



Lifesaving Society Update

October 5, 2020

As the Lifesaving Society continues to provide updated information and resources to support your plans related to staffing and reopening aquatic facilities, please note the following items:

- 1. Extension of Lifesaving Society Certifications:** As mentioned in our June Update, the extension date of certifications to October 31, 2020 “was chosen to allow a reasonable period for recertifications to take place following anticipated August/September opening of most aquatic facilities.” In consideration of the limited number of indoor pools having reopened to date, and the limited pool time availability of those that have reopened, we are now providing a **further extension of all Lifesaving Society certifications to December 31, 2020.**

It should be noted that, unless a dramatic increase in COVID-19 cases causes pools to again shut down, this will be the final extension. It will be incumbent upon members to ensure they prepare themselves for, and actively pursue, recertification prior to December 31, 2020.

As per previous communication from WorkSafeBC, they have “extended first aid certificates with expiry dates between March 1, 2020 & August 31, 2020. These certificates will now be acceptable in the workplace for 180 days beyond their original expiry date. Certificates will not be reprinted, and no further action is needed from either first aid attendants or employers to qualify for an extension. If you are unable to recertify immediately, you can brush up on your skills with these [OFA Level 1 videos](#) and [first aid reference manuals](#) while you wait for training.”

- 2. Lifesaving Instructor Recertification:** Much anticipated information on the [2020 Lifesaving Instructor Recertification](#) process is now available on the website including reducing the in-person session from 7 hours to 4 hours with the addition of an online module to be completed prior to the in-person session.

As previously communicated in our June 17 and July 10 Updates, **Lifesaving Instructors who qualified for the LSI extension will remain certified to December 31, 2020** with the Bronze Medals launch scheduled for January 4, 2021.

- 3. Review of Reopening Guidelines Document:** Based on new and changing information related to COVID-19 that affects the reopening and operation of pools, the Lifesaving Society will be undertaking a review of the Reopening Guidelines Document released in mid-May. In the meantime, one of the more controversial issues was banning the use of snorkels. Understanding the need to accommodate some fitness swimmers who must rely on the use of a snorkel due to physical limitations, Lifesaving Society Canada has provided an [update on snorkel use](#).

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4. **Updated Reopening Survey:** Thanks to those of you who have provided updated information on reopening your indoor pools. A [revised chart](#) is now available online.

5. **Staff Changes:** Please be advised that as of October 1, 2020, Cheryl Sibany is no longer employed by the BC & Yukon Branch of the Lifesaving Society in the position of Manager of Safety Services and Lifesaving Sport. She will soon be returning to Ontario where much of her family lives. The Branch very much appreciates her contribution over the past three and a half years and we wish her the best in the next chapter of her life. This position will not be filled at this time due to severe financial hardship for the Society caused by COVID-19, however the services provided by Cheryl will be maintained by other personnel. Please forward any issues or correspondence related to Aquatic Safety Services and Lifesaving Sport to Dale Miller, Executive Director at dalem@lifesaving.bc.ca

6. **Junior Lifeguard Clubs and TeleGames:** Cheryl was passionate about the great potential for Junior Lifeguard Clubs and one of her final tasks for us was to complete the [JLC TeleGames Handbook](#) and an [online presentation](#) on how to manage TeleGames.

While respecting all COVID-19 precautions, JLC is a great way to get youth back in the pool and TeleGames is a virtual competition members can enjoy. The submission date for the Fall 2020 edition of TeleGames is December 29. Send your queries and completed TeleGames entry forms and results to Roan at awards@lifesaving.bc.ca.

With the current lack of Bronze Medallion, Bronze Cross and National Lifeguard courses being run and the subsequent result of an increased lifeguard shortage when pools are ready to fully reopen, certifying JLC members in Bronze Family awards as part of a Club is an excellent strategy for succession planning!

Thank you for all you do to provide safe aquatic recreation and education!