

Skills Maintenance - Considerations

Below are some key questions for CTOs and Club Captains to consider when deciding how to implement the skills maintenance program this season. Further support is available from Branch Directors of Education and Lifesaving. It may be that you decide to try something out this season and review it for next season. Remember that the outcomes of SLSAs review aim to reduce the burden on Assessors, reduce administration (through SurfGuard enhancements) and ensure greater national consistency.

Consideration	Questions to consider	Points to remember
Delegation process	What skills do you want to delegate to someone other than an Assessor in your Club?	This doesn't have to be the whole award – it can be skills within an award (i.e. run, swim, run; radio).
	Who has the required skills & knowledge to be a delegate for these skills?	Delegates must be proficient in the award they are delegated to conduct skills maintenance for. Skills maintenance for all Powercraft Awards (except IRB Crew) need to be conducted by an endorsed Assessor. This doesn't have to be groups of people (i.e. Patrol Captains) – it can be individuals (i.e. specific Patrol Captains).
	Do these members wish to be delegates?	The CTO/Club Captain may feel that someone is perfect, but remember that they may not want this responsibility. Ask them, and explain what it entails (i.e. taking part in a briefing; paperwork required).
	When is your next Club Executive meeting?	Delegates will need to be recorded as delegates in the meeting notes, so the above needs to take place before your next meeting.
	How will you brief your delegates?	A briefing will need to take place for delegates on what skills need to be run and the key competencies they are looking for, as well as the process of reasonable adjustment and the paperwork process (what needs to be completed and by when). This could be a formal briefing which takes place for all delegates before conducting any skills maintenance, or could take place on the proficiency day with Assessors / Training Officers supporting delegates through the process this season.
Online content	Do you wish to promote the online option to their members this year?	The skills maintenance online content is available to all members through Pulse. If your Club is not using the online content, the same theory questions are provided as hard copy – they can be completed in written format or verbally on the day. If you are using online, it may be worth you logging in to familiarise yourself with how it works. Those who do complete the online questions must print off a completion certificate prior to attending the proficiency day. Remember that skills maintenance should be a refresher, not a test...the questions are there to provide an opportunity for knowledge to be refreshed.
Patrol scenarios	Do Patrol Captains need further support in ensuring ongoing competency?	SLSA have provided scenarios for use on patrol during quieter periods throughout the season. You may wish to create your own more suited to the local conditions.