

Spotters – on water

NB There is a separate description for spotting from the bank.

Spotters play an important role in observation of swimmers and alerting safety personnel to issues. They are not involved in rescues unless qualified to be and agreed with the session manager. However, a struggling swimmer is unlikely to differentiate between safety crew and any other craft on the water, so water-based spotters are recommended to attend the Do3 on water rescue training session and they must wear a buoyancy aid.

They are responsible for the following:

Pre-session:

- Ensuring they have had and understood a pre-session safety briefing and are clear about what their duties are
- Ensuring they have read and understood Normal Operating Procedure, Emergency Action Plan and Risk Assessment
- Ensuring they understand how to operate radios and communicate in case of concerns or emergencies
- Assisting with set up of check-in area and lake entry/exit point

During session:

- Monitoring swimmers for signs of difficulty, distress or cold, paying particular attention to those using tow floats who may be more vulnerable (children, anxious swimmers and those swimming without wetsuits will all be required to use tow floats)
- Focussing their supervision on areas which are within their field of vision but not that of other personnel (see zones on map). Water based spotters must remain in their allocated area and not paddle around the lake.
- Communicating with qualified rescue staff if there is any incident or potential incident which they may require assistance with.
- Ensuring that they communicate with other safety personnel if they need to deal with anything which will distract them from their duty of watching swimmers. They must not leave their duty or allocated area unless someone else can cover them.

After session:

- Returning radios and any safety equipment belonging to Do3
- Reporting any incidents, issues or concerns to the session manager

Please note:

- Staff may not use mobile phones when on safety duty except if required to call for emergency assistance
- Staff must present a positive image of Do3 at all times in their behaviour and language

- Staff must wear clothing suitable for their role and the weather conditions, and present a smart image. Please note that on water staff will not move around much during sessions so may be more susceptible to cold. Please ensure you are suitably dressed in clothes which will keep you warm, and not get heavy, even when wet (e.g. wetsuit with additional windproof/layers).
- All on-water staff and volunteers are required to wear a buoyancy aid.
- Fluorescent jackets will be provided for safety personnel which must be worn at all times when they are on duty
- Radio channels are to be kept clear in case of an emergency rather than being used for general chat