

New Verification of Identification Policy

Effective January 1, 2026

The Lifesaving Society is issuing an update to the [Verification of Identity Policy](#) that was previously released. The amended policy clarifies how identity may be verified, expands acceptable forms of identification, allows photocopies to be used, and removes the attestation form requirement. This policy applies to all original vocational courses and recertifications and must be implemented no later than January 1, 2026. Verifying a candidate's identity helps ensure the integrity of Lifesaving Society certifications and protects employers and the public.

Key changes

Vocational courses provide successful candidates with a licence issued by the Lifesaving Society Ontario in the form of a certification card and/or Find a Member record. This record indicates to an employer that the named candidate has met the minimum competencies and standards required for the indicated certification.

Identity verification continues to be required for all vocational courses and recertifications. The amended policy now:

- Allows identity to be verified by the instructor, examiner, trainer, or through the Affiliate's registration process (e.g., camps or recreation centres).
- Allows accepted identification to be presented as an original, a photocopy, or a digital copy
- Expands and clarifies the list of acceptable government-issued identification
- Confirms that Health Cards and Birth Certificates remain acceptable without a photo
- Removes the former requirement to complete or submit an attestation form

Certifications must display the candidate's legal name. A preferred name may also appear if requested; however, it does not replace the legal name.

For the purposes of this policy, candidates must verify their identity before participating in any of the following original or recertification courses:

- Pool Attendant
- Waterpark Attendant
- Bronze Cross
- National Lifeguard*
- Emergency First Aid
- Standard First Aid
- Aquatic Supervisor
- Aquatic Manager
- Assistant Instructor
- Swim Instructor
- Swim Update Clinic
- Lifesaving Instructor
- National Lifeguard Instructor
- First Aid Instructor
- In-person recertification course
- Examiner course
- Trainer course

What does “verify their identity” mean?

All candidates must present accepted identification to the instructor, examiner, trainer, or through the Affiliate’s registration process prior to the start of the course or recertification. The instructor, examiner, trainer, or Affiliate will confirm that the legal name and date of birth:

1. Match the name listed on the candidate’s permanent Lifesaving Society certification card or Find a Member record (if applicable).
2. Match the identity of the individual present at the course or recertification.

For candidates who are new to the Lifesaving Society and do not yet have a permanent card or Find a Member record, the instructor, examiner, trainer, or Affiliate must ensure the legal name and date of birth are recorded accurately on the test sheet. A preferred name may also be recorded on the test sheet if requested, but it does not replace the required legal name.

What is acceptable proof of identity?

Accepted identification must:

- Be original and valid (not expired)
- Include the candidate’s name and date of birth
- Be issued by a government body
- Be presented as an original, photocopy, or digital copy

* Pool, Waterpark, Waterfront & Surf

A photo is required for most identification, except for Health Cards and Birth Certificates, which are acceptable without a photo.

Examples of accepted identification include:

- Driver's Licence
- Birth Certificate*
- Health Card*
- Passport
- Permanent Resident Card
- Ontario Photo Card
- Certificate of Indian Status
- Canadian Citizenship Card (with photo)

What do I do if a candidate doesn't have accepted photo identification?

Attestation forms are no longer required. Candidates may present a Birth Certificate or Health Card without a photo. The instructor, examiner, trainer, or Affiliate must record the candidate's legal name and date of birth accurately on the test sheet. A preferred name may also be recorded if requested, but the legal name remains required.

Examples of how to apply the new Verification of Identity Policy

Scenario 1: Candidate provides a Driver's Licence at their National Lifeguard pool recertification.

- Driver's Licence meets the criteria of acceptable proof of identity.
- Examiner confirms the photo matches the identity of the candidate present at the recertification.
- Examiner confirms the name on the Driver's Licence matches the National Lifeguard pool recertification card the candidate has provided.

Scenario 2: Candidate is taking a Standard First Aid course with the Lifesaving Society for the first time.

They arrive at the course with only their school student card.

- School student card does **not** meet the criteria of acceptable proof of identity.
- Family member brings the candidate's passport.
- Instructor/examiner confirms the photo matches the identity of the candidate present at the course.

* Health Cards (with or without photo) and Birth Certificates are acceptable forms of identification.

- Instructor/examiner records the candidate's exact legal name and date of birth from the passport on the test sheet.
- A preferred name may also be recorded on the test sheet if requested

Important reminders

- Do not take or retain copies of identification.
- For online courses, candidates must present identification in a private breakout room.
- Ensure each candidate's identity is verified, either directly or through your Affiliate's registration process.

Implementation

Check with your employer to determine when they will begin phasing in the Verification of Identity policy. As of **January 1, 2026**, you must follow this policy as part of your prerequisite check for all identified courses.

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