



## Teaching leadership during COVID-19

Teaching leadership courses during COVID-19 presents a unique set of challenges for affiliates, instructors and candidates. We discussed this topic with Sam Gingrich, aquatic specialist with the City of Waterloo, Nicole Coelho, aquatic lead with the City of Waterloo and Jennie Miller, a national trainer.

From an affiliate's perspective, Gingrich stressed the importance of communication – communicate with your candidates, your guard team and your instructors, he says.

Candidates need to understand what the procedures are and what is expected. Gingrich suggests calling each candidate to discuss elements like:

- the screening process
- where to enter and exit from
- which facilities may be off limits (e.g., change room, lockers)
- what PPE equipment will be provided and what they must bring
- when will they need to provide a “bubble buddy”

Lifeguards need to understand how courses will be operating and the support those courses may require. They need to know if they are responsible for preparing and sanitizing equipment, or if different equipment is required such as manikins (in place of other candidates) or additional rescue tubes (to avoid sharing).



From their experience teaching this summer, Miller and Coelho agree that instructors should expect to do more planning well before a course starts. This should include a pre-course meeting at the facility to review COVID-19 protocols, facility procedures and equipment use. Ask your employer how to navigate physical distancing and if there are skills that need to be taught differently. Ask your employer if:

- you are required to teach wearing a mask on the pool deck
- lectures will be taught in a classroom or on deck
- the class space allows for physical distancing
- there is enough equipment for each person (and if not, how will it be sanitized and shared)
- you need to build in time to disinfect equipment or if facility staff is doing it
- candidates are expected to have their own PPE, and which PPE is required and when
- you need a bubble buddy to demonstrate skills
- bubble buddies are required and how to teach those people their roles

Be prepared to review procedural information on the first day of class and expect to re-evaluate your lessons as you progress.

Asking questions and communicating clearly with your employer and the candidates helps to ensure that everyone is on the same page, and lays the foundation for a successful leadership course.

## PPE – Now Available

The Lifesaving Society sells Personal Protective Equipment including reusable and disposable masks, medical gloves, non-contact infrared thermometers, hand sanitizer, BVMs and BVM HEPA filter attachments, cleaning supplies and more.

Order now while supplies last. Visit [LifeguardDepot.com](http://LifeguardDepot.com), email [orders@lifeguarding.com](mailto:orders@lifeguarding.com) or call 1-844-647-7033.

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- Durable, compact (30 x 20 x 10 cm), lightweight (3 lb.) and waterproof (to a depth of 5 m).
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- Includes a Nanuk 920 protective padded storage case.

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Developed by VodaSafe with support from the Lifesaving Society.  
Product code: 41.9110.00

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All proceeds from LifeguardDepot.com support drowning prevention and the development of young leaders through Lifesaving Sport.

## AquaEye® changes everything

“I fell in love with the concept,” says Brian Miess recalling the initial telephone conversation he had with inventor Carlyn Loncaric five years ago.

Brian (now CEO) was the Lifesaving Society Ontario merchandise director. Carlyn was a former Vancouver lifeguard and engineer who had an idea for an underwater sonar scanner that could be deployed quickly by lifeguards to locate a missing person.

“I could see her vision. The concept was exciting and certainly resonated with the Lifesaving Society’s humanitarian mission,” says Brian.

In the spring of 2016, Brian flew from Toronto to Vancouver to meet with Carlyn. In exploring the idea, it became evident that AquaEye (as it became known) also had broader application for open water search and recovery operations.

The Lifesaving Society agreed to supply support and resources during the research and prototype development phase that followed over many months. The summer of 2018 marked the first time AquaEye was deployed in a drowning recovery operation in Texas.

The reality is that not all drownings are prevented and not all rescue attempts are successful. Drowning fatalities happen. The World Health Organization estimated some 350,000 annually worldwide. Even when successful rescue isn’t possible, AquaEye is a tool that can at least provide families with the recovery of a loved one much faster than traditional search and recovery operations (and with time and cost savings).

“As Canada’s lifeguarding experts, we try our best to stop drowning – by prevention if we can – by rescue if necessary,” Brian says. “That’s our mission and we owe it to everyone to give it our best shot. Lifeguards know that every drowning is a race against time. AquaEye gives guards another tool to win that race.”

The Lifesaving Society distributes AquaEye in Canada through its online store [LifeguardDepot.com](https://lifeguarddepot.com). In the USA, Barrier Waterman LLC is the sole distributor.


## New Bronze test sheets

The test sheets for the new Bronze medal awards are now available in English and in French in [Find a Form on our website](#).

Instructors, Examiners and recertifying candidates should take note that the Society has standardized Bronze Medallion and Bronze Cross recertification exams by designating the mandatory items to be evaluated. These items are the only items evaluated during recertification. To facilitate this, the Society has prepared separate Recertification test sheets that must be used when submitting Medallion and Cross recertification candidates for the new (2020) awards.

The new *Bronze Medals Award Guide* has been available since March and the award descriptions and test items have been updated accordingly in [Swimming & Lifesaving](#) and [Lifeguarding](#) on the Society's website.

Affiliates may implement the new Bronze medal awards at their convenience by June 2022, so instructors and examiners need to be ready. Check with your employer about when they plan to start using the new Bronze medals curriculum.



**LIFESAVING SOCIETY**  
*The Lifeguarding Experts*

### Bronze Medallion Recertification

*(Revised 2020)*  
*This test sheet for Recertification exam candidates only.*  
*Side 1: Please record each candidate's name and contact information accurately.*

Side 1: Please record each candidate's name and contact information accurately.		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	Name																				
2	Address																				
3	City																				
4	Phone																				
5	Work Phone																				
6	Work Email																				
7	Work Address																				
8	Work City																				
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15	Work Address																				
16	Work City																				
17	Work Phone																				
18	Work Email																				
19	Work Address																				
20	Work City																				

Check box if there are more candidates on the reverse side of this page.  Satisfactory Performance  F - Fail

**Instructor information**  
 Instructor's name: \_\_\_\_\_ ID#: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Awards information:  awards issued by affiliate  awards not issued  
 Payment information:  Exam fees attached  Exam fees not attached  
 Host name (Affiliate): \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Returns completed test sheet to the Lifesaving Society Branch Office promptly after the exam. Returns are easy for your records. Do not send cash by mail.

**Exam information**  
 Exam date: YY MM DD ( )  
 Facility name (e.g. name of pool): \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Examiner's name: \_\_\_\_\_ ID#: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

This section to be completed by the Lifesaving Examiner who examined the candidates.

## Calling all instructors, examiners and trainers!



**The Society's trifecta of technical resources required to support the delivery of the revised leadership training programs are all available!**

The *Instructor Manual* provides instructors with the essentials needed to successfully teach, coach and evaluate Lifesaving Society programs. Used with award guides, the *Instructor Manual* (which replaces *Instructor Notes*) is the required text on all instructor courses. The *Instructor Manual* costs \$20.00 plus tax.

The *Examiner Handbook* provides the essential knowledge and tools required to plan and conduct Lifesaving Society examinations. All active Lifesaving Society examiners and examiner mentors need the *Examiner Handbook* and it is the required text for candidates on Lifesaving Society Examiner courses. The *Examiner Handbook* costs \$27.80 plus tax.

The *Trainer Manual* is the Lifesaving Society Trainer's technical reference and companion to the leadership award guides. All active Lifesaving Society trainers need this manual, and it is a required text for candidates on Lifesaving Society Trainer courses. The *Trainer Manual* costs \$27.80 plus tax.

**Order online at [LifeguardDepot.com](http://LifeguardDepot.com) or call 1-844-647-7033**

## SAFE OPERATIONS RESEARCH

The Lifesaving Society collaborates with post-secondary institutions on research to advance understanding of aquatic operation issues and drowning prevention methodologies in Ontario and Canada. This research provides aquatic industry decision-makers with informed, evidence-based data by which to evaluate equipment, current and proposed practices, policies and procedures for the safe operation of aquatic facilities.

Since 2014, research initiatives with Ryerson University's School of Occupational and Public Health have included admission standards, lifeguard ratios and air quality in Class A pools. In 2019, we completed a comparative study of Class A and Class B pool inspections with Conestoga College's School of Health & Life Sciences. Ryerson and Conestoga are the only schools in Ontario that certify Public Health Inspectors.

We are happy to announce a new collaboration with the University of Windsor's Faculty of Science (School of the Environment).

The Society shares its research results in presentations throughout the year and research published to date is available upon request. If you are interested in joining a study, [contact the Society's Safety Management Director Michael Shane](#).



**Scotiabank** TORONTO  
WATERFRONT MARATHON

## Scotiabank – virtual marathon

The Lifesaving Society is participating in the **Scotiabank Charity Challenge – Toronto Waterfront Marathon Virtual Race**, and we want you to join us!

The event takes place from **October 1 to 31**, so you have the flexibility of choosing a date and time that works for you. This year's distance options include a 4-Person Marathon Relay, a new 10K as well the traditional Marathon, Half-Marathon and 5K distances. You can run or walk, and you don't need to complete the distance all at once!

[Register today](#). Once you create a profile, join the Lifesaving Society Ontario team and start fundraising using your personal links. If you raise more than \$400, we'll cover your participant fee. Email [fundraising@lifeguarding.com](mailto:fundraising@lifeguarding.com) for details.

Anyone can participate – invite your friends and family. Join 10,000 runners from around the world in an unforgettable virtual experience!

Don't forget to tag us in your photos!  
Use **#TeamLifesavingON**

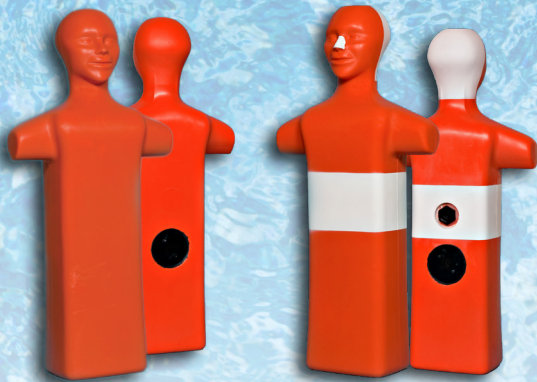
## Black Friday... Cyber Monday... GivingTuesday!

On December 1, donate to the Lifesaving Society on the 8th annual GivingTuesday – the global movement for giving and volunteering. Rally for the Lifesaving Society and donate to our drowning prevention mission. Can't wait? [Donate now!](#)

# GIVING TUESDAY



## Lifesaving Society Training and Competition Manikins



### Training Manikins

\$202.64 each or 10 for  
\$172.24 per unit.

Product code: 42.1185.00

### Competition Manikins

\$345.06 each or 10 for  
\$293.30 per unit.

Product code: 42.1183.00

- Ideal for practicing pick-ups, carries and removals in lifesaving and lifeguard courses.
- Easy to fill and easy to drain (for submerged unconscious victim simulation).
- Built to withstand regular use.
- Require minimal maintenance.
- Made in Canada by the Lifesaving Society.

The Lifesaving Society's Training and Competition manikins enable course participants to practice important lifesaving and sport skills while maintaining physical distancing protocols.

The Competition Manikin is ILS approved for lifesaving sport competition and allows you to control weight and buoyancy.

**Order online from LifeguardDepot.com**

**or call 1-844-647-7033.**

**Free standard shipping within Canada.**

**Some exclusions apply.**

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LifeguardDepot.com is the online store of the Lifesaving Society. All proceeds from LifeguardDepot.com support drowning prevention and the development of young leaders through Lifesaving Sport.

## WE ARE OPEN

The Society's office is open and welcomes visitors during business hours, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The number of visitors at a time may be restricted to maintain physical distancing, and other public health protocols will be followed.

**Curbside pickup / drop-off remains available 9:30 to 4:30. Order pickup in the office is available from 9:30 to 5:00.**

## Pay invoices online

View your account history and invoice details, and pay your invoices online by [logging in to lifesavingsociety.com](https://www.lifesavingsociety.com) as a representative of your affiliate.

We also send invoices and statements of account to your preferred email address so you can view, save or share these documents easily with others.

Contact Accounts Receivable at 416.490.8844 or send an email to [customer\\_accounts@lifeguarding.com](mailto:customer_accounts@lifeguarding.com) for more information.

## Age of Certification

As of July 1, 2020, the minimum age prerequisite for Swim Instructor, Lifesaving Instructor, and National Lifeguard certification became 15 years of age (as of the last day of the course).



In consultations leading to this change, it was recognized that age is only one factor among many including physical, cognitive and emotional maturity that determine successful outcomes. There was consensus that the Society's competency-based evaluation system (e.g., the Must Sees) is, in the end, a more useful and objective measure of success.

The time is right. In an era of chronic staff shortages in aquatics, this change means more candidates can participate in the certification training they need for employment earlier than ever. And it means employers can tap into a larger talent pool too and begin staff recruitment efforts earlier.

The Society's minimum age for certification has no impact on the minimum age for employment for instructors and lifeguards (16 years) established by the Ontario government in Regulation 565.

## COVID-19 webinars, bulletins and guides

The Society hosted and recorded a series of webinars on topics related to the safe management of public pools during COVID-19. We also published several information bulletins and two important guides:

1. *Guide to Reopening Pools and Waterfronts: Lifesaving Society guidelines for reopening aquatic facilities after COVID-19 closure*
2. *Lifesaving Society Guide to Training During COVID-19: In-Person Safety for Affiliates, Trainers, Instructors, Examiners and Coaches*

[All of the recorded webinars, bulletins and guides are accessible from our website.](#)

