

QUALIFICATIONS AND RATIO TABLE - STRUCTURED

The aim of these ratios is to minimise risks associated with swimming and water safety programs, by providing schools with instructor qualifications, student ratios, and 'duty of care' requirements for school-based swimming programs.

Royal Life Saving Society Australia (RLSSA) Swim & Survive Levels	Environment	Minimum Instructor Qualification	Ratios
Courage Award Level 1 to 5 Active Award Level 1	Shallow Pool	AUSTSWIM Teacher of Swimming & Water Safety (TSW)	1:10
Active Award Level 1	Deep Pool	AUSTSWIM TSW	1:6
Active Award Level 1	Natural Waterway	AUSTSWIM TSW	1:6 plus independent observer
Active Award Level 2 to Active Award Level 3	Shallow Pool	AUSTSWIM TSW	1:10
Active Award Level 2 to Active Award Level 3	Deep Pool	AUSTSWIM TSW	1:10
Active Award Level 2 to Active Award Level 3	Natural Waterway	AUSTSWIM TSW	1:10 plus independent observer
Active Award Level 4 to Active Award Level 7	Pool	AUSTSWIM TSW	1:12
Active Award Level 4 to Active Award Level 7	Natural Waterway	AUSTSWIM TSW	1:10
Rescue awards to Bronze Star	Pool	AUSTSWIM TSW	1:15
Rescue Awards to Bronze Medallion	Natural Waterway	Bronze Medallion	1:10
Bronze Medallion	Pool	Bronze Medallion Trainer	1:15
Students with multiple or profound physical or intellectual disability	Pool/Recreational Facility	AUSTSWIM People with Disabilities	1:1 plus independent observer
Students with a disability, have independent aquatic movement and skill	Pool/Recreational Facility	AUSTSWIM People with Disabilities	1:5 plus independent observer
Students with epilepsy	Pool/Recreational Facility	AUSTSWIM TSW	Independent observer
Students with multiple or profound physical or intellectual disability	Natural Waterway	AUSTSWIM People with Disabilities	1:1 plus independent observer
Students with a disability, have independent aquatic movement and skill	Natural Waterway	AUSTSWIM People with Disabilities	1:5 plus independent observer
Students with epilepsy	Natural Waterway	AUSTSWIM TSW	Independent observer

The Royal Life Saving Society Australia (RLSSA) levels are based on ability – and not school year levels.

AUSTSWIM accredited and licenced teachers conform to the international standard – ISO 17024. No other teacher qualification can be accepted within Northern Territory government schools unless evidence is provided to demonstrate that the qualification meets this international standard.

Ratio Table – Swimming carnivals and unstructured activities

A minimum Active Adult Supervisor/Bronze Medallion to student ratios are as follows, although a lower ratio is recommended.

Pool/recreation facilities

Ratio 1:10 Active Adult Supervisor INCLUDING 1:30 Bronze medallion or higher

Students	Active Adult Supervisor (one adult must be a teacher)	Bronze Medallion or higher qualifications	Minimum Total
1-10	1	1	1 adult (must have Bronze Medallion or higher)
11-20	2	1	2 adults (1 must have Bronze Medallion or higher)
21-30	3	1	3 adults (1 must have Bronze Medallion or higher)
31-40	4	2	4 adults (2 must have Bronze Medallion or higher)
41-50	5	2	5 adults (2 must have Bronze Medallion or higher)
51-60	6	2	6 adults (2 must have Bronze Medallion or higher)
61-70	7	3	7 adults (3 must have Bronze Medallion or higher)
71-80	8	3	8 adults (3 must have Bronze Medallion or higher)
81-90	9	3	9 adults (3 must have Bronze Medallion or higher)

Natural waterway/open water

Ratio 1:5 Active Adult Supervisor INCLUDING 1:15 Bronze medallion or higher

Students	Active Adult Supervisor (one adult must be a teacher)	Bronze Medallion or higher qualifications	Minimum Total
1-5	1	1	1 (Adult with Bronze Medallion or higher)
6-10	2	1	2 adults (1 must have Bronze Medallion or higher)
11-15	3	1	3 adults (1 must have Bronze Medallion or higher)
16-20	4	2	4 adults (2 must have Bronze Medallion or higher)
21-25	5	2	5 adults (2 must have Bronze Medallion or higher)
26-30	6	2	6 adults (2 must have Bronze Medallion or higher)
31-35	7	3	7 adults (3 must have Bronze Medallion or higher)
36-40	8	3	8 adults (3 must have Bronze Medallion or higher)
41-45	9	3	9 adults (3 must have Bronze Medallion or higher)

Please note the Bronze Medallion holder can also count as an *Active Adult Supervisor*.

As per section 4.3 of the School Swimming, Water Safety Programs and Aquatic Activities Procedures:

It is the responsibility of the teacher in charge of the swimming and water safety program/activity to ensure that a First Aid Kit is available for use at the aquatic location, and that an adult with a current First Aid Certificate is present during all swimming and water safety programs/activities.

Please read in conjunction with the Department of Education [Excursions Policy and Guidelines](#).

AUSTSWIM courses are run in the Northern Territory and course dates can be found on the website <http://www.royallifesaving.com.au/training/swim-teaching-austswim>

Bronze Medallion Courses are run regularly by RLSSA and course dates are set in advance and details are on the website <http://www.royallifesaving.com.au/training/bronze-medallion>

Bronze Medallion/Certificate II Public Safety (Aquatic Rescue) & Surf Rescue Certificate courses are run by Surf Life Saving Northern Territory. Course dates can be found on the website <http://www.lifesavingnt.com.au/training-education/>

Royal Life Saving NT will customise training course for DoE as requested and this can be initiated through the Royal Life Saving NT Training Manager trainingmanagernt@rlssa.org.au

Types of swimming environments

Type of environment	Description	Examples
Closed pool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A fence encloses the pool • Qualified lifeguard is on duty • The pool can be hired outside public hours • First aid facilities may be on site 	Council/Shire/Community pools in Darwin, Palmerston, Katherine, Nhulunbuy, Jabiru, Tennant Creek, Pirlangimpi, Ngukurr, Yuendumu and Alice Springs
Supervised Water Recreational Facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The depth of the water may vary • A qualified lifeguard is on duty • Water clarity may depend on the time of year • First Aid facilities would be present 	Leanyer Recreation Park Darwin Waterfront Wave Lagoon
Natural Waterway including Sheltered Waters*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The depth of water may vary • There is no qualified lifeguard on duty • The body of water may be still or flowing • Water clarity may depend on the time of year • Vegetation may surround part or all of the body of water • There may be submerged rocks and or tree branches • Water level may change rapidly due to heavy rainfall. • Crocodile activity may change due to seasonal changes • Not all natural waterways are safe for swimming and this will need to be identified in the risk assessment <p>*Absence of windy, choppy or moving water</p>	Lake Alexander Darwin Waterfront Recreation Lagoon Edith Falls (Katherine) Ellery Big Hole Glenn Helen Ormiston Gorge Berry Springs Wangi Falls Lake Bennett Mataranka and Bitter Springs
Sheltered Waters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Still water conditions • Absence of windy, choppy or moving water • Ready access to the shore 	
Shallow Pool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depth of water is at or below waist level of students 	Pre-school Pools

Deep Pool	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Depth of water is above waist level of students when standing on both feet	Most 'closed pools' could be considered 'deep pools' depending on the height of students
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