



## Summary of Questions and Answers from Swim Transition Info Sessions held March 2-4, 2022

### Canadian Red Cross

**Q:** Can we return Canadian Red Cross supplies?

**A:** The Canadian Red Cross has a 30-day return policy. Training Partners are encouraged to speak with their Red Cross Account Manager to discuss their situation.

### Swim for Life – Recognition and Progress Reports

**Q:** Will progress reports be downloadable and fillable for printing by facility?

**A:** Affiliates may create their own progress reports based on a Lifesaving Society Style Guide. Lifesaving Society progress reports will be available online for Affiliates to download.

**Q:** For recognition items, when will the cost be available?

**A:** Based on Affiliate feedback, final decisions on items and their cost will be available by March 31, 2022.

### Swim for Life Program

**Q:** What about Swim at School programs; does the Lifesaving Society offer something similar or should we just use the Swim for Life levels?

**A:** The Swim for Life program can be delivered during school board lessons.

**Q:** Any chance the Lifesaving Society could also use animals for the pre-school levels?

**A:** At this time, the Swim for Life program does not have mascot names for program levels. This topic will be brought forward during future program revisions however recognition items could include them.

**Q:** Why is elementary backstroke not included in the Swim for Life program?

**A:** The Swim for Life program focuses on three strokes (front crawl, back crawl and breaststroke). These are the foundation strokes in any swimmer's repertoire. Specialty strokes such as elementary backstroke were not supported in Affiliate research.

**Q:** How many Affiliates are offering the program nationally? What are some of the challenges/successes from the program?

**A:** The Swim for Life program has been offered across the country since 2007. We recommend that Affiliates reach out to other pools who have been successfully running the program for more information.

**Q:** Do you offer adapted swim programs?

**A:** The Swim for Life program is designed to support all learners. We recommend a reduced participant to instructor ratio to support participants with specific learning needs.

**Q:** Will there be Swim for Life Instructor worksheets available for early review?

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**A:** The Swim for Life Instructor Worksheets will be available for download in our Affiliate resources once the e-lifesaving.ca clinic is live.

**Q:** Given that the program looks the same from 2010, are there plans for updates or revisions in the coming years?

**A:** Yes. All National programs are reviewed and/or revised on a regular 5-year cycle.

**Q:** How can the Water Smart® messages be used in the program?

**A:** Instructors have flexibility to create in-water activities that support Water Smart® messages.

**Q:** Can you speak about water safety and how it is used in this program?

**A:** The Swim for Life program contains Water Smart® messages in every level.

### **Swim for Life – Leadership**

**Q:** Can WSITs get Swim for Life Instructor Trainer and Lifesaving Instructor with the transition process, or do they need to complete a separate LSI course?

**A:** WSITs who do not hold a Lifesaving Instructor award need to complete the Lifesaving Instructor course. Any WSITs who have an expired Lifesaving Instructor award need to complete a Lifesaving Instructor Recertification.

**Q:** What are the steps for someone who has their Lifesaving Instructor Trainer, but not WSIT, to teach the Swim for Life Instructor course?

**A:** Lifesaving Instructor Trainers who do not hold a WSIT will need to show proof of a Water Safety Instructor award and complete the online Swim Instructor Transition clinic. They will then attend the 3-hour Swim for Life Trainer Orientation clinic to obtain Swim for Life Instructor Trainer status.

**Q:** How do Red Cross Water Safety Instructors become a Swim for Life Instructor?

**A:** The first step is to give permission for data transfer from Canadian Red Cross, then take the online Swim Instructor Transition clinic at e-lifesaving.ca. The cost is approximately \$21 for the Swim for Life Award Guide. WSIs will receive a digital version to complete the transition clinic prior to receiving a hard copy.

**Q:** When are the WSIT transition courses starting to get offered?

**A:** WSIT transition clinics will be scheduled once the online Swim Instructor Transition Clinic is available at e-lifesaving.ca.

**Q:** For WSIT/LSITs, are the July Trainer courses listed on Eventbrite the courses they need to register for?

**A:** No. The July Trainer courses are for experienced instructors who wish to become Trainers.

**Q:** If you are a WSIT who holds a current LSI, will the transition course grant Lifesaving Instructor Trainer status?

**A:** Yes

**Q:** Is there a way for WSITs who did not attend the last recert cycle to be a part of the transition?

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**A:** Yes. All expired WSITs can still transition by completing the online Swim Instructor Transition clinic, then completing the 4-hour WSIT to Lifesaving Society Trainer course.

**Q:** In the new Swim and Lifesaving Instructor program that is 40 hours long, is part of that time online learning?

**A:** No. The Swim and Lifesaving Instructor combination course is delivered in-person.

**Q:** What does the recert process look like for Swim for Life Instructors? How long are the recerts?

**A:** The design of the Swim for Life Instructor Recertification will take place in 2023 therefore we are unable to provide recertification specifics at this time.

**Q:** Is there a practice teaching component for the Swim and Lifesaving Instructor Course

**A:** Both the Swim for Life Instructor and Lifesaving Instructor courses include peer-teaching. Candidates will be fully certified to deliver programs upon successful completion of the instructor courses. The Lifesaving Society supports Affiliates' decision to add additional training opportunities such as teaching experience or apprenticeships to their courses.

**Q:** Can a Lifesaving Instructor Trainer teach the Swim for Life program?

**A:** Only those with a current Swim for Life Instructor award can teach the Swim for Life program.

**Q:** If a WSI updates to the Swim for Life program, does their expiry date stay the same or does it become the date they updated?

**A:** Once instructors have completed the online Swim Instructor Transition Clinic, they will receive a new certification date valid for 24 months.

**Q:** When will the Inservice document be ready?

**A:** The Swim Instructor Inservice Guide will be ready for Fall 2022.

**Q:** Will apprenticeships be waived for current Trainers in other streams as well (such as First Aid Instructor Trainer or National Lifeguard Instructor Trainer)?

**A:** No.

**Q:** Can someone with an expired WSI complete the data transfer?

**A:** All Water Safety Instructor certifications that expired between 2016 and 2022 have all been extended to December 31, 2022. If you have taken the course prior to 2016, please call the Canadian Red Cross to request an award extension.

**Q:** Can an experienced WSI take a Lifesaving Society Trainer course to become a Swim for Life Trainer?

**A:** Yes! We are offering Trainer courses in July – course information is located on our website.

**Q:** What level of instructor can teach Rookie, Ranger, Star Patrol?

**A:** A current Swim for Life Instructor or Lifesaving Instructor can teach the Canadian Swim Patrol program.

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**Q:** Will it be possible to do the WSI transfer by an in-service hosted in-house so we can do it for all the staff at once instead of the online transition clinic?

**A:** At this time, we recommend all WSIs complete the online transition clinic at e-lifesaving.ca.

**Q:** Is Lifesaving Instructor separate from Swim for Life Instructor?

**A:** Yes.

**Q:** What is the timeline for when we can expect the WSI transition clinics to be available?

**A:** The online Swim Instructor Transition Clinic will be available soon at e-lifesaving.ca.

**Q:** For instructors transferring to the Lifesaving Society, can they still teach the Canadian Red Cross swim program until the facility fully transitions?

**A:** Yes.

**Q:** When will the Swim and Lifesaving Instructor combo course materials be ready?

**A:** The Swim and Lifesaving Instructor combo course materials are ready to be ordered now for the Shop.

**Q:** Will there be a combination Swim Instructor/Lifesaving Instructor Recert option in the future, or will they be separate recertification courses?

**A:** At this time, recertification courses for 2024 are still under development.

**Q:** Is there a way to bulk purchase books for the online transition clinic to provide to staff?

**A:** Not currently, but this option will be available soon.

**Q:** Is there going to be an accelerated LSI course?

**A:** Yes. We have designed an 8-hour in-person clinic for Swim for Life Instructors to become Lifesaving Instructors.

**Q:** Approximately how long is the online transition course going to be for the WSIs?

**A:** Approximately 2 hours.

**Q:** If LSIs are expired, will they be able to complete the online transition clinic?

**A:** The online transition clinic is for Water Safety Instructors only. If an LSI (who does not hold a WSI) wishes to become a Swim for Life Instructor, they can take our accelerated 6-hour in-person Swim for Life Instructor clinic.