

## Swim Classification Procedures

The swim classification of individuals participating in a Boy Scouts of America 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, swim classification tests have only been conducted upon arrival at 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's arrival at 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. The Swimmer Test demonstrates the minimum level of swimming ability required for safe deep water swimming. The Beginner test demonstrates that the Scout is ready to learn deep water skills and has the minimum ability required for safe instructional and recreational activity in a confined swimming area in which shallow water, sides, or other support are less than 25 feet from any point on the water.

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 completed in one swim without stops and must 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 SWIM CLASSIFICATION TEST (THE COUNCIL CHOOSES ONE OF THESE OPTIONS):**

#### **OPTION A (at camp):**

The swim classification test is completed the first day of camp by aquatics program personnel.

#### **OPTION B (Council conducted/council controlled):**

The council controls the swim classification process by predetermined dates, locations and approved personnel to serve as aquatics instructors. When the unit goes to a summer camp, each individual will be issued a buddy tag under the direction of the aquatics program director for use at the camp.

#### **OPTION C (At unit level with council-approved aquatics resource people):**

The swim classification test done at a unit level should be conducted by one of the following council-approved resource people: Aquatics Instructor, BSA; Cub Scout Aquatics Supervisor; BSA Lifeguard; certified lifeguard; swimming instructor; or swim coach. When the unit goes to a summer camp, each individual will be issued a buddy tag under the direction of the aquatics program director for use at the camp.

### **SPECIAL NOTE:**

Although swim tests may be conducted prior to summer camp, the aquatics director is expected to review or retest any Scout or Scouter whose skills appear to be inconsistent with his classification. Additionally, the aquatics program director is authorized to retest any scout or group of scouts when he is reasonably concerned that pre camp swim tests were not properly administered.

# Unit Swim Classification Record

This is the individual's swim classification as of this date. Any change in status after this date i.e., non-swimmer to beginner or beginner to swimmer, would require a reclassification test by the Camp Aquatics Director.

**SPECIAL NOTE:**

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Unit Number \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Swim Test \_\_\_\_\_

	Full Name (Please Print)	Swim Classification		
		Non-swimmer	Beginner	Swimmer
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				

**Name of Person Conducting Test**

\_\_\_\_\_

Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

**Unit Leader:**

\_\_\_\_\_

Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

(OVER)