



- Swim assessments are an important aspect of water safety. Non-swimmer restricted to water less than chest deep unless directly supervised during a learn to swim program. Bathers become buoyant in water chest deep and above, which causes them to lose contact with the bottom. Non-swimmers who lose contact with the bottom may not have the ability to prevent themselves from entering deeper water*. Non-swimmers in greater than chest deep water has been identified as a contributing factor in all non-swimmer drownings. Some pools may be too deep for the shortest non-swimmers, in that case lifejackets should be worn at all times.
- All camp councilors participating in water activities must also be swim tested prior to the start of camp to ensure they are safe and assigned an appropriate task during water activities.
- All campers regardless of age **MUST BE** swim tested when participating in activities in open water. Self-assessment is not recommended.

***Natural bodies of water may have depth fluctuations.**

WRIST-BANDS (suggested colours)

Red: 5 yrs. Or younger (always accompanied in the water 'within arm's reach') – no assessment required.

Yellow: 6 yrs. of age, children who are non-swimmer or do not want to be tested must be accompanied in the water 'within arm's reach')

Orange: 7 yrs. of age and over who are comfortable in the water & can swim 15 meters (shallow-end only)

Blue: 7 yrs. of age and over who are comfortable in deep water & successful completion of swim test

Notes

- Max ratio for Red and Yellow bands: 4:1 without lifejackets; 8:1 with lifejackets.
- All campers & councilors must wear wristbands at all times.
- Councilors must identify the children in their charge and wear corresponding wristband.
- In-water councilors must not leave their group unless the entire group exists the water.

BC & Yukon Branch

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Day Camp Swim Test

PROCEDURE

Lifeguards facilitating the swim tests must have rescue aid on their person and be rescue ready.

Facility Swim Test (Orange wristband)

- Beginning in the shallow water, designate 15m mark (swim skill – non-stop swim in any method)

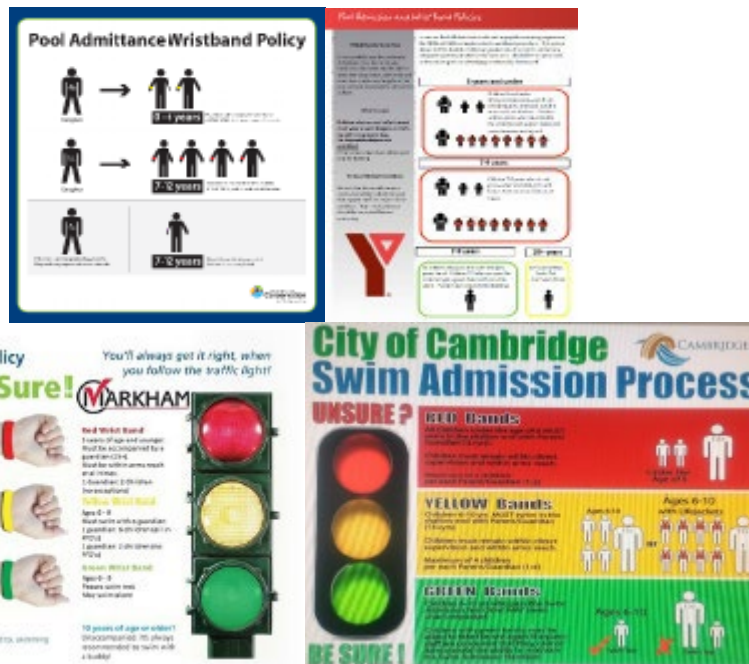
Deep End Swim Test (Blue wristband)

- Beginning in shallow water designate, 25m or 50m mark (swim skill – non-stop swim in any method)

All tests in open water must have lifeguard accompaniment in the water and on the dock or beach (2 staff).

- Anyone (6-12years) who does not want to be tested will wear yellow bands.
- Retesting can take place at any time; max 2 x per swim.

SIGN EXAMPLES:





Make This Your Camp Challenge!

For all campers 6-12 years

With older (10-12) campers add Swim to Survive +

For more information on Residential Camps, Waterfronts (Supervised and Unsupervised), and Boating, consult the following resources:

- British Columbia Camps Association
- Lifesaving Society Waterfront Guidelines
- Health Protection Environmental Health Services Guide and Pool Safety Plan for Pool Operators - Pool Regulation (BC Reg.296/2010)
- Transport Canada, Safe Boating Guide, 2014.
<http://www.tc.gc.ca/media/documents/marinesafety/TP-511e.pdf>
- Transport Canada, Licensing A Pleasure Craft:
http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/debs-obs-paperworkpaperwork_boat_licence-1898.htm

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