
Appendix 5a: RECREATIONAL SWIMMING / NATURAL WATER BATHING

1. It is FSC policy that recreational swimming or natural water bathing by young persons under the supervision of FSC staff is **not allowed**.
 - 1.1 Natural Water bathing is defined by OEAP as: “swimming or paddling, in river, canal, sea or lake”.
 - 1.2 Recreational Swimming would usually take place in a swimming pool.
 - 1.3 ‘Swimming’ is used throughout this OCoP to mean either recreational swimming or natural water bathing.

Guidance Note: For the sake of clarity:

- This OCoP refers to swimming as an activity. Students may enter the water as part of a freshwater, river, or coastal study whilst undertaking a specific fieldwork activity. This is risk assessed in OCoP L2P.
 - It is **expressly forbidden** for swimming to be allowed as an intended part of a fieldwork activity whose purpose can be achieved by other methods which do not involve swimming e.g. in carrying out a river study, obtaining measurements of channel width by asking students to swim across the river with a tape measure is **totally unacceptable**.
 - It is accepted that a student or visitor may accidentally fall into water during an activity and that the person will have to swim in order to get out of the water e.g. a person, collecting freshwater animals, may slip off the river bank into the river. Since this would not be an intended part of the activity, the procedures and practices given below do not apply. In particular, it means that it is not necessary for an FSC employee to have appropriate ‘life saving qualifications’ in order to undertake a fieldwork activity merely because that activity takes place near to water.
 - There are circumstances in which, as an integral part of the activity, it will be necessary for a student or visitor to intentionally enter water and swim *e.g. in order to enable a person to use a canoe safely, it may be necessary to ensure that they receive appropriate instruction and training in ‘capsize drill’*. Such training will involve the person deliberately capsizing a canoe [in controlled conditions], entering the water and therefore having to swim. Such activities will have been approved and where appropriate be licenced by AALA.
2. In accordance with the above policy, the HoLL **should** ensure that the following conditions are fully complied with.
 - 2.1. Students and visitors **should** be informed of the FSC’s policy on swimming as part of the formal introduction to the Learning Location.
 - 2.2. Leaders of self taught groups **should** be advised of the FSC’s policy on swimming,

- 2.3. If Visiting School leaders of any visiting group wish to arrange swimming for their students, Visiting School leaders must be able to provide documented reassurance to the HoLL in the form of a risk assessment and the approval of the school's 'EVC' or head teacher (see Appendix 1). The school leader must also be able to demonstrate that adequate supervision, through appropriate qualifications and staffing ratios or the provision of qualified National Pool or National Beach Lifeguards, has been considered in their risk assessment of the activity.