

SWIM WITHIN YOUR DEPTH.
STAY WITHIN YOUR DEPTH.

2020



*Enjoying a splash during a Water Safety Week at Annagh Lake, Co Cavan.
Photo: Lorraine Teevan*



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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF WATER SAFETY IRELAND



I am delighted to present to you the WSI Calendar 2020, brought to you through the kind and generous support of a number of sponsors, to whom I extend our grateful appreciation.

As the Chairman of Water Safety Ireland (WSI), I take particular delight in greeting all the members of WSI. I wish to thank you and to acknowledge the tremendous voluntary work you undertake nationwide throughout the entire year. I especially wish to highlight the excellent work of our Winter and Summer Course Organisers. Last summer the weather was not kind to our instructors. However, this did not impact on the dedication and energy to which instructors applied themselves at training centres nationwide.

A particularly gratifying reflection of our growth is in the increase of our membership. Almost 5,000 of you are now contributing to our organisation nationwide and to each and every one of you, I extend my personal thanks.

Water Safety Ireland volunteers have been busy nationwide teaching swimming, lifesaving, basic life support, rescue skills and the promotion of water safety awareness to the public. Although the number of lives saved and aquatic accidents avoided as a result of our work can never be fully enumerated, we can certainly point to the 260 rescues by Lifeguards this summer as a reflection of their important work. These same Lifeguards, trained and assessed by Water Safety Ireland, administered first aid on 3,284 occasions, reunited with their loved ones a total of 289 lost children found wandering alone by the water's edge and gave advice on almost 90,000 occasions.

In terms of the Sport of Lifesaving, Water Safety Ireland's national teams had their best performances ever abroad, bringing home the highest number of medals from an International Lifesaving Championships than ever before. Every member of each team, be they juniors, seniors or masters, or coaches, played a pivotal role in achieving this success. We congratulate them and celebrate their accomplishments.

Our Primary Aquatics Water Safety (PAWS) programme is a key learning platform for parents and teachers to become aware of the importance of teaching water safety to children. Thanks to schoolteachers, volunteers and our Education Officer, water safety is brought to life in classrooms and homes throughout Ireland. Through continued government funding and sponsorship, we were able to deliver a national marketing and media campaign to highlight the dangers of our waters. Initiatives rolled out this year included the delivery of 600,000 branded wristbands to schools across the country, dedicated radio advertising and online promotions.

The Sports Commission had a very busy year; preparing, running and promoting thirteen regional and national competitions with over 2,000 competitors taking part. Our Inshore Rescue Boats Commission secured world recognition for the Rescue Driver and Crew Qualifications in 2019, placing both awards on the world equivalency table. For our Education Commission, there has been a focus on the realignment of Water Safety Ireland child protection policies, standards and procedures in line with the national guideline. The Swimming Commission initiated their Disability

Swimming Teacher's Tutors course and had 28 candidates complete the programme.

At this time of year in particular, our thoughts are with the families of those members who have passed away. I am also conscious of the number of members who have lost family members themselves. We extend our deepest sympathies to all families who are feeling their loss. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha.

Throughout the course of the year, our Council members have demonstrated constant commitment and dedication to Water Safety Ireland's programme of work. I wish to thank each of them for their efforts during 2019 and look forward to working with them again in 2020 and beyond.

The staff of Water Safety Ireland's head office provide essential support all year round; without them we could not deliver our objectives. I would like to thank them for their continued hard work and welcome the two new staff members who joined the team in 2019.

Finally, I wish you and your loved ones good health and happiness for the festive season. I hope you enjoy the fellowship of new friends, and cherish the company of family in this season of loving and sharing.

Together, let's bring drownings down.

Martin O'Sullivan.
Chairman
Water Safety Ireland



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January 2020



Transition Year students from Dominican College, Wicklow Town with their teacher Joan Morton after taking part in a water safety course. Photo: Joan Morton

Notes:

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

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February 2020



Pictured at the 2019 European Lifesaving Championships in Riccione, Italy are Norma Cahill, Sinead Mortell, Triona McMenamin, Lisa Dalton, James O'Sullivan, Brid Cantwell & Mary O'Sullivan. Photo: James O'Sullivan

Notes:

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
					1	2
3	4	5 Council Meeting	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15 Ireland Angling Show, Dublin Juniors & Seniors National Pool Championships, UL Sport Arena, Limerick	16 Ireland Angling Show, Dublin Juniors & Seniors & Masters National Pool Championships, UL Sport Arena, Limerick
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Shrove/ Pancake Tuesday	26 Ash Wednesday	27	28	29	

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March 2020



Pupils from Scoil Naomh Mhuire, Cnoc Bride, Co. Louth pictured following a CPR course delivered by Arlen Donnelly, trainee instructor with Water Safety Ireland – Louth. Photo: Majella Donnelly

Notes:

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
30	31					1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 Irish Skipper Expo 2020	14 Irish Skipper Expo 2020	15 Leinster Nippers Stillwater Championships, Kilkenny
16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20	21	22 World Water Day Munster Nippers Stillwater Championships, UL Sport Arena, Limerick
23 Local Authorities Beach Lifeguard Exams Commence	24	25	26	27	28	29 Ulster Nippers Stillwater Championships, Ballyshannon, Donegal

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April 2020



Competitors entering the water during the 2019 Senior National Lifesaving Championships in Kilkee, Co. Clare.
Photo: Niall Cosgrove

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

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May 2020



Anne Kingston, Niamh Morrison, Eilish Harte and Anne Mc Carthy with their medals after winning Gold at the 2019 European Lifesaving Championships in Riccione, Italy.
Photo: Anne Beechinor

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				1	2 IRB Training Course/ Revalidation, Tramore, Waterford	3 IRB Training Course/ Revalidation, Tramore, Waterford
4 Public Holiday	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 European Maritime Day Conference, Cork	15 European Maritime Day Conference, Cork Seafest, Cork	16 Seafest, Cork	17 Seafest, Cork
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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June 2020



Summer sunshine: Bun an Inbhir, Gaoth Dobhair, Co. Donegal basks in glorious weather during a Water Safety Week. More than 100 children took part in activities throughout the week. Photo: Josephine Ní Chnáimhsí

Notes:

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1 Public Holiday	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Council Meeting	11	12	13	14
15 National Water Safety Awareness Week	16 National Water Safety Awareness Week	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	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Nationwide Summer Classes Commence	30 Deadline for WSACs to request grant					

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July 2020



Daire Mitchell and Ryan Hurley, both aged 7, expanding their knowledge and having fun during a Water Safety Week at Wicklow Harbour. Photo: Celine Quinn

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		1	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		

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August 2020



Action from the board event at the Lifesaving Regional Championships in Mullaghmore, Co. Sligo.
Photo: John O'Grady

Notes:

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

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September 2020



Happy faces from the pupils in Scoil Eoin, Kilbarrack, Co. Dublin during their Primary Aquatics Water Safety (PAWS) after school club. Photo: Cora Coppinger

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MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	1	2	3	4	5 National Seniors & Masters Championships, Rossnowlagh, Donegal	6
7	8	9	10 World Suicide Prevention Day	11	12	13
14	15 National Ploughing Championships, Carlow	16 National Ploughing Championships, Carlow	17 National Ploughing Championships, Carlow	18 World Lifesaving Championships 2020, Riccione, Italy	19 World Lifesaving Championships 2020, Riccione, Italy	20 World Lifesaving Championships 2020, Riccione, Italy
21 World Lifesaving Championships 2020, Riccione, Italy	22 World Lifesaving Championships 2020, Riccione, Italy	23 World Lifesaving Championships 2020, Riccione, Italy	24 World Lifesaving Championships 2020, Riccione, Italy	25 World Lifesaving Championships 2020, Riccione, Italy	26 World Lifesaving Championships 2020, Riccione, Italy	27 World Lifesaving Championships 2020, Riccione, Italy
28 World Lifesaving Championships 2020, Riccione, Italy	29 World Lifesaving Championships Water Safety Area Committee's National Seminar, Mullingar	30 World Lifesaving Championships 2020, Riccione, Italy				

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October 2020



Eyes on the prize: Action from the National Nipper Championships in Mullaghmore, Co. Sligo.
Photo: Nathan O'Connor

Notes:

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			1 World Lifesaving Championships 2020, Riccione, Italy	2 World Lifesaving Championships 2020, Riccione, Italy	3 World Lifesaving Championships 2020, Riccione, Italy	4 World Lifesaving Championships 2020, Riccione, Italy
5 World Lifesaving Championships 2020, Riccione, Italy	6	7 Council Meeting	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Public Holiday	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween	

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November 2020



Members of the Ireland team flying the flag at the 2019 European Lifesaving Championships, in Riccione, Italy.
Photo: Emer Kelly

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

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December 2020



*It's a race to the finish line at the 2019 Senior National Lifesaving Championships in Kilkee, Co. Clare.
Photo: Niall Cosgrove*

Notes:

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	1	2 Council Meeting	3	4	5 World Volunteer Day	6
7	8	9	10	11	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	30	31 New Year's Eve			

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WATER SAFETY IRELAND

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 124 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:

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

2. Promotion:

- a) Research, analysis and publication of drowning statistics that inform policy and enable effective targetting of those at risk of drowning;
- b) National and local media to build a public awareness of coastal and inland water safety;
- c) 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;
- d) Supporting the work of over 4,900 volunteer members and those volunteering and commercially delivering swimming, lifesaving and basic life support training;
- e) 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:

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

watersafety.ie

**iws.ie
juniorlifeguard.ie**

**paws.edco.ie
safetyzone.ie**

**iwsmembership.ie
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