

CHANGES IN BSA AQUATICS POLICY AND PROGRAM

Prepared for National Camp School Aquatics Instructor BSA renewal training. May be incomplete. Consult latest printings of appropriate literature for details and clarification. Dates may reflect year first discussed at NCS rather than year of adoption.

2003 New edition of the BSA *Fieldbook*. Contains information on canoeing, kayaking, rafting, and sailing.

2005 Online, Internet training for *Safe Swim Defense* and *Safety Afloat*. Now at <http://www.scouting.org> under MYSCOUTING tab.

New editions of Canoeing, Whitewater, and Small-Boat Sailing merit badge pamphlets.

New ECC guidelines for CPR released in December.

2006 National H&S Committee proposes formal recognition/support of council aquatics committees. (See National Camp Standards revision for 2009.)

Rowing merit badge revised.

American Canoe Association and BSA draft memorandum of mutual support.

2007 Waterskiing merit badge changed to Water Sports to allow use of wake boards.

Revised Red Cross Lifeguard materials released.

2008 Revised Swimming, Lifesaving and Motorboating merit badge pamphlets.

Tour permits revised; 2 yr expiration of SSD and SA training specified.

AHA advocates compression only CPR option for lay rescuers in circumstances that do not include youth or water rescue victims. Red Cross CPR/AED training for the professional rescuer required for BSA Lifeguard in 2009.

National Safe Boating Council and Coast Guard Office of Boating Safety phasing out "PFD" acronym in favor of "life jacket" for common usage. PFD classifications under review for possible standardization between USA and Canada.

All aquatics merit badge pamphlets reprinted in color.

Safe Swim Defense and *Safety Afloat* texts revised. Basic concepts unchanged, but details clarified. Online training still appropriate. Abbreviated versions updated in Lifesaving, Swimming, Rowing, Canoeing, Whitewater, and Small-Boat Sailing pamphlets. Complete version in *Aquatics Supervision*. *

BSA Weather Smart training for leaders introduced. Revisions to *Safe Swim Defense* and *Safety Afloat* are consistent with recommendations on activity limitations due to lightning.

Federal Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act effective Dec 2008. Councils should make sure drains at camp pools are in compliance prior to opening in 2009.

2009 *Aquatics Supervision: A leader's guide to youth swimming and boating activities*, No 34346, published.

New adult leader training programs in Swimming & Water Rescue and Paddle Craft Safety introduced to provide skill training consistent with Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat. *Aquatics Supervision* serves as text. Instructor guides, presentation materials, and exams available from councils via download from scout.net.

New *BSA Lifeguard Instructor Manual* released to councils via download from scout.net. Revised requirements in *Instructor Manual* and also *Aquatics Supervision*. Standardized course outline utilizes Red Cross material expanded to cover BSA camp situations.

Aquatics Supervision serves as resource for aquatics special awards and contains application forms and instructor material for Kayaking BSA, Snorkeling BSA, Scuba BSA, Boardsailing BSA, and Mile Swim BSA. Minor changes to Boardsailing and Mile Swim requirements. Text also contains current scuba policy and updated Snorkeling Safety guidelines. *

National Camp Standards require review of aquatics program by council committee (introduced in 2008, mandatory in 2009). Suggestions for council aquatics committees included in *Aquatics Supervision*.

Slight modification to National Camp Standards re Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat training. Units encouraged but not required to conduct their own safe swim activities.

Red Cross releases revised *Swimming and Water Safety* text and WSI program. Restful swimming strokes introduced earlier in learn-to-swim progression.

American Canoe Association publishes new texts for Canoeing and Kayaking.

BSA medical forms have been revised; in particular, an exam by a health care professional will be required yearly for all participants, not just those over 40 yrs of age. The new forms become mandatory in 2010.

* *Aquatics Supervision* serves as the resource document for BSA aquatics policies for 2009. Other online and printed material, such as the *Guide to Safe Scouting* and *Camp Program and Property Management*, will be updated to reflect the latest changes.