



2021

BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY

Lifeguard Lily Barrett enters the water at Spanish Point, Co. Clare. Photo: Clem McNerney



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF WATER SAFETY IRELAND

BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY



As the Chairman of Water Safety Ireland, I take particular delight in greeting all members of WSI to Calendar 2021. I wish to thank you and to acknowledge the tremendous voluntary work you undertake nationwide throughout the entire year. This year's calendar takes a look back at distinctive moments from the last decade, featuring images from the last ten years. It is brought to you with the support of several sponsors, to whom I extend our grateful appreciation.

2020, as you all know has not been a normal year. Covid-19 has challenged our organisation to carry out our activities in different ways. Individual members of WSI, Water Safety Area Committees and members of the public have been in touch on a regular basis especially with our Technical Committee and Head Office making queries about courses. You have demonstrated your spirit of volunteerism in so doing as your intentions are altruistic and benevolent, in keeping with the spirit of WSI.

Unfortunately, in many cases our response was to inform you that courses, such as our Summer Weeks Programme, could not proceed. In this context we must remember that our organisation is a Statutory Body so we must ensure that we follow carefully the guidelines put in place by our Government.

From this perspective I especially wish to highlight the excellent work of our Winter and Summer Course Organisers over many years. We look forward to meeting many of you at our Awards Ceremony in 2021.

This 2021 Calendar is brought to you in a spirit of optimism. We look with confidence to getting back to teaching and instructing, and to recognising the dedication and energy of our instructors nationwide. You are the backbone of Water Safety Ireland: the pillar and the mainstay.

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 almost 500 this summer. These same Lifeguards, trained and assessed by Water Safety Ireland administered first aid on 3,450 occasions and reunited with their loved ones, a total of 251 lost children found wandering alone by the water's edge.

Our commissions, committees and working groups have been busy through 2020 meeting their targets despite the circumstances.

Through continued government funding and sponsorship, we were able to roll out our new brand message 'Better Safe Than Sorry' and deliver a number of national marketing campaigns during the year to highlight the dangers of our waters, across radio, online and out of home promotions. This year's winter campaign targets at-risk groups and encourages everybody to practice water safety. The critical importance of these awareness campaigns is perhaps most tragically reflected in the fact that thirty children aged fourteen and under drowned in ten years. I wish to express my gratitude to the Strategic Marketing Commission for delivering targeted, consistent messages to those who need it most and practical safety advice to the Irish public.

During 2020, the Education Commission standardised the WSI child protection training using an online platform. They modified the PAWS programme for delivery by parents and guardians during the Covid-19 Lockdown. They commenced the revamp of the JAWS programme for 2nd level students and have also started to develop a Water Safety programme for 3 - 5 year olds.

WSI's Lifeguard Commission successfully organised a Pool Lifeguard Tutor course this year for 26 candidates in January (just before the Covid-19 pandemic) and have provided safety advice, on-line training, amended Syllabi & new processes of instruction that will greatly assist our membership in how we recommence our Lifesaving and Lifeguarding classes again.

The Rescue Commission have managed the VAT Exemption Inspections with the Department of the Marine surveyor appointed by the IRCG, plus a Rescue Commission Working Group member. Training of the Community Rescue Boats volunteers is on hold for the present due to Covid-19. Working group members continue to give technical advice and support to members as required. There are ongoing positive discussions with IRCG and RNLI on training and development. A Rescue Commission member has been appointed as Chairperson of Health & Safety group under the SAR forum.

We acknowledge here also the invaluable work of the Surf Rescue Boats Commission.

2020 was a difficult year for Lifesaving Sport with all competitions cancelled. However, over the summer months many counties went to great lengths to plan and safely organise training for Junior and Senior athletes. It is so important to ensure our athletes stay in touch with their

sport and continue to work and plan ahead to competitions in 2021. The big Sport project of 2020 for the Sport Commission was the completion of the Level 1 Lifesaving Sport Coach Manual, which thanks to the expertise and commitment of our Tutors, will be available by the end of 2020. This will enhance our new coaching structure.

The Swimming Commission were forced to cancel many of their courses. However, they remained committed and busy. They worked with the Education Commission in reviewing the PAWS programme. They have used their time by reviewing all swimming related documents. This included the Pool Safety Guideline document which is ready to go to print. They have also liaised with the Rescue Commission on the implementation of the Swimming Pool Risk Assessment.

Perhaps one of the hardest working Commissions is the Audit, Risk and HR Commission. I thank them for their demanding work. Overseeing Commissions and maintaining focus on the needs of our members, the Technical Committee has also been especially busy.

I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to each of the Committees, Commissions and Working Groups, and especially the Chairs who have remained focused throughout the year.

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.

I wish to thank each member of the Council for their commitment and dedication to ensuring that 2020 was successfully completed. I look forward with confidence to the continued growth of our organisation and a Covid-19 free future.

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 especially in adapting to the new arrangements resulting from Covid-19.

As we conclude 2020, I wish you and your loved one's good health and happiness for the festive season. I hope you enjoy the fellowship of friends new and old and cherish the company of family, in this season of loving and sharing. Let's all stay safe in these most unusual times.

Martin O'Sullivan.
Chairman, Water Safety Ireland



January 2021

**BETTER SAFE
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Memories From The Last Decade



All smiles on the rocky path to a WSI Seal Award at Cappa Pier, Kilrush, Co. Clare Summer Swim Week. Photo: Sinead Mortell

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
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Deadline for WSACs to submit year-end financial reports

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Water Safety Ireland The Long Walk, Galway, H91 F602

Tel: +353 (0)91 564400 Lo-Call Number (within Ireland): 1890 420 202

Email: info@watersafety.ie www.watersafety.ie

Event dates are subject to Covid-19 related guidance. Please check watersafety.ie for regular updates.

February 2021

**BETTER SAFE
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Memories From The Last Decade



Competitors at the National Surf Lifesaving Championships at Brittas Bay, Co. Wicklow. Photo: Sean Oldham

Notes:

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1	2	3 Council Meeting	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day
15	16 Shrove/ Pancake Tuesday	17 Ash Wednesday	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28



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March 2021

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Memories From The Last Decade



WSI members from Donaghmede complete a Beach Lifeguard training course on Howth beach, Co. Dublin. Photo: Ronan Kelly

Notes:

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20	21
22 World Water Day Local Authorities Beach Lifeguard Exams Commence	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



April 2021

**BETTER SAFE
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Memories From The Last Decade



Competitors Eoin Gleeson and Rory Sexton show their running ability on sand in the Flags event at the Celtic Cup, Wales.
Photo: Mona Sexton, Co. Clare

Notes:

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



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May 2021

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Memories From The Last Decade



A group of swimmers add to their skills with Water Safety Ireland's Junior Lifeguard Programme at Coral Leisure Centre, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway. Photo: Gerry Brennan

Notes:

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
31					1 IRB Training Course/ Revalidation	2 IRB Training Course/ Revalidation
3 Public Holiday	4	5	6	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 Juniors & Seniors National Pool Championships, UL Sport Arena, Limerick	30 Juniors & Seniors National Pool Championships, UL Sport Arena, Limerick



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June 2021

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Memories From The Last Decade



Defence Forces members taking part in water safety classes in the Curragh Pool, Co. Kildare. Photo: Bob Farrell

Notes:



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	1	2	3	4 Irish Skipper Expo	5 Irish Skipper Expo	6
7 Public Holiday	8	9 Council Meeting	10	11	12	13
14 National Water Safety Awareness Week	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	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Nationwide Summer Classes Commence	29	30 Deadline for WSACs to request grant				

July 2021

**BETTER SAFE
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Memories From The Last Decade

2013



Erika McCarthy and Bebhinn Crowley in Board Rescue Final at Junior All-Ireland Championships, Curracloe, Co. Wexford.
Photo: Alice Crowley

Notes:

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 2021

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Memories From The Last Decade



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

Notes:

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



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September 2021

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Memories From The Last Decade



2011

Water Safety Ireland trained Lifeguards Triona McMenamin & Patricia Brennan take up Lifeguarding duties on Byron Bay Beach, Australia. Photo: Triona McMenamin, Co. Donegal

Notes:



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

October 2021

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Memories From The Last Decade



WSI volunteer Stephen O'Toole demonstrates Basic Life Support to visitors at the National Ploughing Championships, Co. Laois. Photo: Anne Marie Maher

Notes:



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

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November 2021

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Memories From The Last Decade



The sun sets over Inishturk island as beach Lifeguard Doireann Dever prepares to lower the beach flag on Carrowniskey beach, Co. Mayo on the very last day of the season. Photo: Doireann Dever

Notes:

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 National Awards Ceremony	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					



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December 2021

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Memories From The Last Decade



2015

Declan Martin on his way to winning Sligo's Lough Gill Swim 10k open water swim in aid of North West Hospice. Photo: Liam Maloney

Notes:

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		1 Council Meeting	2	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 Public Holiday	28 Public Holiday	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 120 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 5,000 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

teachpaws.ie
juniorlifeguard.ie
paws.edco.ie
safetyzone.ie

ringbuoys.ie
iwsmembership.ie
iwsmemberinsurance.com



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