

Unit Swim Classification Procedures



Units can conduct their own swim classifications before camp

The swim classification of individuals participating in a Boy Scouts of America activity is a key element in both Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat. The swim classification tests should be renewed annually, preferably at the beginning of each outdoor season. Traditionally, the swim classification test has only been conducted at a long-term summer camp. However, there is no restriction that this be the only place the test is conducted. It may be more useful to conduct the swim classification prior to a unit going to summer camp.

All persons participating in BSA aquatics are classified according to swimming ability. The classification tests and test procedures have been developed and structured to demonstrate a skill level consistent with the circumstances in which the individual will be in the water. All participants must retest annually. The Swimmer's Test demonstrates the minimum level of swimming ability for recreational and instructional activity in a confined body of water with a maximum 12-foot depth and with shallow water footing or a pool or pier edge always within 25 feet of the swimmer.

The various components of each test evaluate the several skills essential to the minimal level of swimming ability. Each step of a test is important and should be followed as listed below.

Swimmer's Test:

Jump feet first into the water over a head in depth, level off, and begin swimming. Swim 75 yards in a strong manner using one or more of the following strokes: side strokes, breast stroke, trudgen, or crawl; then swim 25 yards using an easy resting back stroke. The 100 yards must be swam continuously and include at least one sharp turn. After completing the swim, rest by floating.

Beginner's Test

Jump feet first into water over a head in depth, level off, swim 25 feet on the surface, stop, turn sharply, resume swimming as before, and return to the starting place.

ADMINISTRATION OF SWIM CLASSIFICATION TEST

OPTION 1 (at camp):

The swim classification test is completed the first day of camp by camp aquatics personnel.

OPTION 2 (At unit level with council-approved aquatics resource people):

The swim classification test done at a unit level should be conducted by one of the following council-approved resource people: Aquatics Instructor, BSA Aquatics Supervisor, BSA Lifeguard, certified lifeguard, swimming instructor, or swim coach. When the unit goes to a summer camp, each individual will be issued a buddy tag under the direction of the Aquatics Director for use at the camp.

SPECIAL NOTE:

When swim tests are conducted away from camp or at the point of activity, the Aquatics Director shall at all times reserve the authority to review all participants to ensure that standards have been maintained.

Unit Swim Classification Record

This is the individual's swim classification as of this date. Any change in status after this date i.e., non-swimmer to beginner or beginner to swimmer, would require a reclassification test by the camp Aquatics Director.

SPECIAL NOTE: When swim tests are conducted away from camp or at the point of activity, the Aquatics Director shall at all times reserve the authority to review or retest all participants to assure that standards have been maintained.

Unit Number _____ Date of Swim Test _____

Swim Classification			
FULL Name (Please Print)	<i>Non Swimmer</i>	<i>Beginner</i>	<i>Swimmer</i>
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
12.			
13.			
14.			
15.			

Name of Person Conducting Test

Certification: _____

Print Name

Signature

Unit Leader:

Print Name

Signature

