

Western Cape Region | Water Activities Committee

Overview of Water Activities Qualifications & Policies

This document offers a concise overview and explanation of the key qualifications and Western Cape Water Activities policies that members are most likely to encounter. Its purpose is to provide clarity on relevant aspects and include direct links to comprehensive resources available on the Water Activities website.

Qualifications

Water Awareness Certificate Course

The Water Awareness certificate is a pre-requisite for senior Scouts & adult leaders to attend the Water Activity License course and is essential for senior Scouts & adult leaders of all groups engaging in swimming, rafting and tubing activities within Scouting.

The Water Awareness Certificate Course equips participants with the knowledge and confidence to safely plan, supervise, and support water-based activities within Scouting. It focuses on understanding water environments, recognising risks, and applying effective safety and emergency procedures.

This course is designed for participants who may not be strong swimmers, but who are responsible for youth participating in activities near or on water. During the course, participants will cover the following:

- Understand different water environments (pools, rivers, dams, sea & coastal)
- Identify common hazards and assess risks in water-based activities
- Understand SCOUTS South Africa water safety rules and adult responsibilities
- Learn basic water rescue principles and emergency response procedures
- Recognise signs of distress, drowning, and hypothermia
- Apply safe supervision practices for youth around water

The course emphasises awareness, prevention, and decision-making rather than swimming ability. Successful completion enables senior Scouts & adult leaders to meet SCOUTS South Africa water safety requirements and supports safe, confident participation in water activities.



Licence Validity

The license is valid for a period of five years after which it cannot be renewed. You will need to have completed the Water Activity License course before the time is up, or you will need to redo the course.

The Water Awareness Certificate holder registry can be found at <https://www.wateractivities.co.za/western-cape/water-awareness/>

Water Activity License (WAL) Course

The Water Activity Licence Course prepares senior Scouts & adult leaders to safely plan, lead, and manage approved water-based activities within Scouting. This course goes beyond basic water awareness and focuses on leadership, risk management, and practical competence in supervised water activities.

Participants will develop the skills and knowledge required to take responsibility for youth during water activities in accordance with SCOUTS South Africa policies and safety standards.

During the course, participants will cover the following:

- SCOUTS South Africa rules, responsibilities, and permit requirements for water activities
- Risk assessment and planning for water-based programmes
- Safe leadership and supervision ratios
- Understanding water conditions, weather, tides, and environmental factors
- Rescue techniques appropriate to the activity and environment
- Emergency procedures, incident management, and reporting
- Equipment selection, use, and maintenance

This course includes both theory and practical components. Participants will be assessed on their understanding of safety procedures, decision-making, and practical leadership skills. Successful completion qualifies the senior Scouts & adult leaders to apply for the relevant Water Activity Licence and to lead approved water activities within Scouting.

License Validity

The license is valid for a period of 5 years. After which you will either need to do the course again or you must have completed the requirements of the [CASS Programme](#).

The WAL holder registry can be found at <https://www.wateractivities.co.za/western-cape/water-activity-license/>



Skippers Ticket Registry

Members often possess Skippers Tickets for certain craft such as a powerboats or large sailing boats. These tickets are completed by doing an accredited course via an accredited organization to the likes of SAMSA or SAS. These Skippers Tickets can augment endorsements to the member's Water Activity Licence, given that SCOUTS South Africa does not facilitate its own Skippers qualifications at this stage.

A Skippers Registry of the current Skippers in SCOUTS Western Cape exists for skippers that have submitted their information. Should you not see your name on the Skippers Registry, and you are a licensed Skipper, you are encouraged to submit your information at the Skipper Data Collection portal. If the Skipper is a WAL holder, the appropriate endorsement will be added to the WAL and the member will be informed accordingly.

The Skippers Registry can be found at <https://www.wateractivities.co.za/western-cape/skippers/>

The Skipper Data Collection portal can be found at <https://bit.ly/skipperdata>

Western Cape Water Activities Policies

Sea Scout Course Boat Repair Fund (SSCBRF)

Overview

The purpose of the Sea Scout Course Boat Repair Fund (SSCBRF) policy is to provide an avenue for Groups whose equipment may suffer damage while being used on a Regional Course. Through this method they will be able to seek reparations to a certain value depending on the damage sustained.

Qualifying Events

This policy and option only applies to Regional Scout and Adult Courses. It would not extend to competitions, non-official courses, or general Group use of their boats. The official list at present being Oarsman, Boatman, Sailing, Helmsman, Ship Quartermaster, Watermanship and the Water Activity License Course.

Qualifying Craft

At this time the only craft that will be able to benefit from the SSCBRF will be the Saldanhas used on Regional Courses that are on loan from the Groups and are deemed in a Seaworthy state prior to commencement of the course



Further Information can be found at <https://www.wateractivities.co.za/resource-library/> under the SSCBRF section

Continuous Assessment (CASS) Programme

Overview

The CASS (Continuous Assessment) programme is used to ensure that Water Activity License (WAL) Holders are keeping current in both skills and knowledge (*Please note: CASS only applies to WAL holders and not for Water Awareness holders*).

The WAL is valid for 5-years from the date of issue. When a member receives their WAL, they have two options for renewal; they can redo the course every 5-years, or they can join the CASS programme. Once the 5-years are up and their license is about to expire, the Regional Water Activities Committee (RWAC) will check the online CASS Logbook to see if they have hit their hour totals. If the hours have been completed against the program requirements, the License will be renewed for a further 5-years. If the hours have not been completed or there has been misconduct, the renewal will either be denied, or additional criteria will be put in place. All renewal applications will need to be verified by the RWAC and approved by the RC Water Activities.

Requirements

Each WAL holder needs to get 50 hours over the course of the 5-year period. The hours are weighted accordingly:

Oversight Hours & Educational Hours:

- Oversight Hours would be achieved by staffing on selected courses/competitions or being a WAL Holder for an event.
- Educational Hours would be logged if you achieved your Skippers Ticket or attended additional Water Activity based training, for example.

Activity Hours: For these you would need to be taking an active role in a water activity such as sailing.

Your hours can be weighted between Oversight/Educational hours and Activity hours in whatever ratio you wish, so long as said ratio does not exceed 80% vs 20% on either side.

Further information can be found at www.wateractivities.co.za/ssa-cass-programme/

