualified supervisor

Has the required qualifications, skill, experience and technical knowledge to instruct the activity.

Safe landing point

Where a person can safely enter and/or exit the water unassisted. This excludes areas unsuitable for landing that may include but are not limited to: vertical cliffs, low lying reefs, or areas affected by rebounding waves.

Snorkelling

Swimming through a body of water usually wearing flippers, a diving mask, and using a shaped breathing tube called a snorkel.

2. Environment

Each aquatic environment is unique, and open water environments can be more hazardous.

The qualified supervisor must have first-hand knowledge about the venue, weather conditions, tides and currents at that venue (see [Appendix A: General requirements](#)).

The Department teacher-in-charge must ensure that research and/or a reconnaissance trip is conducted around the planned locations, well in advance to confirm sites are suitable.

The Department teacher-in-charge confirms the suitability of the venue after considering the:

- location
- turbidity of the body of water and strength of tides and currents
- water depth and temperature
- presence, power and height of waves and swell
- students' capacity, skills and experience
- planned activities
- availability of shelter from the weather
- possibility of members of the public or other groups in the same area
- high tide changes that affect entry and exit
- supervision required.

Selected activity areas are to be appropriately defined. In open and calm water locations, surrounding safety barriers such as the shoreline, piers, jetties or floating ropes may be used.

An out of water waiting area must be clearly defined where students must be supervised at all times.

Prevailing water and surf conditions in the selected area must be reappraised for suitability before students enter the water.

Weather conditions can change rapidly and must be assessed and monitored in the days leading up to the activity, on the day of the activity and throughout the activity. In particular, any swells or rips should be noted, and students instructed on how to safely negotiate out of a rip. The supervisory team may need to modify, relocate or cancel the activity at any time. Check the [Bureau of Meteorology](#) for up-to-date conditions and weather warnings.

Snorkelling programs are not to be conducted if the water temperature is low and/or there is a risk of hypothermia.

Snorkelling activities must not be conducted in strong tidal areas, on a lee-shore where there is no safe exit point (for example, where there is wind blowing on-shore in rocky areas), where a river is in flood, or in known estuarine crocodile habitats. Further information is available from [The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions](#) or [Be Crocwise](#).

Checks must be made directly prior to the activity regarding shark sightings or alerts in the area of use. In the event of a shark sighting the activity may need to be postponed or

modified. Prior to conducting the activity, the Department teacher-in-charge must access information regarding coastal conditions and shark activity. Information is available from:

- [SharkSmart](#) website
- [Surf Life Saving WA \(SLSWA\)](#) website
- [SLSWA X \(Twitter feed\)](#)
- Beachsafe.

The activity must be cancelled immediately if a shark warning alert is sounded or becomes current.

Snorkelling sites must have:

- a minimum visibility of at least 3.0 metres under water, with the bottom visible from the surface
- safe entry and exit points
- swell (unbroken waves) that are less than 2.0 metres (supervisors must be aware of the occurrence of rogue waves, of up to twice the height of current swell and approximately 1 in every 7 waves will be higher than the average swell conditions on any given day)
- shore breaking waves that are less than 0.5 metres. The Department teacher-in-charge must assess the conditions, as swell and waves can become more hazardous when the duration and intensity changes, or if the forecast is for increasing conditions
- minimal water movement (a calm water surface with minimal or no 'chop' on the water)
- stable weather and water conditions and no obvious change expected in the weather
- a depth of no more than 8 metres for snorkel diving training purposes
- no obvious dangers such as boat traffic, fisherman or fishing boats near the snorkel diving area (fishing boats often have larger fish following).

Guidance

The length of shoreline used for supervising snorkelling activities should not exceed 100 metres. Particular care should be taken in areas where there are strong currents. Care should also be taken with rips or high tidal areas, especially in the northwest of the state.

For more information regarding weather:

- [Bureau of Meteorology](#)
- [Weatherzone](#)
- [Seabreeze](#)
- [Swellnet](#).

3. Capacity of students

The Department teacher-in-charge must confirm that each student has the required capacity and maturity to implement safety requirements. Students must have the appropriate swimming and water safety skills and understandings to participate safely.

In open water environments, it is recommended that students taking part in snorkelling activities are at least 12 years of age. Snorkelling from a boat is not recommended for students under 14 years of age.

Students with a disability or impairment, or who have had limited exposure to water-based activities, may participate in snorkelling activities provided adequate safety, control and modification measures are implemented. Specific consideration is given to:

- the impact of the student's ability to safely participate in the activity
- location and access
- supervision levels
- suitable flotation devices
- providing curriculum adjustments so the student can access the activity on the same basis as their peers.

Students who have a medically diagnosed condition that may impact their safety must be cleared by a medical practitioner before they can participate.

The Department teacher-in-charge must be aware of health care maintenance and/or any intensive health care needs of students (asthma, epilepsy etc.), particularly allergic reactions to stings or bites in a marine environment (anaphylaxis). Protective equipment such as gloves and appropriate exposure suits should be considered for students who are susceptible.

A re-assessment of the capacity of each student is undertaken if any circumstances surrounding the activity change. This includes any change in the condition of the aquatic environment, their medical fitness, or their capacity to undertake the activity.

Before snorkelling to any depth, students must have developed the following skills and understandings:

Skills	Understandings
• Submerging and resurfacing confidently without snorkelling equipment • Hand signals (ok, not ok, distress signals, etc.) • Entry and exit methods • Equalising pressure in ears and mask air space • Cleaning and replacing the face mask • Clearing a flooded snorkel and mask • Using a flooded mask or no mask • Surface diving techniques, including equalising the pressure in ears when descending • Correct finning technique • Duck diving • What to do in the case of equipment failure (self-rescue and rescue techniques) • What to do in the case of cramp and assisting another diver (self-rescue and rescue techniques)	• Equipment • Snorkel planning • The importance of adhering to the buddy system (where one dives and the other one stays on the surface - one up, one down) • Boyles law which applies to equalising air spaces and compression affecting buoyancy • The properties of light and sound under water • Buoyancy concepts and control • Dangers of separating from the group • Hyperventilation • Hypothermia • Barotrauma squeeze (middle ear squeeze) • Dangerous marine animals

Guidance

The Department's Swimming and Water Safety Continuum and the Safety Survival Sequence (refer to Swimming and Water Safety Activities document) within the Swimming Instructors Handbook and Guidelines and Royal Life Saving Swim and Survive Instructor Assessment Guide are useful resources for gauging students' swimming and water safety skills. They are only indicative of student skills at the time of assessment and their use does not guarantee students' safety, nor reduce a teacher's duty of care responsibilities.

Prior to engaging in snorkelling activities, students should be able to:

- submerge and resurface safely
- demonstrate survival sculling, floating and treading water
- swim 200 metres in less than seven (7) minutes
- support themselves in water for a minimum of fifteen (15) minutes without the aid of a flotation device.

For **open water snorkelling**, (in addition to being able to demonstrate the skills listed above) students should have logged at least four hours in calm water before advancing to open water.

Students with asthma should have spare medication for emergency treatment as close as practicable, so that if an inhaler is lost in the water, a spare is immediately available.

4. Student health care

Refer to Appendix A: General requirements for further requirements.

5. Activities

Activities include **snorkel swimming** (snorkelling on the surface of the water, using snorkelling apparatus) or **snorkel diving** (breath holding while diving and swimming below the surface of the water).

The full range of activities for the proposed snorkelling program must be assessed to inform planning and selection of appropriate water-environments.

On the day of the activity, the supervisory team must assess conditions at the site as being suitable for participating students.

Prior to the activity, limits must be set on group movements, including depth restrictions and distance from the Qualified Supervisor leading the activity. Separation procedures must also be established and understood.

The Department teacher-in-charge, in consultation with the qualified supervisor must ensure that:

- a warm up session is conducted
- initial instruction is conducted in shallow water
- appropriately timed rest stops and food/water breaks are planned
- buddy practices are maintained at all times.

Free diving activities are prohibited.

Students must be deemed competent snorkelling from the shore, before attempting a snorkel dive from a boat.

In open water snorkel diving must remain within 200 metres of a safe landing point, or within 100 metres of a support craft (if one is used).

Dive areas are clearly defined and surrounded by safety barriers such as the shoreline, jetties, floating ropes or piers. An international Code Flag A (minimum size 600mm x 750mm attached to a large float) must be used to mark the dive site if it is where boats may be encountered or where participants are swimming more than 50 metres from the shore.

Recreational or free swims

Refer to Swimming and Water Based Activities for information, qualifications and supervision requirements that apply if a recreational 'free' swim or similar activity is proposed before, during or after a snorkelling program.

Guidance

Swimming in a pool using a snorkel, mask and fins may be regarded as an extension activity for a school swimming program. Where this occurs, the Swimming and Water Based Activities supporting document applies. There should be no intention of progressing this activity into snorkelling as an adventure activity.

Minimal environmental impact principles are followed at all times. Snorkel divers should **not** collect natural objects or relics while on a dive unless a licence has been obtained for marine study purposes. Objects taken for this purpose are returned after examination. Marine life may be picked up (if safe to do so) but must be returned to the same spot. If rocks are turned over, they are replaced as found.

Supervisors should use a logbook, to record evidence of experience. after each dive.

6. Equipment

The Department teacher-in-charge must confirm that equipment to be used conforms to the relevant Australian Standard, is appropriate to the activity, safe and in good working order.

The qualified supervisor must confirm that students have correctly fitted equipment. Appropriate wetsuits that fit correctly should be worn if the temperature of the water warrants such protection. Rash vest and thermal rash vests are also recommended.

Students should, where practical, use their own face masks, fins and snorkels for safety, hygiene and comfort. If equipment is shared, it must be thoroughly disinfected prior to use by another person.

The qualified supervisor must ensure that students carry out supervised pre-snorkel checks.

Emergency equipment must be readily accessible. Following assessment of the site and availability of rescue equipment, the Department teacher-in-charge should determine whether additional non-contact rescue devices for reaching and throwing are necessary (for example, poles, pole with looped rope, inflated tube, ropes, float, flotation aids and surfboards). Students should be familiar with using clothing and human chain reach rescue strategies.

Supervisors should carry a whistle to gain the attention of the whole group. Emergency whistle procedures should be practiced and understood by the group.

The following equipment is required for the whole group:

- appropriate first aid equipment must be readily accessible and include items that are appropriate to the activity, environment, size and needs of the group and duration of the activity. At least one member of the supervisory team must be current and accredited in administering CPR, first aid and be able to affect a rescue at the chosen site
- an international Code Flag A (minimum size 600 mm x 750 mm attached to a large float) must be used to mark the dive site if it is where boats may be encountered or where participants are swimming more than 50 metres from the shore
- one piece of rescue equipment should be carried by members of the supervisory team for every 12 students
- transport must be readily available in case of emergency.

In case of emergency, appropriate communication equipment must be readily available. Mobile phones must be available for use in an emergency situation (with allowance made for the fact that they do not operate in all localities). Where there is no mobile phone coverage, MHz, MF/HF or VHF radios should be used (27- MHz radios are being phased out and will no longer be compliant from 1 September 2028). A satellite phone is an alternative option. Where a safety or support power boat is required, the craft must comply with Department of Transport Marine requirements.

Propeller guards and propeller aware strategies must be used whenever a participant is in the water.

Supervisors must ensure that students must be positively buoyant at all times, until they are in Years 11 and 12 (see Guidance).

Under no circumstances will students carry or use spear guns, hand spears, knives or slings.

Guidance

For further information, refer to Australian Adventure Activity Good Practice Guide: Snorkelling

The equipment recommended for each participating student comprises of:

- an appropriate wet/dry suit that fits correctly, including boots and gloves
- a mask fitted with tempered glass and finger holes for equalising pressure. The mask should enclose the nose (nose pocket) and seal correctly
- a suitable snorkel with safety colour top should be attached or attachable (usually the left-hand side) to the mask and in excellent condition
- fins (flippers) that are correctly fitted and suit the conditions.

Older students (Year 11 and 12), with the correct lead up skills may use a weight belt fitted with a quick-release buckle (when snorkel diving). Each student's weight belt should be less than the weight required to achieve neutral buoyancy so that the students remain positively buoyant.

Students should bring additional clothing to protect them from the sun/wind/cold before snorkelling, and as soon as they leave the water, as appropriate for the location and weather (for example, a towel, jumper, long trousers, hat, and jacket). Students who own sunglasses should be encouraged to bring and wear them when required.

Younger students should use a small-bore diameter snorkel.

Students may wear a buoyancy compensator or positive buoyancy aid.

A broad spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen should be applied as per manufacturer's specifications.

Drinking water should be available at all times.

7. The supervisory team

Refer to Appendix A: General requirements for further requirements.

8. External providers

The Department teacher-in-charge must ensure that when booking an external provider, they are made aware of the documentation that they need to provide, or that must be sighted.

External providers must follow all mandated requirements in the Recreation and Outdoor Education Activities for Public Schools procedures will be asked to supply copies of certain documentation, and/or make them available for the Department teacher-in-charge to sight. External providers should familiarise themselves with Appendix A: General requirements and Appendix D: External Provider checklist.

9. Minimum qualifications and competencies

Refer to Appendix A: General requirements for mandated:

- first aid qualifications
- evidence requirements for all qualifications and competencies.

Minimum qualifications and/or formal training requirements

Different qualifications are required for snorkelling activities conducted in swimming pools, calm water and open water environments.

In all water environments, the supervisory team must:

- have a current aquatic rescue qualification that is appropriate for snorkelling activities at the proposed location and the physical attributes required be able to affect such a rescue
- be able to perform first aid (hold a current first aid qualification, including the aquatic rescue, that is relevant to the activity and location)
- have documented evidence of recent and relevant snorkelling experience.

In open water environments the supervisory team must have the instructional qualifications or nationally recognised competencies gained from an education institution or nationally recognised training provider, or equivalent.

All supervisors must as a minimum, be able to swim twice the length of the area they are supervising. Supervisors must also have knowledge and an understanding of snorkelling and snorkel diving related injuries (for example, pressure injuries, carbon dioxide excess, cold temperature effects, hyperventilation, salt water aspiration syndrome, shallow water blackout).

Skills and experience

The Department teacher-in-charge must confirm that the supervisory team:

- has recent and relevant documented experience in the activity at the level being offered to students
- have the capacity to manage the snorkelling activity in the proposed location
- has the required aquatic rescue qualification, including first aid and CPR
- understands the emergency responses and supervision responsibilities.

Guidance

Records of qualifications

A record of staff swimming and water safety qualifications should be maintained by the school. The date of issue of the qualification and formal notification of any subsequent renewal or upgrade should be included.

Safety or support craft

The supervisor in control of the safety or support power boat must be competent in the use of the craft and hold one of the following:

- a Recreational Skippers Ticket (RST)
- Safety Boat Operator
- Australian Sailing Power Boat Handling certificate (PBH)
- a relevant commercial ticket.

The Department teacher-in-charge must be satisfied that any supervisor operating a safety or support craft has recent logged experience in effecting a relevant support and rescue operation.

Guidance

It is recommended that supervisors maintain evidence of their currency and experience through the use of a logbook, or similar.

Where a safety or support craft is required to accompany participants, the craft must comply with Department of Transport Marine: Recreational Boating or Marine Safety (Domestic Commercial Vessel) National Law Act 2012 requirements.

Minimum qualification requirements:

Qualified Supervisors	
SWIMMING POOLS AND CALM WATER	Qualified supervisors must have relevant snorkelling experience with current knowledge of the location to be used and at least one of the following: • Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA) Surf Rescue certificate • SLSWA Community Based Surf Rescue certificate • RLSSA Bronze Medallion or START certificate • RLSSA Pool Lifeguard certificate (swimming pools only) • SLSA Bronze Medallion • a relevant aquatic rescue qualification for the intended environment including CPR, as recognised through a registered training organisation (RTO) • an equivalent qualification, as recognised by the Director General.

OPEN WATER	Qualified supervisors must have recent and relevant snorkelling experience with current knowledge of the location to be used and at least one of the following: • Have nationally recognised set of competencies gained from a nationally recognised training provider in: ○ Guide snorkelling or ○ Instruct snorkelling skills • a nationally accredited SCUBA Coach/Instructor award • Dive Controller, Assistant Instructor certificate or higher • nationally accredited SCUBA Coach/Instructor award • Open Water dive certificate • Certificate III in Sport and Recreation or Outdoor Leadership with specialisation in appropriate activities such as: ○ Demonstrate snorkelling activities ○ Guide snorkelling ○ Instruct snorkelling skills • an equivalent qualification, as recognised by the Director General. <u>PLUS</u> one of the following: • Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA) Surf Rescue certificate • SLSWA Community Based Surf Rescue certificate • RLSSA START certificate • SLSA Bronze Medallion • an equivalent qualification, as recognised by the Director General.
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Assistant Supervisor	
ALL WATERS	Assistant supervisors must have at least <u>ONE</u> of the following: • RLSSA Bronze Medallion or START certificate • RLSSA Pool Lifeguard certificate (swimming pools only) • SLSA Bronze Medallion • SLSA Surf Rescue certificate • SLSWA Community Based Surf Rescue certificate At least one of the following, where the Assistant Supervisor can demonstrate recent and relevant logged experience and current CPR: • A nationally accredited SCUBA Diving qualification • an equivalent qualification, as recognised by the Director General.

10. Minimum levels of supervision

The Department teacher-in-charge must confirm that the supervisory team members possess skills in the activity and have the recent and relevant experience to identify and manage potential risks at any stage during snorkelling activities.

Supervisory requirements must take into consideration the:

- age, experience and capacity of each student
- students' medical conditions, disability or impairment
- supervisors' qualifications and experience
- competence of the external provider (if applicable)
- types of activity to be undertaken
- nature of the environment (for example, calm or open water location)
- location of the activity
- Surf Life Saving WA (SLSA) X (Twitter) feed of shark sightings
- weather conditions, which must be assessed and monitored in the days leading up to the activity, on the day of the activity, and throughout the activity. The supervisory team may need to modify or cancel the activity at any time.

The level of risk in aquatic environments is dynamic and must be constantly monitored. The appropriate number of supervisors directly monitoring students in the water must be maintained at all times.

Students must be within the qualified supervisor's line of sight at all times. If the activity goes outside of line of sight, additional supervisors are required to maintain adequate supervision.

The maximum number of students in the water at one time is based on an assessment of the water and weather conditions, and the impact of these conditions on effective supervision. If there are not enough qualified staff to supervise the number of students who are snorkelling, students will need to be rotated in and out of the water so that safe supervisory requirements can be maintained. All students not directly involved in snorkelling activities must be appropriately supervised.

When using buddy systems students should be appropriately briefed and must maintain a rigorous lookout role for their designated buddy in the water.

The minimum level of supervision is dependent on the number of participants in the water and the aquatic environment in which the activity takes place.

Swimming pool – supervisor on pool deck

Kindergarten - Year 3

This activity must not be undertaken by students in Kindergarten - Year 3.

Year 4 - 6

There must be two supervisors at all times:

- one qualified supervisor for every 24 students or part thereof and
- one assistant supervisor for every 12 students or part thereof (including the qualified supervisor).

Year 7 - 12

It is recommended that there are two supervisors at all times:

- one qualified supervisor for every 32 students or part thereof.

Swimming pool - supervisor in the water

Kindergarten - Year 3

There must be two supervisors at all times:

- one qualified supervisor for every 24 students or part thereof and
- one assistant supervisor for every six students or part thereof (including the qualified supervisor).

Year 4 - 6

There must be two supervisors at all times:

- one qualified supervisor for every 24 students or part thereof and
- one assistant supervisor for every eight students or part thereof (including the qualified supervisor).

Year 7 - 12

It is recommended that there are two supervisors at all times for Snorkelling activities:

- one qualified supervisor for every 22 students or part thereof.

Calm water

Kindergarten - Year 3

This activity must not be undertaken by students in Kindergarten - Year 3.

Year 4 - 6

This activity is only to be conducted in a fixed location with clearly defined boundaries over no greater distance than 50 metres from the initial entry point.

There must be two supervisors at all times:

- one qualified supervisor for every 16 students or part thereof and
- one assistant supervisor for every eight students or part thereof (including the qualified supervisor).

Year 7 - 12

There must be two supervisors at all times:

- One qualified supervisor for every 16 students or part thereof.

Open water

Kindergarten - Year 3

This activity must not be undertaken by students in Kindergarten - Year 3.

Year 4 - 6

This activity must not be undertaken by students in Year 4 - 6.

Year 7 - 12

There must be two supervisors at all times:

- One qualified supervisor for every 12 students or part thereof.

The following table illustrates the minimum supervision requirements for common group sizes. Groups may be larger than those indicated here but must remain within the prescribed supervision ratios and any limits set out earlier in this document.

Year level	Environment	Number of students	Qualified Supervisor	Assistant Supervisor	Total supervisory team
K - 3	Swimming pool: On pool deck	Not permitted			
	Swimming pool: Supervisor in the water	1 - 6	1	1	2
		7 - 12	1	1	2
		13 - 18	1	2	3
		19 - 24	1	3	4
	Calm water	Not permitted			
4 - 6	Open water	Not permitted			
	Swimming pool: On pool deck	1 - 24	1	1	2
		25 - 36	2	1	3
	Swimming pool: In the water	1 - 16	1	1	2
		17 - 24	1	2	3
		25 - 32	2	2	4
	Calm Water	1 - 16	1	1	2
		17 - 24	2	1	3
		25 - 32	2	2	4
	Open Water	Not permitted			
7 - 12	Swimming pool: On pool deck	1 - 32	1	0	1
	Swimming pool: In the water	1 - 22	1	0	1
	Calm Water	1 - 16	1	1	2
		17 - 32	2	0	2
	Open Water	1 - 12	1	1	2
		13 - 24	2	0	2

11. Supervision strategies

Supervision strategies must:

- confirm that the safety and well-being of students is maintained at all times
- reflect risks associated with the activity
- address circumstances when students are not in clear view of the supervisors
- include students who are not actively participating in the activity.

The appropriate number of supervisors directly monitoring the students in the water must be maintained at all times. It is recommended that when a second supervisor is out of the water, they are placed on an elevated feature such as a pool side, vessel, groyne, pontoon, dive platform or jetty.

Buddy practices are maintained at all times using a one up/one down technique, so that students can monitor and check the safety and wellbeing of their partner (where there are uneven numbers of students, groups of three buddies may be set up).

A head count must be conducted of students and supervisors prior to and immediately upon return to the boat, diving platform or shore.

Supervisors must continually assess the threat of marine craft.

Safety or support craft

- A tether lanyard must be worn by the power boat driver at all times.
- Supervisors must exercise particular caution when students are entering, boarding or near the propellers of a vessel. A propeller guard must be used.
- Propeller-aware strategies must be used whenever participants are in the water.

If other schools or groups are using the same venue, potential risks must be identified, and supervisory strategies put in place to deal with the nature and number of those groups, and any risks that might arise from that situation.

Guidance

For further information, refer to [Australian Adventure Activity Good Practice Guide: Snorkelling](#). Consideration should be given to position, scanning and safety check systems (see [Swimming and Water Based Activities](#)).

It is recommended that a head count is continually performed during the activity.

12. Identification of participants

Students and supervisors must be easily identifiable. A system of identification is determined after assessing the aquatic environment, students' swimming and water safety skills, the type of activities to be undertaken, and the number of students. Staff and students should wear a highly visible rash vest or easily identifiable item.

Supervisors should make themselves clearly identifiable by wearing an alternative colour rash vest in the water.

Guidance

Systems for identifying students may include:

- confining students to designated areas not being utilised by other schools or the public
- the wearing of rash vests, standardised high-visibility lycra vests or shirts, "life saver" or swimming caps, or neoprene armbands.

13. Communication strategy

Refer to [Appendix A: General requirements](#) for further requirements.

14. Risk management plan

Refer to Appendix A: General requirements and Appendix B: Risk Management plan for further requirements.

15. Emergency response plan

Refer to Appendix A: General requirements and Appendix C: Emergency Management plan for further requirements.

16. Briefing students and supervisors

The Department teacher-in-charge must confirm that all participants are briefed about:

- the educational purpose (learning intentions) and the cooperative nature of the activity
- components of the activity (including skills required)
- standards of behaviour, including roles and responsibilities
- hazard identification and safety requirements
- buddy practices and procedures that will be followed if members of the party become lost or separated from the group
- boundaries marked for the activity
- communication signals to gain attention and request assistance
- emergency and evacuation procedures, signals and location of emergency equipment
- how to identify currents, rips, reefs and other potential hazards of the venue, including safe entry and exit points
- minimal impact principles for that location (see Leave No Trace principles).

In addition to the above, the Department teacher-in-charge must confirm that the supervisory team have been briefed about the following:

- the role and location of supervisors
- maintaining supervision ratios (including of those students not involved in the activity)
- modified/adjusted activity requirements for students with a disability or impairment
- the system for identifying students and supervisors
- the route to be followed including pre-determined stops and/or meeting points along the way (if applicable)
- student-specific medical requirements
- conditions associated with hypothermia, sunburn and dehydration
- communication strategies that will be used throughout the activity, including designated signals to gain the attention of the whole group, and to identify when emergency assistance is required
- location of first aid kit and emergency/rescue equipment
- appropriate clothing for the activity and weather conditions, including thermal and sun protection
- aspects of the environment and expected weather conditions.

Special information sessions must be arranged for students who were absent from the pre-snorkel briefing.

Changing environmental conditions encountered during snorkelling activities may necessitate the need to brief students during the activity.

17. Informed consent

Refer to Appendix A: General Requirements for further requirements.