



Age of Certification

The Lifesaving Society Canada is adopting 15 years as the minimum age prerequisite for certification as a Swim Instructor, Lifesaving Instructor, or National Lifeguard. Candidates must be at least 15 years of age as of the final day of the course.

This is a national change in these national awards. In Ontario, the change to 15 years is effective July 1, 2020.

This change is the result of two years of thoughtful consultation with the Society's affiliate members, leadership personnel and Area Chairs. We thank them for their hard work.

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.

In the discussions about age as a determinate of success, 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 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.

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.

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First Aid Prereq after July 1

Emergency First Aid (EFA) or Standard First Aid (SFA) are prerequisite certifications to several Lifesaving Society courses including Bronze Cross and National Lifeguard. Historically, only EFA or SFA awards issued by the national agencies (Lifesaving Society, St. John Ambulance, Canadian Red Cross or Canadian Ski Patrol) were eligible as prerequisites.

This changes for exams held after July 1, 2020.

In light of the significant growth in the number of first aid providers and recent changes in government regulations, the Lifesaving Society is broadening access to its lifesaving and lifeguard courses by accepting, for prerequisite purposes, EFA and SFA certifications provided by training agencies approved by the Ontario Ministry of Labour or the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

[The Society will post on its website the list of approved agency EFA and SFA certifications](#) that may be used as prerequisites to the Society's awards. The Society will update its list periodically to align with changes made by the Ontario government.

We hope that this change means easier access to Lifesaving Society certification courses for more candidates, and that this change makes things a little easier for the Society's affiliates.

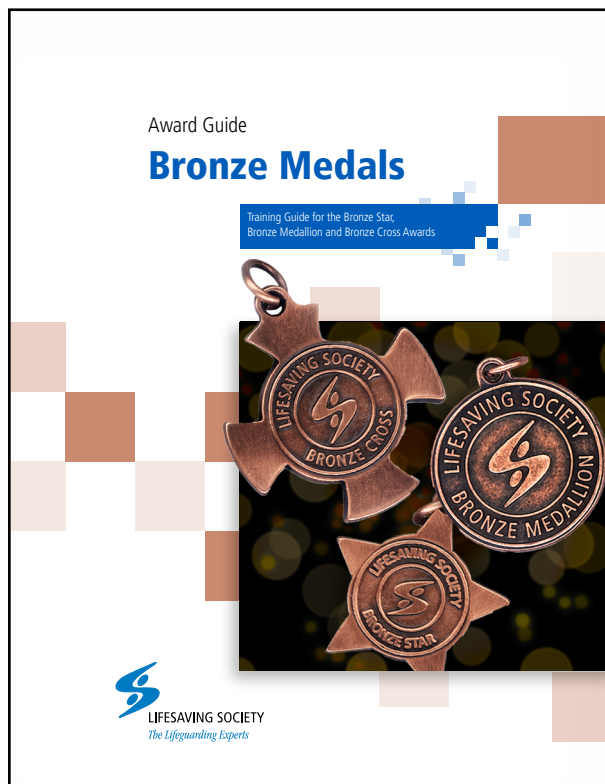
Bronze instructors – get ready

If you teach or examine the Bronze awards, you need the new *Bronze Medals Award Guide* to get ready for when your employer implements the revised program. It includes:

- The test items, performance requirements (Must Sees) and notes for the new Bronze Star, Bronze Medallion and Bronze Cross awards.
- A technical supplement related to new items in Bronze Medallion and Bronze Cross and advice on setting up lifesaving and Bronze Cross assistant lifeguarding situations.

Order your copy today. \$19.60 plus tax. Second edition (April 2020), 84 pages, saddle-stitched and three-hole punched for compatibility with the Society's Leadership binder. Available in French.

Watch for more information for affiliates, instructors and recertifying Bronze Cross candidates.



SOCIETY TO EXTEND CURRENCY OF VOCATIONAL AWARDS WHEN POOLS RE-OPEN

Ontario's aquatic facilities need staff with valid certifications to re-open when public health authorities give the go-ahead. To ensure that instructors and lifeguards are eligible to work, the Lifesaving Society plans to extend the validity of awards required for employment for 90 days from the date aquatic programming is allowed to resume. Trainer and Examiner certifications will be similarly extended. This extension applies only to awards that expired after March 1, 2020.

We will post exact dates and any additional information on our website as it becomes available.

Lifesaving Society certification cards will not be reprinted. Aquatic employers, employees or Lifesaving Society Trainers and Examiners need not take any actions to qualify for the extensions.

New Instagram handle

The Lifesaving Society Ontario has a new Instagram handle – [lifesavingsocietyon](https://www.instagram.com/lifesavingsocietyon)

Follow us for snapshots from the world of aquatics and support our drowning prevention mission.

We're also on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/lifesavingsocietyon) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/lifesavingsocietyon).





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SAFETY MANAGEMENT WEBINARS

The Society is hosting a series of webinars on topics related to the safe management of public pools. These webinars cover a variety of topics relating to the reopening of public aquatic facilities and how supervisory staff can best prepare.

Topics include Programming, Staff Training, Safe Water Management, Resuscitation Protocols and more. Recordings are posted following each webinar, and can be [accessed here on the Lifesaving Society website](#).

Scotiabank Charity Challenge – Save the date!

The Lifesaving Society is proud to announce it will be participating in the **Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon** on **Sunday, October 18, 2020**. Registration details will follow. Follow our social accounts for updates.



Scotiabank TORONTO WATERFRONT MARATHON

Diving in to distance learning

When her courses were cancelled due to COVID-19, Heather Morris-Stokes (Recreation Coordinator – Aquatics, Town of Halton Hills) reached out to the Lifesaving Society to inquire about teaching an Aquatic Supervisor course online.

Heather booked sessions with candidates whose course was cancelled previously to confirm they were interested in participating in a virtual version. She dropped off the participants' books and began preparing to teach online. Having taught Aquatic Supervisor for many years, Heather expected a straightforward transition, but restructuring her tried-and-true agenda into two-hour segments took more time than she anticipated.

She chose the Zoom platform to deliver the course because she was already familiar with it. The application was great for creating breakout rooms for group assignments, and for the ability to drop in to each of the rooms to visit and answer questions while the candidates worked. Heather used the polling feature to gather information to generate discussion among the group. She kept the app in "Gallery View," which allowed her to see the participants and assess their level of engagement.

"All things considered, I enjoyed this experience," Heather says. "I definitely learned a lot, and am looking forward to teaching more online courses."

GUIDE TO ONLINE AND BLENDED LEARNING

The Lifesaving Society has prepared a guide to support its affiliate members and leadership personnel who plan to augment traditional in-person training with online or blended learning delivery of the Society's courses. Find it on our [website](#) or [open the guide here](#).



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OFFICE UPDATE

The Society's office reopening plan is underway with the return of staff who are processing awards and orders and shipping and receiving. Others continue to work remotely, checking and responding to phone messages and emails during regular office hours (9:00 to 5:00).

Curbside pickup / drop-off is available (9:30 to 4:30). As of July 6, the office opens to visitors.

A limited number of visitors at a time will be permitted on site to pick up orders or recertify leadership awards. Physical distancing and other public health protocols will be maintained.

Call-ahead procedures for pickup orders are coming. We thank you for your understanding during this unprecedented period and ask for your patience as we work through the "return-to-normal" process.

2020 Water Smart Contest

The Water Smart Contest doesn't require a lot of planning; it's flexible and can be implemented in a way that works best for you. There's a colouring sheet for 7-year-olds and under, a poster for 8–10-year-olds and a drawing contest for the 11–13 age group.

[Visit our website for details.](#)

