

# POLICY

## Pool Depth

POLICY No: 5011

EFFECTIVE: 1st June 2019



The purpose of this document is to provide SwimmingSA's policy with regards to the depth of pools used by SwimmingSA and their members during sanctioned State, District and Club activities. Over the last fifteen years the recommended swimming pool depth considered suitable for dive entry have undergone a number of adjustments. During this time a distinction between the suitable depths for recreational users and for competition swimmers has also been introduced into the policy framework. FINA, as the peak international swimming body, have facility rules for competition venues which is a further documented form of guideline. The Swimming Australia Ltd policy position was adopted in 2006 and updated in 2018.

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### *THE POLICY*

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All SwimmingSA Affiliated clubs must ensure that the pool facilities they use for training, competition or any other water based club activity are of adequate depth for diving. Where facilities do not meet the adequate diving depths then safety measures must be put in place.

As of June 2006 SwimmingSA, formally adopted the Swimming Australia Ltd Pool Depth Guidelines. These guidelines were adopted as the recommended guidelines for use by the national body, the state associations and clubs throughout Australia when engaging with facility owners and operators in relation to swimming competition and training.

As at August 2018 the Guidelines have been updated and renamed to the Dive Entry for Competitive Swimming Policy.

The Policy is available for viewing on the Swimming Australia Website – [Click Here](#)

Where the recommended pool depth being sought is in consideration of a design for new pool development then the FINA Standard and the RLSS "Design of Starting Blocks" (FD 24) is the pertinent reference.

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### *Adoption of Strategies*

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#### Proactive Strategies

In order to achieve and monitor this policy:

1. SwimmingSA will conduct an audit of pool depths in South Australia every two years at which time all clubs will be required to resubmit the current depths of any facility they use for club sanctioned activities.
2. SwimmingSA will maintain a register of pool depths across the state known as the South Australian Diving Constraints. The Diving Constraints register will be made publically available on the SwimmingSA website.
3. Member clubs are required to familiarise themselves with the Diving Constraints and ensure that any modifications to their "home" facility are recorded and submitted to SwimmingSA on the pool depth measurement template.

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4. Meet directors should ensure their facility is in accordance with the published Diving Constraints prior to the commencement of a competition.
5. Club coaches and committees should monitor the water depths of their training facility to ensure at any given time it is in accordance with the published Diving Constraints.
6. Swimming dive entry activities into a water depth less than 1.8metres must be supervised by an accredited ASCTA Swimming coach or under the control of an accredited Swimming Technical Official.
7. A risk assessment checklist must be undertaken prior to the undertaking of dive entry activities at all pool facilities where the coach, technical official or swimmers are unfamiliar with the venue or the current facility condition.
8. Swimmers must be able to consistently demonstrate shallow dive entry technique in water above 1.8 metres in depth and deemed competent in dive technique before undertaking dive entries at minimum SAL guideline depths.

### Responsive Strategies

If an incident/accident occurs during any club sanctioned pool activity with regards to diving the following must take place:

- Any applicable emergency / first aid must be rendered to the effected swimmer
- The venue management must be notified
- The organiser of the activity must be notified (club committee, meet director, referee)
- As much detail as possible regarding the accident must be noted by the activity coordinator in a written report to be submitted to SwimmingSA within two weeks of the accident occurring. If the accident is at a SwimmingSA sanctioned competition then it must also be noted on the meet report.
- The club must remeasure the pool depth (if possible on the day of the accident) and submit an update pool depth template to SwimmingSA within two weeks.