

BRONZE, SRC, ART & GOLD ASSESSMENTS

Document ID:	Circular 202003-02 SLSSNB Assessment Cancellations
Issue Date:	16 th March 2020
Department:	Education
Audience:	Chief Training Officers, Club Presidents, Club Secretaries, Training Officers, Assessors and Facilitators
Summary:	Cancellation of assessments for Bronze Medallion, Surf Rescue Certificate, Advanced Resuscitation Techniques Certificate and Gold Medallion assessments due to Coronavirus (COVID-19).
Action Required:	Club Chief Training Officers to communicate to all those affected within their Clubs.

PURPOSE OF CIRCULAR

To ensure the safety and wellbeing of SLSSNB members, and to inform SLSSNB Clubs of the decision to cancel all upcoming Bronze Medallion, Surf Rescue Certificate, Advanced Resuscitation Techniques Certificate & Gold Medallion assessments as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

THE CURRENT SITUATION

The virus can spread from person to person through:

- close contact with an infectious person (including in the 24 hours before they started showing symptoms)
- contact with droplets from an infected person's cough or sneeze
- touching objects or surfaces (like doorknobs or tables) that have cough or sneeze droplets from an infected person, and then touching your mouth or face

SLSSNB is following advice from SLSNSW, SLSA and the latest information announced by the Australian Government with regards to good hygiene, self-isolation and social distancing. For example:

- staying at home when you are unwell
- avoiding large public gatherings if they're not essential
- keeping a distance of 1.5 metres between you and other people whenever possible
- minimising physical contact, especially with people at higher risk such as older people and people with existing health conditions

Further details on social distancing can be found on the Australian Government Department of Health website here:

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-information-on-social-distancing>

DECISION

SLSSNB has cancelled all Bronze Medallion, Surf Rescue Certificate, Advanced Resuscitation Techniques Certificate and Gold Medallion assessments scheduled for the remainder of the 2019-20 season.

SLSSNB has reviewed the recommendations from SLSNSW, SLSA and recent information from the Australian Government. Various risk mitigation techniques have been considered for training and assessing these awards and we have determined that while the risk to members can be mitigated in some areas, there are certain tasks that require close person-to-person contact that cannot be avoided. These include First Aid and Live Patient assessment tasks.

We understand that this will inconvenience and disappoint some members, however the health and wellbeing of our members is the priority under these difficult circumstances.

WHAT NEXT

Clubs that have been running training courses for these awards should consider terminating the training sessions immediately. All training materials such as enrolment forms, attendance lists, completed theory papers, etc. should be collated and stored for future reference.

Members who have been participating in training should be advised by the Club of the Club's decision with regards to training and the Branch decision to cancel the assessments.

The Branch Education team will be considering various ways that our members can complete their training and assessment for these awards in the future. Clubs will be advised of the options in due course.

We recognise that this is a rapidly changing situation and if any other changes are necessary the Branch will advise the Clubs accordingly.