



Irish Water Safety
Sábháilteacht Uisce na hÉireann

Together, let's bring drownings down

2019

*Some of the Masters Ladies competing at the 2018 National Lifesaving Championships at Curracloe Beach, Wexford.
Photo: Niall Cosgrove*



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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF IRISH WATER SAFETY



As Chairman of Irish Water Safety (IWS), I have great pleasure in wishing you and your family a very Happy New Year. This calendar, brought to you through the kind support of a number of sponsors, includes just some of the activities planned for the year

ahead. The photographs, submitted by volunteers nationwide, reflect the wide and varied remit of our work to promote swimming and water safety. There are many more calendar activities coming on stream in the coming months so please stay in touch with your local Water Safety Area Committee (WSAC) for further details.

The Council of Irish Water Safety has been working diligently on your behalf in 2018. The Commissions, Committees and Working Groups have been conscientious and thorough in dealing with the tasks set for them by the Council. On your behalf, I thank them all for their enthusiasm.

As the Chairman and on behalf of the Council, I take particular delight in acknowledging and thanking all the members of IWS for the tremendous voluntary work that they undertake nationwide throughout the entire year. I especially wish to highlight the

excellent work of our Summer Weeks Organisers who are, even now, engaged in preparations to ensure that the 2019 Summer Weeks at Training Centres in aquatic environments nationwide will be delivered successfully throughout the country.

The number of lives saved and aquatic accidents avoided as a result of the work carried out by all of our active volunteers can never be fully enumerated although one figure that brings home the importance of their work is the number of rescues actioned by Lifeguards each year, a figure that reached a total of 331 last summer. These same Lifeguards, trained and assessed by Irish Water Safety, administered first aid on 4,496 occasions and reunited with their loved ones a total of 329 lost children found wandering alone by the water's edge.

In terms of our achievements within the Sport of Lifesaving last year, Irish Water Safety had its best year yet. Ireland hosted the European Junior Lifesaving Championships which saw competitors travel from twelve countries and Ireland winning an incredible 44 medals on home ground. The pool competitions took place at the UL Sport Arena in Limerick and the beach competitions took place at Kilkee Beach in Clare. We built on this success thanks to our Senior National Lifesaving team who travelled to Australia to compete in the World Lifesaving Championships, setting new

records and bringing home a bronze medal – the first time Ireland has ever won an individual medal at a World Championships. Every member of each team, Juniors, Seniors, Masters and Coaches, played a pivotal role in achieving this success and we congratulate them and celebrate their achievements.

2018 was also the year in which we launched our biggest media campaign to date. A number of marketing campaigns were rolled out throughout the year on TV, radio, cinema, in the press, online and on billboards nationwide. The Irish actor Liam Neeson played a key part in some of these campaigns and for this we are deeply grateful as we believe it should have a strong influence at home and beyond. It is particularly gratifying in terms of our endeavours to share drowning prevention initiatives with each other at local, national and international level. Additional marketing campaigns will hit your screens in the new year as we focus on changing people's attitudes and behaviours around water so please like our Facebook page to stay in touch with the latest developments.

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**Martin O'Sullivan, Chairman,
Irish Water Safety**



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JANUARY 2019

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6
7 Education Centre Courses for Primary School Teachers	8 Education Centre Courses for Primary School Teachers	9 Education Centre Courses for Primary School Teachers	10 Education Centre Courses for Primary School Teachers	11 Education Centre Courses for Primary School Teachers	12 Education Centre Courses for Primary School Teachers	13 Education Centre Courses for Primary School Teachers
14 Education Centre Courses for Primary School Teachers	15 Education Centre Courses for Primary School Teachers	16 Education Centre Courses for Primary School Teachers	17 Education Centre Courses for Primary School Teachers	18 The Holiday World Show, Belfast Education Centre Courses for Primary School Teachers	19 The Holiday World Show, Belfast Education Centre Courses for Primary School Teachers	20 The Holiday World Show, Belfast
21	22	23	24	25 The Holiday World Show, Dublin	26 The Holiday World Show, Dublin	27 The Holiday World Show, Dublin
28	29	30	31 Deadline for WSACs to submit year-end financial reports			



Irish Water Safety – Clare's Eimear Kilroy delighted with her win at the National Lifesaving Championships at Kilkee Beach, Clare.
Photo: Maeve Kilroy

NOTES:

For updates on all courses and events please visit www.iws.ie

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FEBRUARY 2019

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6 <i>Council Meeting</i>	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i>	15	16 <i>Ireland Angling Show, Dublin</i>	17 <i>Ireland Angling Show, Dublin</i>
18	19	20	21	22	23 <i>Juniors & Seniors National Pool Championships, UL Sport Arena, Limerick</i>	24 <i>Junior, Senior & Masters National Pool Championships, UL Sport Arena, Limerick</i>
25	26	27	28			



Irish Water Safety – Wickow's Cara Ryan ahead of the pack at the 2018 National Lifesaving Championships at Curracloe Beach, Wexford.
Photo: Niall Cosgrove

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MARCH 2019

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				1	2	3
4	5 Shrove/ Pancake Tuesday	6 Ash Wednesday	7	8 Skipper Expo International Galway Annual ILSE Commission Meetings, Heemskerk, The Netherlands	9 Skipper Expo International Galway Annual ILSE Commission Meetings, Heemskerk, The Netherlands	10 Annual ILSE Commission Meetings, Heemskerk, The Netherlands
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day
18 Local Authorities Beach Lifeguard Exams Commence	19	20	21	22 World Water Day	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Mother's Day

Supported by the County Councils of Wexford, Wicklow, Donegal, Tipperary, Fingal, Limerick City & County, Kilkenny, Mayo, Clare and the Galway Water Safety Area Committee.



The Irish Lifesaving Team getting ready to compete in the European Junior Lifesaving Championships which was hosted in Ireland last year.
Photo: Clare WSAC

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APRIL 2019

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Council Meeting	11 Water Safety Development Officer's Conference, Roscommon	12 Water Safety Development Officer's Conference, Roscommon	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 Good Friday Nippers National Pool Championships, NAC, Dublin	20	21 Easter Sunday
22 Easter Monday	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

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Students from Mallow, Cork, having fun and building their water safety knowledge by learning how to stay safe in and near water.
Photo: Oisín Foden

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MAY 2019

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Public Holiday	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 European Maritime Day	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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Some of the Cork Lifesaving Team competing at the 2018 National Lifesaving Championships at Curracloe Beach, Wexford, featuring a photo bomber from Clare. Photo: Dervla Mulcahy

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JUNE 2019

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
					1	2
3 Public Holiday	4	5	6	7 Seafest, Cork	8 Seafest, Cork	9 Seafest, Cork
10	11	12 Council Meeting	13	14	15	16 Father's Day
17 National Water Safety Awareness Week	18 National Water Safety Awareness Week	19 National Water Safety Awareness Week	20 National Water Safety Awareness Week	21 National Water Safety Awareness Week	22 National Water Safety Awareness Week	23 National Water Safety Awareness Week
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 Deadline for WSACs to request grant

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Martin O'Sullivan, Irish Water Safety Chairman, and Seán Canney TD, Minister of State at the Department of Rural and Community Development, present 8-year-old Finn Bell Ryan with a SEIKO Just In Time Award at the 2018 IWS National Annual Awards Ceremony, our youngest award recipient to date. Photo: Clare WSAC

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JULY 2019

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1 <i>Nationwide Summer Classes Commence</i>	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



Irish Water Safety – Waterford's Conor Shields at the 2018 National Lifesaving Championships at Curracloe Beach, Wexford. Photo: Mary Maguire

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AUGUST 2019

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			1	2	3	4
5 Public Holiday	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Council Meeting	15	16	17	18 Education Centre Courses for Primary Schools
19 Education Centre Courses for Primary Schools	20 Education Centre Courses for Primary Schools	21 Education Centre Courses for Primary Schools	22 Education Centre Courses for Primary Schools	23	24 National Nippers & Junior Championships, Venue TBC	25 National Junior Championships, Venue TBC
26	27	28	29	30	31 National Seniors & Masters Championships, Clare	



Irish Water Safety – Louth's Ciarán McGoey competing at Brittas Bay, Waterford. Photo: Brenda McGoey

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SEPTEMBER 2019

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
30 European Lifesaving Championships 2019, Riccione, Italy						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 World Suicide Prevention Day	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 National World Ploughing Championships, Carlow European Lifesaving Championships 2019, Riccione, Italy	18 National World Ploughing Championships, Carlow European Lifesaving Championships 2019, Riccione, Italy	19 National World Ploughing Championships, Carlow European Lifesaving Championships 2019, Riccione, Italy	20 European Lifesaving Championships 2019, Riccione, Italy	21 European Lifesaving Championships 2019, Riccione, Italy	22 European Lifesaving Championships 2019, Riccione, Italy
23 European Lifesaving Championships 2019, Riccione, Italy	24 European Lifesaving Championships 2019, Riccione, Italy Water Safety Area Committee's National Seminar, Mullingar	25 European Lifesaving Championships 2019, Riccione, Italy	26 European Lifesaving Championships 2019, Riccione, Italy	27 European Lifesaving Championships 2019, Riccione, Italy	28 European Lifesaving Championships 2019, Riccione, Italy	29 European Lifesaving Championships 2019, Riccione, Italy



Some of the Rescue Crew hard at work at the European Junior Lifesaving Championships at Kilkee Beach, Clare. Photo: Niall Cosgrove

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OCTOBER 2019

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	1 European Lifesaving Championships 2019, Riccione, Italy	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 World Conference on Drowning Prevention 2019, Durban, South Africa	9 World Conference on Drowning Prevention 2019, Durban, South Africa Council Meeting	10 World Conference on Drowning Prevention 2019, Durban, South Africa	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Public Holiday	29	30	31 Halloween			

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The Irish Lifesaving Team on their way to the 2018 World Lifesaving Championships in Adelaide, Australia. Photo: Emer Kelly

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NOVEMBER 2019

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				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 <i>Irish Fly Fair and International Angling Show, Galway</i>	10 <i>Irish Fly Fair and International Angling Show, Galway</i>
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	



Smiles all round as the sport of lifesaving builds friendships for life. Tara McEvoy (Clare) and Aisling Barry (Cork) competing in the European Junior Lifesaving Championships at the UL Sport Arena in Limerick. Photo: Josephine Kelly

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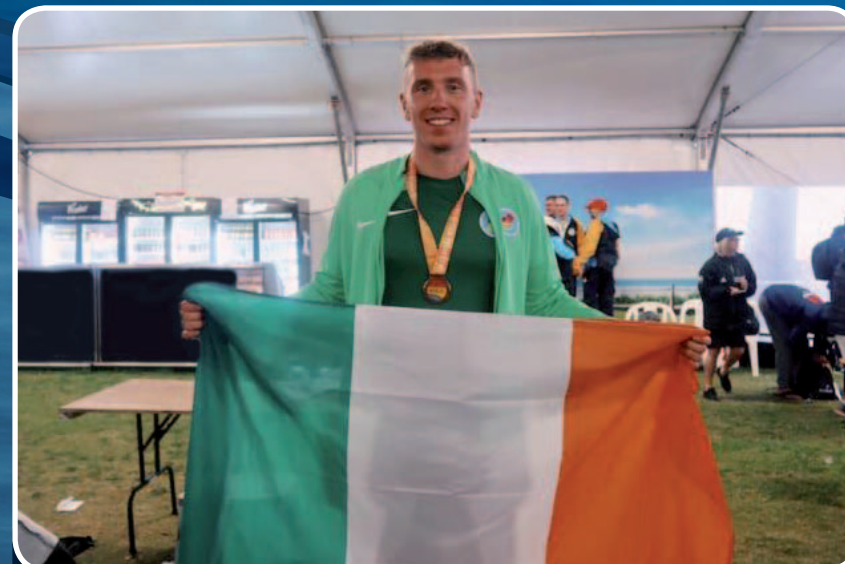
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DECEMBER 2019

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30	31 New Year's Eve					1
2	3	4	5 World Volunteer Day	6	7	8
9	10	11 Council Meeting	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 St. Stephen's Day	27	28	29

Supported by the County Councils of Wexford, Wicklow, Donegal, Tipperary, Fingal, Limerick City & County, Kilkenny, Mayo, Clare and the Galway Water Safety Area Committee.



Irish Water Safety – Clare's Bernard Cahill won a bronze medal at the 2018 World Lifesaving Championships in Adelaide, Australia. The first person to ever win an individual medal at a World Championships for Ireland. What a great year for lifesaving sport for Ireland. Photo: Irish Water Safety - Clare

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IRISH WATER SAFETY

THE STATUTORY, VOLUNTARY BODY AND REGISTERED CHARITY ESTABLISHED TO PROMOTE WATER SAFETY AND REDUCE DROWNINGS IN IRELAND.



Our focus is on Public Awareness and Education. Tragically, an average of 127 people drown in Ireland each year, eleven every month. We strive to reduce these fatalities by increasing water safety awareness and by changing attitudes and behaviours so that our aquatic environments can be enjoyed with confidence and safety.

WHAT WE DO:

1. Education:

- An education syllabus that teaches swimming, lifesaving, water confidence, safety, survival, rescue skills and basic life support;
- Courses are provided nationwide to the general public and also to children as part of the primary school curriculum in classrooms, pools and open water nationwide;
- Many qualifications such as our Pool and Beach Lifeguarding Awards are recognised internationally;
- Beach Lifeguards are trained and tested by our examiners for the Local Authorities prior to the annual summer season each year;
- Trained Lifesavers compete in provincial and national Lifesaving Championships and at International level;
- Risk Assessments on bathing areas and waterways nationwide that may pose a particular risk to the public, in order to make them safer;
- Train and examine rescue boat crews for the Community Inshore Rescue Services and administer associated VAT refunds.
- Water safety training for those working near aquatic environments in the public and private sector.



2. Promotion:

- Research, analysis and publication of drowning statistics that inform policy and enable effective targeting of those at risk of drowning;
- National and local media to build a public awareness of coastal and inland water safety;
- Publications, courses, advice and campaigns in print and online that promote water safety and target at-risk groups in all aquatic activities so that the public adheres to best practices;
- Supporting the work of over 4,800 volunteer members and those volunteering and commercially delivering swimming, lifesaving and basic life support training;
- A National Water Safety Awards Ceremony that includes the "Seiko Just-In-Time" Rescue Award and other awards that recognise volunteerism and partnerships that promote water safety at national and local level.



3. Partnerships:

- Local Authorities, state agencies, private enterprises and coroners on matters relating to water safety, the provision of Public Rescue Equipment and Lifeguarding locations nationwide;
- The Marine Safety Working Group and the Irish Marine Search and Rescue Committee to promote maritime safety;
- A range of organisations to help reduce the high number of drownings by suicide;
- Conferences, lectures and demonstrations to Local Authorities, Government Agencies, NGO's, schools, Colleges and members of the public.



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