

Swim Classification Procedures

The swim classification of individuals participating in a BSA aquatics 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. The Swimmer's Test demonstrates the minimum level of swimming ability required for safe deep-water swimming. The Beginner's Test demonstrates the minimum level of swimming ability for recreational and instructional activity in a confined body of water with a maximum 6-foot depth, and with shallow water footing or a pool pier edge always within 25 feet of the swimmer.

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

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

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

Administration of Test: The swim classification test MUST be conducted by a person experienced in swimming instruction. New York State requires that the testing individual hold current WSI certification or current BSA Aquatics Director certification. No other certifications will be accepted. When the unit goes to summer camp each individual will be issued a buddy tag under the direction of the Aquatics Director for use at the camp.

Copies of certifications front and back MUST be provided with the attached form.

Unit Swim Classification Record

Unit Number: _____

Date of Test: _____

	Full Name (Print)	Swim Classification		
		Non-Swimmer	Beginner	Swimmer
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Name of person conducting the test: _____

Signature of person conducting the test: _____

Certification of person conducting the test: _____

Name of unit leader: _____

Signature of unit leader: _____

Copies of certifications front and back MUST be provided with the attached form.
See previous page for test administration guidelines.